

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

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2023

## A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

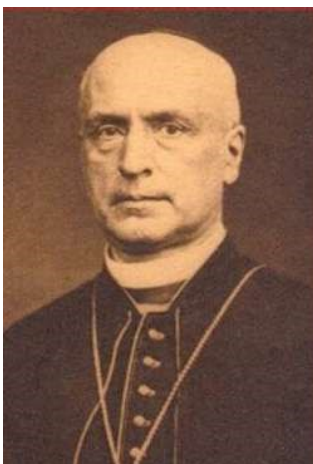


On Thursday, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was laid to rest in the grottoes of St Peter's Basilica in Rome, in the tomb which was previously occupied by St John Paul II, and before that, by St John XXIII. (Both of those Popes were moved to altars in the Basilica after their beatifications.) Our natural reaction to the death of anyone is one of sadness. In the case of Pope Benedict, having served the Lord and

his Church so faithfully for so many years, and having lived to a ripe age, we can more easily have the Christian response to a happy death: to rejoice in the victory of one of the Lord's own good servants. If the reports are accurate, we know that he was able to concelebrate Mass from his bed and receive Holy Communion on the day of his death, and the last words on his lips were "Jesus, I love you."

Pope Benedict was a great teacher of the faith throughout his life. All of that teaching was aimed at putting the living Christ before the eyes of the people of today, so that they could know him, love him and serve him. As Cardinal, he was responsible for the document in the year 2000, *Dominus Iesus*, proclaiming Christ as the only Saviour. As Pope, he wrote beautiful letters on the Love of God and Christian Hope. Alongside these official teaching documents, he also wrote the three volume 'Jesus of Nazareth' which is a wonderfully vivid account of the real Jesus of history, in whom we believe. Let us pray that he, who taught about the Lord so clearly, will now come to see Him face to face in heaven. May he rest in peace!

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



**Bl Tommaso Reggio**  
1818-1901

Tommaso was an Italian Bishop. He distinguished himself in an earthquake in 1887, when he was Bishop of Ventimiglia, when he went out into the rubble to seek out survivors, and opened orphanages to help children who had lost their families. He had a great heart for the poor, and

founded the Sisters of St Martha to care for those in need. His Diocese was so poor he had to travel by mule on his visitations. He focussed on liturgical renewal, and teaching. He opened new parishes to ensure the pastoral care of the people. As Archbishop of Genoa, he set up a network to care for immigrants.

### 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

### 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  
Email:  
OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk  
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri  
9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs  
9am to 1pm.

### Safeguarding

Our safeguarding reps are:  
Biddulph/Packmoor: Julie Shuffelebotham & Lorraine Connell  
Goldenhill: Suzanne Meakin  
Kidsgrove: Denise Hewitt  
They can be contacted through the Parish Office, or call the Diocesan Team on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rc-birmingham.org](mailto:safeguarding@rc-birmingham.org)

### Website

[www.partnershipparishes.org](http://www.partnershipparishes.org)

### Diocesan Website

[birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

*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) St Joseph's Sun 10.30am English Martyrs' Sun 8.30am St John's Sat 6pm St Patrick's On request before or after Mass	
<b>Saturday 7th</b>			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Peter Convey
<b>Sunday 8th</b> <b>The Baptism of the Lord (A)</b>	9.00am	11.00am 5.00pm		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Reception into church Holy Mass	Jean Longshaw Paul David Dymnicki Bridget Dowd RIP Bill & Mary Whitehouse
<b>Monday 9th</b> Feria		12noon 6.00pm			Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Bridget Dowd RIP Sheila Williams
<b>Tuesday 10th</b> Feria	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Mary Child
<b>Wednesday 11th</b> Feria						
<b>Thursday 12th</b> St Aelred of Rievaulx	12.30pm	9.30am 6.00pm			Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Theresa & Joe Eileen Marrow
<b>Friday 13th</b> St Hilary of Poitiers		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Int Fr Julian
<b>Saturday 14th</b> Our Lady	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Lapsed family member Blood & Welsh families
<b>Sunday 15th</b> <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Denis Culhane Vincent Davis
<b>Monday 16th</b> Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 17th</b> St Antony the Abbot	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Granville Evans
<b>Wednesday 18th</b> Feria						
<b>Thursday 19th</b> <b>St Wulstan</b>	12noon	6.00pm	9.30am		Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Tony Lewis Bridie, Jim & Jim Murphy
<b>Friday 20th</b> St Sebastian		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Frank Smithson
<b>Saturday 21st</b> St Agnes	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parishes Arnold Jones
<b>Sunday 22nd</b> <b>Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Int Ray & Marie Bromley Michael Joseph Dymnicki Bridget Dowd

### A message from the St. Joseph's Mini Vinnies

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who donated craft items and plant pots for our Christmas outreach work. We were able to take home made Christmas cards and plants to the Old Vicarage Care Home when we walked across to sing Christmas carols for the residents.



**Deanery Mass** The Area Pastoral Council invite you to come to the first Deanery Mass of the Year. The Mass is on the Feast of St Wulstan, 19th January, at St Wulstan's Church Wolstanton, at 7pm. The celebrant will be the Parish Priest, Fr Michael Miners. Everyone welcome.

**CAFOD** are looking for volunteers to help in a various different ways. They are looking for people to help particularly as parish volunteers (highlighting the work of CAFOD in the parish), or as school volunteers (going in to Catholic schools to deliver assemblies and workshops). If you are willing to volunteer, or to know more, contact Joanne O'Meara on [birmingham@cafod.org.uk](mailto:birmingham@cafod.org.uk)

**Talk on St Therese of Lisieux** On Tuesday 31st January at 7pm, Fr Michael Miners will be giving a talk on St Therese of Lisieux at St Wulstan's school hall, Wolstanton. All are welcome!



### HEART TO HEART

On Thursday evenings you are invited for a time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, Heart to Heart. We will have an hour of directed prayer, Scripture reading and quiet devotion to the Heart of Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament. This is the place to come and learn the Saviour's love for you! The hour will be at St Joseph's Church beginning at 6pm. Come, let us adore Him!

**Sick and elderly** If you know someone who is sick or elderly and unable to come to Mass, please let Fr Julian or Teresa in the Parish Office know. It is often difficult to know people's personal situation. So, if you know someone needs a visit or Holy Communion, please let us know.

### HOSPITALITY

**Warm Places Biddulph** Each Thursday the meeting room at English Martyrs' becomes a warm place of welcome to everyone. We offer tea and coffee all day, and a hot simple lunch at 12.30pm. Why not drop in? We are open every Thursday during winter. Everyone is welcome.

**Welcoming Places Goldenhill** Starting on 17th January, each Tuesday from 10am to 1pm, parishioners will be offering a place of welcome at St Joseph's Academy, Mobberley Road. There will be tea, coffee and light refreshments available, and a warm place and a chance for a chat. Everyone is welcome.

*If you want to volunteer for either of our welcoming schemes, please turn up to either place at the times when they are open. Alternatively, contact the parish office to be put in contact with the other volunteers.*

### CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL: MARY'S MEALS



This is the last week for making donations for our crib appeal for Mary's Meals. It only costs £15.90 to feed a child for a whole year, so please be generous and feed a child for the year ahead, or give what you are able! Donations will be matched by Mary's Meals benefactors too! If you are a tax payer, then please Gift Aid your donation—Gift Aid forms available in each church.

If you wish to make a donation after this Sunday, please put in an envelope marked Mary's Meals and place in the Sunday collection.





## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

Congratulations to Harley Rose Warham who is being baptised this Sunday at St John's.

Also to Alfred Jacob Flatley who is being baptised next Saturday at English Martyrs'.

And to Ruby Lila Rigby who is being baptised next Sunday at St Joseph's.

### Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Bridget Dowd. Requiem Mass at St Joseph's at 12noon on Monday 9th January. Reception into church on Sunday 8th January at 5pm.

And also for the soul of Linda Carroll. Funeral service at Bradwell Crematorium on Thursday 12th

January.

And also for the soul of Orlando Rodrigues. Funeral service to be held privately.

And also for the soul of Gerard Quinn. Funeral service at English Martyrs' at 12noon on Monday 30th January, followed by committal at Carmountside Crematorium.

### *Requiescant in Pace*

**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 that it is the Catholic chaplain you want. If you have any difficulty getting in touch, or you know someone who is in another hospital, please contact the parish office.

### *Sanctuary Lamp Dedications*

#### ***Week beginning 8th January:***

English Martyrs': Tara Ramharakh

St John's: Connor Young

St Joseph's: Moss & Keenan family

#### ***Week beginning 15th January:***

St John's: Ollie Delaney

English Martyrs': Maggy Barnfield

### **Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House**

The Parish Office is open at the normal times which are on the front of the bulletin. Please call first if you wish to visit, to ensure that Teresa is in.

Open House, when anyone can come and see Fr Julian, to make arrangements for sacraments or anything else on Saturday mornings 10am to 11am.

## THE SPIRITUAL TESTAMENT OF POPE BENEDICT XVI RIP



When, at this late hour of my life, I look back on the decades I have wandered through, I see first of all how much reason I have to give thanks. Above all, I thank God Himself, the giver of all good gifts, who has given me life and guided me through all kinds of confusion; who has always picked me up when I began to slip, who has always given me anew the light of his countenance. In retrospect, I see and understand that even the dark and arduous stretches of this path were for my salvation and that He guided me well in those very stretches.

I thank my parents, who gave me life in difficult times and prepared a wonderful home for me with their love, which shines through all my days as a bright light until today. My father's clear-sighted faith taught us brothers and sisters to believe and stood firm as a guide in the midst of all my scientific knowledge; my mother's heartfelt piety and great kindness remain a legacy for which I cannot thank her enough. My sister has served me selflessly and full of kind concern for decades; my brother has always paved the way for me with the clear-sightedness of his judgements, with his powerful determination, and with the cheerfulness of his heart; without this ever-new going ahead and going along, I would not have been able to find the right path.

I thank God from the bottom of my heart for the many friends, men and women, whom He has always placed at my side; for the co-workers at all stages of my path; for the teachers and students He has given me. I gratefully entrust them all to His goodness. And I would like to thank the Lord for my beautiful home in the Bavarian foothills of the Alps, in which I was able to see the splendour of the Creator Himself shining through time and again. I thank the people of my homeland for allowing me to experience the beauty of faith time and again. I pray that our country will remain a country of faith and I ask you, dear compatriots, not to let your faith be distracted. Finally, I thank God for all the beauty I was able to experience during the various stages of my journey, but especially in Rome and in Italy, which has become my second home.

I ask for forgiveness from the bottom of my heart from all those whom I have wronged in some way.

What I said earlier of my compatriots, I now say to all who were entrusted to my service in the Church: Stand firm in the faith! Do not be confused! Often it seems as if science - on the one hand, the natural sciences; on the other, historical research (especially the exegesis of the Holy Scriptures) - has irrefutable insights to offer that are contrary to the Catholic faith. I have witnessed from times long past the changes in natural science and have seen how apparent certainties against the faith vanished, proving themselves not to be science but philosophical interpretations only apparently belonging to science - just as, moreover, it is in dialogue with the natural sciences that faith has learned to understand the limits of the scope of its affirmations and thus its own specificity. For 60 years now, I have accompanied the path of theology, especially biblical studies, and have seen seemingly unshakeable theses collapse with the changing generations, which turned out to be mere hypotheses: the liberal generation (Harnack, Jülicher, etc.), the existentialist generation (Bultmann, etc.), the Marxist generation. I have seen, and see, how, out of the tangle of hypotheses, the reasonableness of faith has emerged and is emerging anew. Jesus Christ is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life - and the Church, in all her shortcomings, is truly His Body.

Finally, I humbly ask: pray for me, so that the Lord may admit me to the eternal dwellings, despite all my sins and shortcomings. For all those entrusted to me, my heartfelt prayer goes out day after day.

*Benedictus PP XVI.*