

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

PARISH BULLETIN

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

In English, we don't really have a word for this time of the year, with the return to work and school after the summer holidays. I often refer to it as the beginning of the new pastoral year, as things in a parish follow the school year mostly. In French, the term is 'rentrée' or re-entry, emphasising how we enter back into normality. Anyway, whatever we call it, this is it, the beginning again of another cycle of activity in our parish.

The summer has been one where I have been backwards and forwards, as you will know if you have been in the parish throughout. After the Camino in June, with a small group, and then the celebration of the 30 years of priesthood, I went on a very enjoyable 'road trip' holiday in Portugal. It was wonderful to get to know the country.

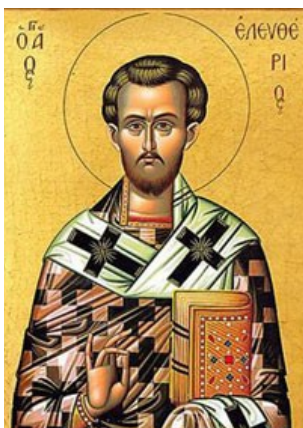
After that, I went to join with the other members of the Society of St John Mary Vianney at Ars for the summer session. This year Ron was able to come and join in as a seminarian for the first time. He has written a little bit about the visit on the back page. Once I was back, I went down to the Dominican sisters in the New Forest. They had asked me to give them their annual retreat, and so I gave eight days of talks on the Heart of Jesus in the Bible, as well as leading them in prayer.

To finish the summer off, the North Staffs Walsingham Association had their annual pilgrimage over the last weekend. Gill Hodgkinson has written a little report on the pilgrimage also on the back page. And so, it has been quite a summer!

I would ask you to pray especially for Ron Castillo who, having done his first year of seminary in Valladolid, has now gone to Oscott for the next period of six years of his training. He goes with our prayers, and also with an alb which the parish has bought for him, which he will wear when on the altar in seminary.

Please also pray for the soul of Fr Joe Kendall, aged 45, the Vice Rector of the English College, Valladolid, who died suddenly at home in Liverpool last month, and whose funeral Mass was yesterday in Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral. May he rest in peace. Please also pray for the seminarians and staff at the English College. The good news is that the College has a large year group starting, as does the seminary in Ars!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Eleutherius d. 585

St Eleutherius was an abbot who led St Mark's Abbey in Spoleto, Italy in the sixth century and was known for working miracles. A child who was said to be possessed by a demon came to the monastery to be cared for and educated there. For a long time he showed no signs of possession. When

asked St Eleutherius said it was because he was among holy people. At this boast, the spirit convulsed the boy. And so the saint ordered his monks to fast and pray for the boy and he was delivered. St Gregory the Great called on Eleutherius to pray for him and it gave him great strength. He was even said to have raised a man from death.

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

Teresa Harding
Tel: (01782) 782121
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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 5th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 6th Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Marie-Claire Kasperowicz Stan Grandfield
Monday 7th Feria					
Tuesday 8th The Nativity of Our Lady	8.55am 9.15am			<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Chris Wood
Wednesday 9th St Peter Claver	7.00pm	5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Int Elizabeth Kirk
Thursday 10th Feria	11.15am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Dec of Hedgecox family Special Intention
Friday 11th Feria		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Fr Paul Devaney Int Kusang
Saturday 12th Most Holy Name of Mary		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Peter & Joan Jackson
Sunday 13th Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Beatriz Simpson Kath & Brian Wakefield
Monday 14th Exaltation of the Holy Cross		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Dec of Matthews family
Tuesday 15th Our Lady of Sorrows	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention
Wednesday 16th St Cornelius & St Cyprian	7.00pm	5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Dec of McGough family
Thursday 17th St Hildegard of Bingen	11.15am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Dec of Hedgecox family Special Intention
Friday 18th Feria		12.30pm 5.00pm 6.00pm		Y7 Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	M E Connolly Stan Grandfield
Saturday 19th Our Lady	8.15am		5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Thomas, Lilian & Joan Doyle
Sunday 20th Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Eileen & Reg Williamson & Marie Claire Kasperowicz Julius & Iris Kaminskis

An Invitation to young adults

Young Adults aged 18 to 30 are invited to come to meet at St Joseph's Presbytery on Sunday 27th September at 5pm. The idea is to have a pilot meeting to start a group for young adults in the parish, to do some Bible study, learn more about the Catholic Faith, and to experience fellowship together. If you want to know more ask Carina (mcarinaaug@gmail.com) or Fr Julian.

Chinese Buffet Evening Following the success of last year's Chinese buffet evening, you are invited to our next parish social event at Buffet Fever in Tunstall on Thursday 1st October at 6.30pm start. Ticket price is £16 per person (children under 15 £10). Bar available for drinks (not included in the price) and there will be a raffle with a chance to win a cash prize. Tickets on sale after Mass.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies' Group are meeting at on Monday 14th September at 7pm at St Joseph's Church. All ladies are welcome to come.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of the PLW men's prayer circle is on Saturday 12th September at 9am in the presbytery.

Sponsored Walk Our foodbank volunteers at Biddulph are organising a sponsored walk—two circuits of Rudyard Lake (10 miles) on Saturday 12th September beginning at 10am. If you want to take part, in aid of the foodbank, then please contact Jackie Menzies. If you want to sponsor, please sign up in the church entrance.

Season of Creation The Area Pastoral Council are organising a talk on Care for Creation: A Scriptural Vision with the visiting speaker Fleur Dorrell, who works to promote Biblical Apostolate with the Bishops' Conference. The talk will be at 6.45pm on Monday 14th September in the Catherine Room at Our Lady of the Angels & St Peter's Stoke. All welcome.

St Dominic's Reunion Did you attend St Dominic's High School for girls? We are having a school reunion

on Saturday 26th September from 1pm to 3pm at Holy Trinity Community Centre, Newcastle. All year groups are welcome. Please bring your food and bakes for a shared lunch buffet. For more information contact chrissey.booth@outlook.com

Oppose Assisted Suicide The Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill returns to Parliament this week. As it is a new session of Parliament, it has to go right back to the beginning in the House of Commons. The second reading of the Bill takes place this Friday. It is really important that we contact our MPs (both of our local MPs voted against the Bill the first time, and we need to guarantee that they vote against again this week). Please take a copy of the postcard provided by Not Dead Yet UK (an alliance of disabled people opposing the Bill) and either send that to your MP or email them. These are the email addresses of our local MPs: For Stoke North and Kidsgrove David.williams.mp@parliament.uk For Staffordshire Moorlands karen.bradley.mp@parliament.uk

Adoremus Liverpool 2026 To coincide with the National Eucharistic Congress event, the Archdiocese of Liverpool are offering a Eucharistic day at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday 10th October from 9am to 6pm. Throughout the day, there will be Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, confessions, times of prayer together and workshops on lots of interesting themes. This is a great opportunity to take part in a day focussed on our Catholic faith in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. For more information and bookings go to <https://archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events/lijcvzsu>

Limitless This is a retreat for young people in Years 10 to 13 at Soli Centre for Youth Ministry, Alton, Staffs organised by KYT, our Diocesan Youth Service. It will be on the weekend of Friday 6th to Sunday 8th November. Limitless is an opportunity to work with other young people

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcome Space is our open house group for people to come and have a cuppa and a chat!

At St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club) on Mobberley Road, 10am to 12noon. We open again from Tuesday 22nd September.

Our Welcome Space at English Martyrs' will begin again from Wednesday 7th October. Look out for more details soon!

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is on 29th September from 2pm to 4pm. £3 entry.

of faith to learn and share. For more information and bookings <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/register-now-for-limitless-and-fearless>

Caritas Parish Ambassadors Fr Hudson's Caritas—the Diocesan social action charity—would like to enlist Parish Ambassadors. This is an opportunity to help the parish learn about the work of Caritas, inspire others to be involved in social action and act as a link with the parish for Fr Hudson's. If you are interested, please attend our online information session on Tuesday 15th September at 7pm online. Register with Emily (emilypugh@fatherhudsons.org.uk)



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

SUMMER SESSION OF THE SJMV

Ron Castillo writes...

On July 30th, I arrived at Lyon airport with the sun brightly shining to spend the week with the Society of John Mary Vianney (SJMV). The Society is a group of diocesan priests gathered through spiritual fraternity, ongoing formation, and retreats whilst drawing inspiration from the life of the Curé of Ars. The welcome that I received from the priests and seminarians of the Society was as hot as the weather for the coming week. Personally, it was surreal to think that the last time I was in Ars was during our parish pilgrimage to Lourdes in October 2015, nearly 11 years ago!

What a busy and fulfilling week it was! The first two days consisted of talks and conferences about spiritual accompaniment, then a day trip at Oyonnax along with an afternoon walk in the Jura mountains. The second half of the week involved the celebrations, processions, overnight Adoration and Mass for the feast day of St John Mary Vianney. Afterwards, the Society had a one-day silent retreat and to top off the week, a diaconate ordination for seminarian Geoffroy on the last day! All in all, it was an enjoyable albeit tiring week.



WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2026

Gill Hodgkinson writes...

Last weekend saw the annual pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Organised by the North Staffs Walsingham Association and accompanied by our own parish priest Fr Julian, we spent three days at England's Nazareth in Norfolk.

There were so many moments of reflection during the pilgrimage programme organised by Fr Julian and the committee members. Not least the many times Will Simpson was remembered; in our Marian service on the first evening, during the healing service, and in Holy Mass offered for Will, and his family who made the pilgrimage with us.

This year we were blessed to attend Holy Mass at St John the Baptist Cathedral, Norwich and Father Julian surprised us all by being the celebrant, assisted by two of our diocesan seminarians, and Mihai who led the Entrance Procession and Geremy, our youngest pilgrim and a very able altar server.

The North Staffs pilgrimage has taken place for many years and I have been fortunate to attend each year for the last 10 years or so. Some of the pilgrims we may only meet once a year, others from our own parishes we see more often, and yet others have joined us more recently from around the deanery and so our group is growing each year. For me the pilgrimage is a wonderful time of rest, of community and spiritual refreshment. It is a great gift to have our very own Shrine to Our Blessed Lady in England and I will always be grateful to the dear friend who introduced me to Walsingham. It is wonderful to see so many people gathered from all over the country to pay homage to Our Lady; it is a very visible sign of our one Church. Come and join us next year!

PARISH REGISTERS

Marriage

Congratulations to Francesca Chappell and Ben Spink who were married at St Joseph's on Saturday.

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Bernard McNulty. Funeral service will take place at English Martyrs' on Monday 28th September at 11.15am followed by committal at Bradwell crematorium.

Requiescat in pace

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 recom-

mended 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 reason. The next Open House will be on Saturday 12th September from 11am to 12noon. There will be no Open House on 19th, but there will be on 26th November.

Mass Intentions & Offerings

Please realise that Masses 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. Weekdays are much easier to allocate, and there are plenty of dates available. Mass bookings are strictly on a first come, first served

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 6th September

St Joseph's: Fr Joe Kendall

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs: Josephine Etuokwu Birthday

Week beginning 13th September

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs: Mary Jervis

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.