

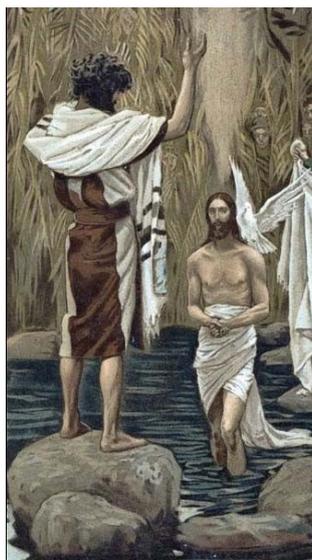
THE CATHOLIC PASTORAL PARTNERSHIP OF
BIDDULPH, GOLDENHILL, KIDSGROVE & PACKMOOR
UNDER THE PATRONAGE AND PROTECTION OF OUR LADY OF GRACE

SUNDAY BULLETIN

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 13TH JANUARY 2019

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



as a gift in baptism. We become like Jesus Christ—through him, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we have become sons and daughters of God the Father. We have been drawn in to the life of the Blessed Trinity, which Jesus saw revealed, having come up out of the water. It's a wonderful gift that we have been given in our baptism, of being 'christened', made to be like Jesus.

I hardly ever get asked to do baptisms. Everyone always asks for a 'christening'. I always use the name 'baptism', because it's the correct word, but I'm not averse to the term 'christening'. After all, it means 'Christening', in other words, 'making like Christ'. That's what is given to us

Baptism is such an important step for a child that I have always laid great store by meeting with parents and giving a baptism preparation session. In that session, I always speak about the commitment that comes as part of having a child baptised, which is summed up in the rite as 'bringing them up in the

practice of the faith'. And that, of course, involves coming to Mass. The thing is, I've been saying the same things here for six and a half years now, and I can't say that my words have had great effect. Looking around our churches there are fewer children and young people than ever. We need to ask more of parents who desire to have their children baptised. Before baptising children, I need to be sure that there is a good chance that the children will be brought up to know Jesus through their family life, not just their schooling. I hope that all families will make a move towards the life of Christ and the Church. A great way for them to make a first move is to come and be part of Alpha! I hope that many of you will also come too!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Mungo or Kentigern d 614

Known either by his baptismal name, Kentigern, or his popular name Mungo, he was the son of a tribal chief from Scotland. According to tradition he was brought up by St Serf, who was a great missionary in Scotland. It is he who gave Kentigern the name Mungo. At the age of 25, Mun-

go started evangelising the area around modern day Glasgow, which he did for 13 years. He met great opposition, and went to Wales to join St David, founding a monastery at St Asaph's. He went on pilgrimage to Rome. On his return the new king in Strathclyde invited him to return and became Bishop in the lowlands of Scotland

CHURCHES

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

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

Kidsgrove St John the Evangelist's Church, The Avenue, Kidsgrove, ST7 1AE

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

KEY CONTACTS

Parish Priest

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Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
Tel: (01782) 782121
Email: partnershipparishes@gmail.com
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri
9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs
9am to 1pm.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding reps are:
Biddulph: Mary Lomas
Goldenhill: Suzanne Meakin
Kidsgrove: Denise Hewitt
Packmoor: Peter Whitehouse
They can be contacted through the Parish Office, or call the Diocesan Team on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rc-birmingham.org

Website

www.partnershipparishes.org

*The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of
Birmingham: Registered Charity no.
234216*

MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	The Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) Kidsgrove Sat 6pm Biddulph Sun 8.30am Goldenhill Sun 10.30am Packmoor Sun 6pm	
Saturday 12th			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Denis & Bridget Culhane
Sunday 13th The Baptism of the Lord	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Barbara Gibson Arthur & Sarah Holmes Barbara Heath
Monday 14th Feria		6.00pm	9.30am 10.00am		Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	Int John Martin Fred Wright
Tuesday 15th Feria		9.15am	9.30am	2.15pm	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Holy Rosary	Int of all the sick
Wednesday 16th Feria <i>Votive St Joseph</i>		6.00pm 6.30pm			Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Brian Mainwaring
Thursday 17th St Antony, Abbot	6.00pm	9.30am			Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Michael Flatley
Friday 18th Feria			9.30am 10.45am	6.00pm	Holy Mass (in school) Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Private Intention Joan Gilligan Winifred Maughan
Saturday 19th St Wulstan	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Alice & John Edwards Julius & Iris Kaminskas
Sunday 20th Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Maryanne Phelan Frank Smithson Special Intention (VM)

THE MEANING OF THE RITE OF BAPTISM



Catholic Baptism is not a long liturgy, but it does use lots of different symbols. Each of those symbols tells us something about the grace that we received in baptism and which remains with us throughout our lives:

Sprinkling with water: We use water every day for cleansing. The water of baptism cleanses us from sin, but also promises us the forgiveness of sins whenever we come to Confession which renews this grace of baptism in us.

Anointing with Chrism: 'Chrism' comes from the same word as 'Christ'. It means anointing. As Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit, so are we through

baptism, and become like Jesus, Priest, Prophet and King.

Clothing in white: The white garment is a sign of cleansing from sin, but also of belonging at the wedding feast of the Lamb.

Lighting of the baptismal candle: The baptismal candle is lit from the Paschal candle, which shows us how the light of Christ has been lit within us.

Ephphatha prayer: The 'Be Opened' prayer which asks that our ears and mouths be opened, so as to receive and proclaim the Gospel.



Alpha

Alpha returns in the New Year. We are starting a new series of Alpha meetings on Saturday mornings at 9am at St Joseph's Goldenhill beginning on 2nd February 2019. It will be 8 weeks long and we really look forward to seeing you there.

Alpha is for everyone—regular parishioners, not so regular parishioners, people who are simply interested in discussing the big life questions and hearing a message which is Good News. Each week we will have a good breakfast together, watch the video, and have a relaxed discussion about its contents. So, is this when you are going to do Alpha? And who are you going to invite to come along with you?

Prayer Group

With so many needs in the world, in our country, as well as in our parishes, we have started a new prayer group to pray for all these intentions and for any others that we recognise the need to pray for. We will also be able to pray for our parishes. The prayer group is on Tuesday evenings, every other week so the next one will be on the 22nd January at 8pm and will take place at English Martyrs' in Biddulph. It is open to everyone.

Parish Priest's Open House

If you need to see Fr Julian about anything, then come to the Open House session. The next Open House will be on Monday 14th January, 6.30pm to 7.30pm. **There will be no Open House on 21st or 28th January.**

Men's Group

Last year, a group of men from the parish followed a study on the Eucharist in the Bible, as a follow on to Alpha. We are inviting men from the partnership to come together this time doing a series called 'Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible' by Jeff Cavins. The group will be on Friday evenings every two or three weeks as arranged. The first session will be Friday 18th January at 8pm at English Martyrs'. All men, young and older, are welcome!

¡Camino!

Following the great success of our October Camino to Santiago, we are planning TWO Caminos for the coming year. Are you going to come and make the pilgrim way?

The English Camino

For young people aged 18+, we will walk the Camino Inglés from Ferrol to Santiago. Wednesday 3rd to Wednesday 10th July 2019. Return flights from Gatwick to Santiago. Probable cost will be about £400. To secure a place please let Fr Julian have £100 non-returnable deposit for the flights.

The Portuguese Camino

For all parishioners, we take the pilgrim route from just inside Portugal, and walk to Santiago, Saturday 31st August to Saturday 7th September 2019. The distance is 118 km. Return flights from Manchester to Porto. Cost will be about £500. To secure a place, please let Fr Julian have £200 non-returnable deposit for the flights. **Just a few places left!**

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:

St John's: Kath Wakefield (BC); Joan Gilligan (BC); Paula Savage
St Patrick's: Mrs Green's Int
St Joseph's: Gladys Summerfield

If you would like to dedicate the sanctuary lamps at our churches for an intention, please see Fr Julian. Minimum donation £5.

Care Home Prayer Services



Kids Grove The next prayer service will be at Ravenswood, The Avenue at 11am on Tuesday 22nd January.

Biddulph The prayer service for our Biddulph Churches Together group is on Sunday 13th January at Springbank Care Home at 3pm.

We welcome everyone to come and join us.

Christmas Cribs Please stay behind after Mass this Sunday to dismantle the cribs at English Martyrs', St Joseph's and St Patrick's. Thank you in advance.

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Joan Gilligan. Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul will be offered at St John's on Friday 18th January at 10.45am followed by burial at Tunstall cemetery.

And also for the soul of Kathleen Cliff. The funeral will be at St Joseph's on Tuesday 22nd January at 11.00am followed by committal at Bradwell crematorium.

Requiescant in Pace

CRIB APPEAL FOR MARY'S MEALS

Today is the end of our annual crib appeal, raising funds for the Mary's Meals programme in Tolesa School in Malawi. This year again, we are asking for parishioners to donate £13.90 to feed a child for the whole year. All donations can be Gift Aided. This year the UK government are matching every donation pound for pound, so the value of your gift can be more than doubled! **If you have not managed to get your donation in yet, then please bring to the presbytery or put in the parish collection next week, in either case in an envelope clearly marked 'Mary's Meals'.**

FUNDRAISING

Collections

Biddulph/Packmoor Gift Aid £355.25, Non Gift Aid £181.27, Total £536.52. **Goldenhill** Gift Aid £180.00, Non Gift Aid £177.70, Total £357.70. **Kidsgrove** Gift Aid £237.94, Non Gift Aid £147.06, Total £385.00.

Goldenhill and Kidsgrove 200 Club This weeks Draw: 1st Prize £20, No.50 C Deady; 2nd Prize £10, No.77 M Twomey; 3rd Prize £5, No.134 L Niewiadomski. Just a reminder when making cheques payable for the 200 club it is 'St Joseph's Church Goldenhill' and not the '200 Club', many thanks.

Old UK & Foreign Bank Notes CAFOD are collecting unwanted old UK and foreign bank notes. If anyone has any notes they are not going to use, please place them in an envelope marked 'CAFOD' in the weekly collection or hand in to the Parish office

DEANERY & BEYOND

Vocations Mass The parishioners of St Teresa's, Trent Vale invite everyone from our parishes to join them at a Mass to pray for vocations on Thursday 28th February at 7pm. The

Principal Celebrant will be Fr Michael Glover and the sponsoring school is St Joseph's College.

Celebrating Marriage Week 2019 As part of the marriage week, 7th to 14th February, a Thanksgiving Mass will be held at St Chad's Cathedral on Sunday 3rd February at 11am. If you are celebrating a milestone marriage or are preparing for marriage and would like to attend the Thanksgiving Mass please contact Teresa in the parish office who will let the organisers know.

Sharing Hope in Crisis There will be a day for those who work to apply Catholic Social Teaching in crisis situations, and who serve the suffering. It will be taking place at Maryvale Institute on Saturday 16th March. No charge, donation only. Contact Paul Northam on 0121360 8118.

School Leadership There will be a course titled 'Practising Catholics Aspiring for Leadership positions in Catholic schools' organised by the Diocesan Education Service on Saturday 19th January at Don Bosco House, Coleshill B46 3EA. There is no charge for the course. To book a place: <http://w.pfrms.co/2ltp>

DR 19

The Divine Renovation
Conference 2019

comes to Birmingham!

7th to 8th February

Bethel Convention Centre

Birmingham

We have a group of parishioners attending this important conference. Are you going to come too, so as to help equip our Partnership of Parishes to meet the challenge to move from maintenance to mission.

Fr James Mallon, together with priests and lay leaders from parishes using the Divine Renovation model, will share their stories, experience and wisdom through a range of keynotes, seminars and interviews, interspersed with prayer and worship.

Cost is £199 (£175 for early bookers). Enquiries and bookings to Fr Julian as soon as possible.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water', and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.' This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

KEY VERSE: "Do whatever he tells you" (v.5).

TO KNOW: In Jesus' day, wedding feasts typically lasted several days. Guests had to travel many miles to outlying villages, and the hosts had to provide adequate food and drink for them. Mary and Jesus, along with his disciples, were invited to a wedding at Cana, some nine miles northeast of Nazareth. Jesus' mother noticed that the young couple had run out of wine and interceded with Jesus on their behalf. Jesus addressed his mother by the unconventional title "woman." Mary was the new Eve whose offspring, Jesus, would crush the head of the ancient serpent, Satan, through his death and resurrection. Her request initiated her son's power even though the time for him to reveal his glory had not yet come. The people were enthralled at the new wine poured out from the water jars, which were used for ritual purification. Jesus' mother Mary was present at this first "hour" of her son's glory as she would be at his final "hour" of agony. On the cross, Jesus would shed water and blood for the people's redemption. Once again he called his mother "woman." Mary is the New Eve whose obedience to God brought about salvation. She is the Mother of the Church who shelters the faithful, who are symbolized by Jesus' disciple John.

TO LOVE: Can I obey Mary's instruction: "Do whatever he tells you"?

TO SERVE: Lord Jesus, fill the empty "water jar" of my life with faith and devotion to you.