

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF GRACE KIDSGROVE, BIDDULPH & GOLDENHILL



PARISH BULLETIN

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Yesterday, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV proclaimed St John Henry Newman as the 38th Doctor of the Church. A Doctor of the Church is a saint recognised not just for their holiness, but for the particular wisdom of their teaching of the Faith, and set up as an example of clear and original thought. You can read the Holy Father's words on the back page of

the bulletin. This is a great day for our Diocese, because, as you know, Cardinal Newman lived here, firstly in Oxford, as an Anglican, and then afterwards in Birmingham as a Catholic Oratorian priest and later Cardinal. He was created a Cardinal of the Roman Church by Pope Leo XIII, and now declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIV.

I remember praying for the canonisation of Cardinal Newman back when I was a student when I became a Catholic. How all those prayers have been answered! He was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI at Cofton Park in Birmingham, and canonised by Pope Francis in Rome, and is now recognised as a teacher of the Faith for all the nations, as a Doctor of the Church. Let us continue to ask his intercession.

On Wednesday evening I received the very sad news that Fr Simon Hall had died the previous evening in Royal Stoke. For those who did not know him, he was the priest at St Teresa's Church in Trent Vale, and had been there for a couple of years. I first knew Simon when he was still in sixth form, when I was on a placement as a seminarian in King's Heath, Birmingham, and we became friends. Simon entered seminary at Oscott at 18, and gave faithful service to the Church ever since. He read the first reading at my Ordination Mass. I was there in King's Heath for his ordination too. I used to drop in to see him and he was always warm and welcoming. He had a great heart and was a wonderful priest. He will be sadly missed. May he rest in peace.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl John Bodey 1549-1583

John was born in Wells, Somerset, and was educated at Winchester and Oxford. He was made a fellow of New College, Oxford, but was expelled by the Bishop when he became a Catholic. He went to Douai College, the seminary in France, and studied Law. When he re-

turned he was appointed as a schoolmaster in Hampshire. He was arrested two years later and put into prison in iron shackles accused of high treason. He said, "If you make the hearing of Mass treason, or the saying of a Hail Mary treason, then you may make what you please treason". He was hanged, drawn and quartered at Andover.

CHURCHES

Biddulph English Martyrs' Church, Church Road, Biddulph, ST8 6NE

Goldenhill St Joseph's Church, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 5RD

Packmoor St Patrick's Church, Mellor Street, Packmoor, Stoke-on-Trent, ST7 4SN

PARISH PRIEST

Rev Fr Julian C Green
St Joseph's Presbytery
715 High Street
Stoke-on-Trent ST6 5RD
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Parish Secretary

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Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri
9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs
9am to 1pm.

Safeguarding

The Parish of Our Lady of Grace operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are:

Biddulph: Julie Shufflebotham
(sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk)

Goldenhill: Jo Kirkham
(sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk)

Packmoor: Lorraine Connell
(sg.stpatricks.packmoor@rcaob.org.uk)

Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Parish Website

www.ourladyofgraceparish.org
The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity no. 234216

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) At each church Saturday/Sunday Confessions are available at each church 20 minutes before Mass. St Joseph's Friday 5pm (when there is a 6pm Mass); after Saturday morning Mass	
Saturday 1st			5.30pm	Holy Mass of the Solemnity	Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Sunday 2nd ALL SAINTS' DAY	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Schiavione family November List
Monday 3rd All Souls' Day	9.15am	6.30pm	12noon	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	November List Holy Souls Int of the Pope
Tuesday 4th St Charles Borromeo	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	Lauds Holy Mass Holy Rosary	November List
Wednesday 5th Feria	7.00pm	10.30am 5.45pm 6.00pm		Requiem Mass Vespers Holy Mass (Daily Requiem) Holy Rosary	Peter Barrow RIP November List
Thursday 6th Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) Holy Mass (Daily Requiem)	People of the Parish November List
Friday 7th Feria <i>First Friday</i>		5.00pm 6.00pm		Adoration & Vespers Holy Mass (Sacred Heart)	November List
Saturday 8th Our Lady		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of the Feast	November List John Martin
Sunday 9th Dedication of the Lateran Basilica Remembrance Sunday	9.00am	11.00am 11.15am		Holy Mass (Requiem) Act of Remembrance at the cenotaph in Goldenhill Holy Mass (Requiem)	John Biggane November List
Monday 10th St Leo the Great		5.45pm 6.00pm		Vespers Holy Mass	November List
Tuesday 11th St Martin of Tours	9.15am	5.45pm 6.00pm	2.15pm	Liturgy of the Word (Our Lady of Grace Academy) Holy Rosary Vespers Holy Mass	November List
Wednesday 12th St Josaphat		5.45pm 6.00pm		Vespers Holy Mass	November List
Thursday 13th Feria		9.30am	12noon	Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) Holy Mass (Requiem)	People of the Parish November List
Friday 14th Feria		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) Adoration & Vespers Holy Mass (Daily Requiem)	November List Sarah & Arthur Holmes & family
Saturday 15th Our Lady		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	November List Bob Watts
Sunday 16th Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	November List Michael Joseph Dymnicki

Christmas Fayre Our parish Christmas fayre will be on Saturday 6th December from 11am to 1pm. It takes place at St Joseph's Academy school hall, Mobberley Road, Goldenhill. We need your help! We need some volunteers to help with refreshments in the kitchen, and any other help is gratefully received. We are also collecting saleable items. We are focussing on individual types of items for each of the weekends before the Fayre: 8th/9th November Bottles & Tombola items; 15th/16th November Hamper items (see list in each church); 22nd/23rd November Soft toys and Christmas crafts; 29th/30th November Bric-a-brac; 6th December Cakes and home baking. Thank you for your help.

November Month of the Holy Souls The November list of the Holy Souls is now open for names to be added. Please write the names of your beloved dead on the form and place in the envelope together with a donation. The donations are collected together to fund the celebration of a daily Mass in November for those included in the list, and for Masses throughout the year. Those on the November list are prayed for at the end of every Mass in November. Please get your list in early, so that the souls can benefit from the prayers throughout the whole month.

Parish Social Committee Our Parish Social and Fundraising Committee met two weeks ago, and it was a very good meeting. We put together a series of events for the coming year. Thanks to those who attended. Our next meeting will be in the New Year. Further details of the events (quiz night, parish coach trip, an International Mass with food and cultural activities, as well as seasonal fayres) will be published as they approach.

Sacramental Preparation The preparation for the sacrament of Reconciliation for all children who have not yet received the Sacrament is beginning this week. It is for children in Year 3 and above. Please see Fr Julian urgently if you have a child who is ready to attend.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at on Monday 10th November at 7pm. The following meeting will be on Monday 1st December. Both of these meetings will be at St Joseph's Goldenhill.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 22nd November, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.

Monthly Care Home Service The next monthly service at Lawton Rise will be on Wednesday 19th November at 11am. Once again we invite parishioners to come and take part. Please arrive in good time.

PLW Prayer Circle We have a new prayer circle for all those who have participated in a Prayer & Life Workshop. It is an hour similar to one of the workshops, with prayers, sharing, Gospel and practising one of the prayer methods used in the workshops. The next meeting is on Tuesday 18th November at 7pm in the meeting room at St Joseph's.

Church Painting volunteers The next stage of the Church painting at English Martyrs' is being done by contractors. This work will begin on 10th November, and will take two weeks. This means that English Martyrs' church will be out of use during the weekdays of 10th to 14th and 17th to 21st November. The Sundays will be unaffected.

Talk on the Holy Spirit Fr Eamonn Mulcahy CSSp will be giving a talk entitled "The Fire of your Love. Unpacking the Holy Spirit in the Nicene Creed". The talk will be in the Catherine Room at Our Lady and St Peter's Stoke on Wednesday 5th November at 7pm. Tea and coffee available. Organised by the Area Pastoral Council.

Cursillo in Christianity There will also be a full Cursillo weekend on 13th to 16th November at Shallowford House, Staffs. If you are interested please email national@cursillouk.org or call 07947 271037 For more information about Cursillo go to cursillouk.org

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Space meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon at St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club building).

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. Tuesday 25th November from 1.30 to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entrance £3.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space is on again on Wednesdays during the autumn and winter. It takes place from 11am to 2pm in the meeting room at church. Light refreshments and lunches available. Make it a date!

Update of Assisted Dying Bill

For those who keep up with the news, you will know that the Bill (called the Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill) which allows assisted suicide passed the House of Commons and is now in the House of Lords. The good news is that the larger number of speakers in the debates in the House of Lords have been against the Bill. It is more difficult to get in touch with members of the House of Lords, as they do not have constituencies. However, please do try to contact any that you know of in order to voice opposition to the Bill. The Archdiocesan website has a summary of the message of Archbishop Sherrington of Liverpool which outlines the objections. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/termill25>



If you do not have a standing order in place, it is by far the best way of being able

to give to the parish, as it attracts the lowest bank charges for the parish. You can set it up by contacting your bank or in online banking. The details of the parish bank account are as follows: Account Name: Our Lady of Grace Parish Account Sort Code: 010138 Account Number: 75282135

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

“Having obtained the opinions of many brothers in the Episcopate and of many of the faithful throughout the world, and having consulted the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, and through sure knowledge and mature deliberation, and in virtue of the fulness of Apostolic power, we declare St John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Universal Church. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” (Pope Leo XIV)

On this Solemnity of All Saints, it is a great joy to inscribe Saint John Henry Newman among the Doctors of the Church and, at the same time, on the occasion of the Jubilee of World Education, **to name him co-patron, together with Saint Thomas Aquinas, of all those involved in education.** Newman's imposing cultural and spiritual stature will serve as an inspiration to new generations with hearts thirsting for the infinite, ready to undertake, through research and knowledge, that journey which, as the ancients said, takes us *per aspera ad astra*, that is, through difficulties to the stars.

The lives of the saints testify to us, in fact, that it is possible to live passionately amid the complexity of the present, without neglecting the apostolic mandate: "Shine today like stars in the world" (*Phil 2:15*). On this solemn occasion, I wish to repeat to educators and educational institutions: "Shine today like stars in the world," thanks to the authenticity of your commitment to the concerted search for truth, in its coherent and generous sharing, through service to young people, especially the poor, and in the daily experience that "Christian love is prophetic, it works miracles". [...]

We bring to mind one of Saint John Henry's best-known texts, the hymn *Lead, kindly light*. In that beautiful prayer, we realize that we are far from home, that our feet are wavering, that we cannot clearly decipher the horizon. But none of this holds us back, because we have found the Guide: "Lead me, O kindly Light, through the darkness that surrounds me, be You the One to lead me! – *Lead, kindly Light. The night is dark and I am far from home. Lead Thou me on!* ». It is the task of education to offer this *Gentle Light* to those who might otherwise remain imprisoned by the particularly insidious shadows of pessimism and fear. For this reason I would like to say to you: let us disarm the false reasons for resignation and impotence, and let us circulate in the contemporary world the great reasons for hope. Let us contemplate and point to constellations that transmit light and direction in this present darkened by so many injustices and uncertainties. [...]

Among the enduring legacies of St. John Henry are, in this sense, some very significant contributions to the theory and practice of education. "God," he wrote, "has created me to render him a specific service. He has entrusted me with a task he has entrusted to no other. I have a mission: I may not know it in this life, but it will be revealed to me in the next" (*Meditations and Devotions*, III, I, 2). In these words, we find beautifully expressed the mystery of the dignity of every human person and also that of the variety of gifts distributed by God.

Life is illuminated not because we are rich or beautiful or powerful. It is illuminated when we discover this truth within ourselves: I am called by God, I have a vocation, I have a mission, my life serves something greater than myself! Every single creature has a role to play. The contribution each person has to offer is of unique value, and the task of educational communities is to encourage and enhance that contribution. Let us not forget: at the heart of educational programs must be not abstract individuals, but real people, especially those who appear to be underperforming, according to the parameters of an economy that excludes and kills. We are called to form people, so that they may shine like stars in their full dignity.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Teddy James Brown, baptized at English Martyrs' on Saturday 25th October.

And also to Arthur Henry Fox, baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 26th October.

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Peter Barrow. Requiem Mass will be at St Joseph's on Wednesday 5th November at 10.30am followed by burial at Burslem cemetery.

Requiescat in Pace

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the normal times of opening (see front page) with the exception of Bank Holidays. It is recommended to phone before coming in person.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other pastoral reason. It takes place on Saturday mornings from 11am to 12noon. There will be an Open House on Saturday 8th November and Saturday 15th November.

Hospital If you or someone you know needs a priest in hospital, you need to contact the chaplaincy yourself. For Royal Stoke call 01782 676400. It is important to specify you want the Catholic chaplain (Fr Matthew). If you need a Chaplain at the Haywood, please contact Fr George at Tunstall. For other hospitals, care homes or hospices, please ask the staff. If you have any difficulties, contact the Parish Office.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 2nd November

St Joseph's: Bob Watts

St Patrick's: Int Mary Welsh

English Martyrs: Deceased of Burton family

Week beginning 9th November

St Joseph's: Michael Jones

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs: Deceased of parish

You can dedicate a sanctuary lamp for a week for a minimum donation of £7