

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

PARISH BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

It is not very often that I am stunned into silence, I have to admit, but last Sunday was one such moment. It was on Sunday morning that I received the news of the death of a young Catholic, not from our parish, but who was associated very much with the life of the Church in North Staffordshire. It was on Sunday that we heard of the sudden death of William Simpson, who was working as an apprentice Lay Chaplain at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, but was known to lots of people because of his involvement in the Walsingham Association, Lourdes, youth events, serving... I had started to help him as a mentor in his training, and I know he was discerning a future in the priesthood. His death has certainly impacted everyone who knew him, and myself in-



cluded. So please pray for Will and for his family at this time.

It was under that shadow of that news that we had the May Procession on Sunday afternoon. You can read about that on the back page of the bulletin together with a photo. It was still a joyful event and good to see the participation of some of the children from our schools, as well as members of the Walsingham Association.

We are now looking forward to the next parish

event, which is the Mass of the Nations next Sunday at St Joseph's. I really hope that this will be another joyful event, and that we will see lots of the people of the parish come together to celebrate the rich tapestry of nations and cultures united in one Catholic Faith. Even if you usually come to one of our other churches, maybe you'd like to come and represent your nation or culture at that Mass.

These are some busy weeks ahead as we move towards the summer holidays. There will be the First Holy Communion, Summer Fayre, Corpus Christi novena, and my Pearl Jubilee Mass. All that together with the regular events that make up the life of the parish. Thanks to everyone who helps to put on these events and to give impetus to our community life.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl Ivan Merz
1896-1928

Ivan was a Croatian lay Catholic from Bosnia. After serving in the Austro-Hungarian army in the First World War, he dedicated his life to serving the Church and took a private vow of chastity. He studied in Vienna and Paris and gained a doctorate in Zagreb. He supported the

liturgical movement in Croatia. He was particularly called to youth work and founded the League of Young Croatian Catholics, and a further Eucharistic section of the movement, with the motto "Sacrifice, Eucharist, Apostolate". His desire was to create from young people an army of apostles, dedicated to the Church and the Faith.

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
Tel: (01782) 782121
fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
Tel: (01782) 782121
OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk
Office Hours: Mon, Tues 9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs 9am to 1pm. **No office hours on Fri.**

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

| Sunday Readings Year A Weekday Readings Year II | Biddulph | Goldenhill | Packmoor | Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) At each church Saturday/Sunday 20 minutes before each Saturday evening/Sunday Mass. St Joseph's: Friday 5pm | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|----------|---|--|
| Saturday 9th | | | 5.30pm | Holy Mass of Sunday | John Boyle |
| Sunday 10th Sixth Sunday of Easter | 9.00am | 11.00am | | Holy Mass Holy Mass | Karol Grolik, George & Barbara Connell Kath & Brian Wakefield |
| Monday 11th Feria | | 5.00pm 6.00pm | | <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass | Tony Dancer |
| Tuesday 12th St Pancras | 8.55am 9.15am | | 2.15pm | <i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary | Special Intention |
| Wednesday 13th Our Lady of Fatima Vigil of the Ascension | 7.00pm | 2.15pm | 6.30pm | Vigil Mass (St John's School) Vigil Mass of Ascension Holy Rosary | People of the Parish Stan Grandfield |
| Thursday 14th THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD | 9.15am | 11.00am 6.30pm | | Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass | People of the Parish Kevin Potts Michael & Maureen Meaney & family |
| Friday 15th Feria <i>Pentecost Novena</i> | | 5.00pm 6.00pm | | <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass | Bailey & Plant families |
| Saturday 16th Feria <i>Pentecost Novena</i> | | 8.15am | 5.30pm | Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday | Lorraine Brooks John Martin |
| Sunday 17th Seventh Sunday of Easter <i>Pentecost Novena</i> | 9.00am | 11.00am | | Holy Mass Holy Mass | Julia Biggane Winfred & Paddy Maughan |
| Monday 18th Feria <i>Pentecost Novena</i> | | | | | |
| Tuesday 19th Feria <i>Pentecost Novena</i> | 8.55am 9.15am | | 2.15pm | <i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary | Gabrielle Child |
| Wednesday 20th St Bernardine of Siena <i>Pentecost Novena</i> | 7.00pm | | | Holy Rosary | |
| Thursday 21st St Christopher Magallanes & Comps <i>Pentecost Novena</i> | | | | | |
| Friday 22nd St Rita of Cascia <i>Pentecost Novena</i> | | 11.50am 5.00pm 6.00pm | | Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass | People of the Parish Holy Souls |
| Saturday 23rd Feria <i>Pentecost Novena</i> <i>Vigil of Pentecost</i> | | 8.15am | 5.30pm | Holy Mass (in Latin) Vigil Mass of Pentecost | People of the Parish Denis & Bridget Culhane |
| Sunday 24th PENTECOST SUNDAY | 9.00am | 11.00am | | Holy Mass Holy Mass | Maire Therese Bloor Stan Grandfield |

Ascension Day This Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses for the feast day are on Wednesday at 2.15pm at St John's school; 6.30pm at St Patrick's church; Thursday at 9.15am at English Martyrs' church; 11am and 6.30pm at St Joseph's Goldenhill.

Month of Our Lady The Holy Rosary is prayed before each Saturday evening and Sunday Mass on the first four Sundays of May. Please arrive early for Mass to join in the prayer. Also remember the Rosary on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as advertised. Please remember to pray the Rosary at home too. Mary's Meals are particularly requesting that you remember their work in your prayers this month

Feast Days Thanks to everyone who helped to put together our celebrations for the May Procession and the Feast of the English Martyrs. These were lovely occasions.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies' Group are meeting at on Monday 11th May at 7pm at St Joseph's Church.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 16th May, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.

Monthly Care Home Service The next monthly service will be on Wednesday 20th May at 11am at Lawton Rise nursing home. All welcome. Mee outside from 10.45.

Healing Service Our next Service for Healing and Prayer for the sick is on Sunday 31st May at 3.30pm at St Patrick's church. Those who wish to be anointed with the Sacrament of the Sick (those with a serious diagnosis or the elderly) can receive the Sacrament. We will also pray for the sick and have the Eucharistic healing procession.

Corpus Christi Triduum Remember last year's Eucharistic Congress? It was a great success, and so many participated. This year, we are going to follow on by having three days, or a Triduum, in honour of the Eucharist in our Parish, in the days running

MASS OF THE NATIONS

To celebrate the contribution of the many cultures and nationalities of our Parish...

The Mass will be on Sunday 17th May at 11am at St Joseph's Goldenhill.

We are inviting people to wear their traditional cultural clothing

Please also bring a plate of finger food from your culture (this includes England, Ireland, Stoke...!) for people to taste as they leave church.

up to the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th June. On Thursday 4th there will be Mass at 12noon at English Martyrs' followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 6pm. On Friday 5th June, there will be Eucharistic Adoration at St Joseph's from 9.30am, ending with Benediction at 5.45pm and Mass at 6pm. On Saturday 6th, there will be Eucharistic Adoration from 2pm until 5.15pm at St Patrick's followed by 5.30pm Mass.

Summer Fayre Our Summer Fayre will take place at English Martyrs' church on Saturday 13th June from 10am to 12noon. Draw tickets available this week to buy and sell. If you wish to contribute to the cash prize or gift voucher cost please see Fr Julian.

Fr Julian's 30th Anniversary Mass On Saturday 11th July, we will have a parish celebration to mark Fr Julian's 30th Anniversary of Ordination. Because COVID curtailed his 25th celebrations, this is an opportunity to get together with parishioners and celebrate. The Mass will be at 12noon, with the North Staffs Filipino choir singing, and Bishop Menezes preaching. Afterwards we will bring and share food and a hog roast at St Joseph's Academy. Make it a date!

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes Bookings are still open for people to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Space is back in operation on Tuesday mornings. Come and join the friendship and have a cuppa and a chat! At St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club) on Moberley Road, 10am to 12noon.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th May from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entry £3.

Lourdes led by His Grace the Archbishop. It is from Monday 25th to Saturday 30th May. Various travel, hotel and price options. For more info, have a look online at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

We Believe Festival The festival is running again this year at Oscott College, Birmingham from 24th to 27th July. A Catholic festival to learn, deepen, and celebrate the Faith together. Tickets are on sale now. See www.webelievefestival.com for more details and bookings.

Talk on St Francis of Assisi Fr Michael Miners will give a talk at Holy Trinity Parish Centre, Newcastle on Friday 29th May at 7pm (note change of date). Everyone welcome.



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

MAY PROCESSION 2026



Last Sunday we had the joy of celebrating the beginning of the month of Our Blessed Lady with the May Procession in honour of Our Lady of Grace. All our schools were represented. The May Queen, Lisa, and her page boy, Jeremy, represented St Joseph's Academy, and the two assistants were Evie from Our Lady of Grace Academy and Thiviya from St John's Academy. We were joined for the third year running by members of the Walsingham Association, some of whom helped with the carrying of the crowned Statue. Fr Julian gave the short homily, and led the Rosary as we processed around the grounds. Unfortunately, we were not blessed with the sun as we had

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Betty Fryer. Her body will be received into St Joseph's church on Sunday 31st May at 5.30pm. Requiem Mass on Monday 1st June at 12noon followed by committal at Tunstall cemetery.

Requiescat in Pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 10th May

St Joseph's: Betty Fryer

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs': Aston & Burton families

Week beginning 17th May

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan & family

St Patrick's: Lorraine Brooks

English Martyrs': Steven Dale

To dedicate a lamp, minimum donation is £7. Please place the offering in an envelop (NOT a Mass offering envelope) and write the intention, preferred date and preferred church

Hospital ministry 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.

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the normal times of opening (see front page). **Please note that Teresa, the Parish Secretary, no longer works on Fridays.** It is recommended to phone before coming in person.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen about baptisms, weddings, or for any other pastoral

been on the two previous years, but it remained dry and there was a great prayerful atmosphere. The Procession ended with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and a shared afternoon tea. It was a very blessed afternoon. Our Lady of Grace, pray for us.

JUBILEE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

DAY PILGRIMAGE TO CHESTER

You are invited to come on a day pilgrimage in honour of St Francis to Chester on Wednesday 24th June 2006 organised by the North Staffs Walsingham Association. We leave St Joseph's Goldenhill at 9am. The pilgrimage includes:

Visit to Chester Cathedral, including the site of the shrine of St Werburgh

Mass at St Francis' Church at midday

Talk with Brother Loarne Ferguson OFMCap on St Francis' devotion to Our Lady

Additional visit for afternoon tea on the way home

The cost is £15 per person. Please book promptly. You can give your name to Fr Julian or alternatively contact the parish office, or email Mary Shirley on maryroshirley@gmail.com Please bring a packed lunch. Payment to be made in advance please.

reason. It takes place on Saturday mornings from 11am to 12noon. Open House is available on Saturday 16th and 23rd May.

Mass Intentions & Offerings

We get a lot of requests for Masses to be celebrated for people's intentions in our parish. Please realise that Masses, especially for Sundays, get booked up well in advance. If you want a specific date, please request the Mass three months in advance. Please expect that any general requests for Sunday Masses will join a queue and can sometimes take a number of weeks before they are allocated. Mass bookings are strictly on a first come, first served basis.