

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY 31ST MARCH 2024

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



A very Happy Easter to all parishioners and friends. I hope you all have a very happy feast day, with joy that lasts till Pentecost!

I'd like to thank you all for participating in a spiritual Lent. I can't judge how the fasting went, but I know that our prayer and almsgiving in Church have been well supported. The normal round of Masses and Stations were reasonably supported. We also had a good turnout for the parish retreat during the first part

of Holy Week. I would like to thank Fiona who joined me in presenting the retreat. Those evenings were a great preparation for the Triduum. During Lent, also, our 15 week Prayer & Life Workshops ended, with the final retreat day. I was really disappointed to have been ill on that day, but Fiona and Sara did a great job leading the day. And it was so good to see how many of our parishioners responded to the invitation to come

and take the workshops. During the coming weeks of Easter I will be doing the children's PLW in Year 6 in our schools, and there will be opportunities to do take the workshops again in the autumn in the parish. It was also great to take our faith on to the High Street in Biddulph for a well supported Stations of the Cross on Thursday.

I would like to thank everyone who gave generously to our Lenten alms collections and to the Foodbank appeal. The generosity of our parishioners for those in need is always impressive. We have received letters of thanks from the charities we supported.

It is good to celebrate this Feast together. It is particularly special to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the Vigil. I hope you all enjoy the Feast in your families.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Benjamin, Martyr 329-424

Although the Christians in Persia enjoyed relative peace previously, the zeal of the Bishop, destroying a pagan temple, brought the fury of King Isdegard on the Christians, and there was a persecution of 40 years. St Benjamin was a deacon who was imprisoned for the faith. On his

release he was forbidden to speak about religion to members of the Imperial Court. However, he knew his duty to preach Christ was greater than these demands, and took every opportunity presented to him to speak of the Lord. He was brought before the King and was sentenced to a most horrible and ferocious martyrdom.

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
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Parish Secretary

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

Safeguarding

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

Biddulph & Packmoor: Julie Shufflebotham & Lorraine Connell

(sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk)

Goldenhill: Jo Kirkham
(sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@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.partnershipparishes.org

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

234216

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) St Joseph's Sun before Mass; Friday 5.30 to 5.45pm English Martyrs' Sun before Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass	
Saturday 30th		7.30pm		Easter Vigil Mass	Frank Smithson
Sunday 31st EASTER SUNDAY	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Bernard & Brenda Dale Winifred Maughan
Easter Monday 1st			10.00am	Holy Mass	People of the Parishes
Easter Tuesday 2nd	9.15am			Holy Mass	Jean Green
Easter Wednesday 3rd					
Easter Thursday 4th					
Easter Friday 5th		1.00pm 5.00pm 6.00pm		Requiem Mass <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	June McNicholas RIP Mandy Buxton
Easter Saturday 6th			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Dec of Farrell family
Sunday 7th Second Sunday of Easter <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Patrick & Ellen O'Sullivan & family Irene Aylward
Monday 8th THE ANNUNCIATION		9.15am 9.30am		<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Jean Green
Tuesday 9th Feria			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 10th Feria					
Thursday 11th St Stanislaus					
Friday 12th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Saturday 13th Feria			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 14th Third Sunday of Easter	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Baby Owen Paul Biddy Doherty
Monday 15th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Michael & Maureen Meaney & family
Tuesday 16th Feria	9.00am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Frank McCusker
Wednesday 17th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Jean Harding
Thursday 18th Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (in St John's school) Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Mary Child
Friday 19th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Winifred Maughan
Saturday 20th Feria			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Bill & Mary Whitehouse
Sunday 21st Fourth Sunday of Easter <i>Good Shepherd Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Marie Reilly John & Mary Moran & family

Archbishop's Easter message His Grace the Archbishop has published a message for Easter Sunday. You can read or watch and listen to the message on the Diocesan website if you go to <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/archbishop-bernards-message-for-easter-sunday>

Easter Monday Mass The traditional Men's Mass for Easter Monday in honour of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated at Sacred Heart, Hanley on Monday 1st April at 10am. The celebrant is Canon Paul McNally, Episcopal Vicar for Staffordshire and the Black Country. There will be light refreshments afterwards. All men especially welcome.

Divine Mercy Sunday St Augustine's Parish, Meir, invite everyone in our Deanery to their devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday on Sunday 7th April. The programme includes: 2pm Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions; 3pm Sung Divine Mercy Chaplet; 3.30pm Holy Mass. Everyone is welcome!

Our Lady of Grace Ladies The new Ladies group from across our new Parish will meet next at English Martyrs' on Monday 8th April at 7pm, and thereafter on the **second** Monday of the month (to avoid Bank Holidays!). All ladies very welcome for prayer and fellowship.

Feast of the English Martyrs On Saturday 4th May, you are invited to come to the celebration of the Feast of the English Martyrs, at English Martyrs' church Biddulph. There will be Mass at 11.30am, followed by a bring and share buffet lunch in the meeting room. We look forward to seeing you there!

May Procession This year sees the return of the May Procession at St Patrick's Packmoor on Sunday 5th May at 3.30pm. We are going to be joined by members of the Walsingham Association for the first May Procession since 2019! After the crowning of the statue and the procession and Benediction, there will be a bring and share afternoon tea. See you there!

Lenten Alms Thank you for the Lenten alms given on the last two weeks: Aid to the Church in Need £571; Holy Places £442. Thanks for all your generosity over the Lenten season.

Lenten Food Appeal Thanks to everyone who brought food in for the Foodbank each week of Lent. All the Biddulph churches together collected at 907.2kg of food, with some still to be accounted for. That's almost a metric ton of food! The contributions from Our Lady of Grace, channelled through English Martyrs', were very notable. Thanks again!

Collection Envelopes If you haven't yet collected your envelopes, or if you would like some: they are available at church this week.

Parish Bank Account The old St Joseph's church bank account has now been renamed "Our Lady of Grace Parish". If you make payments by cheque to the parish for any of the churches, please put "Our Lady of Grace Parish" as the payee. Little by little we will be moving everything over to this one bank account. After Easter we will be having a drive on Gift Aid, and will be asking all present Gift Aiders whose standing orders go to St John's or English Martyrs' to make a new mandate to the new parish account.

Easter Offering Fr Julian would like to thank parishioners for their kindness and generosity in the Easter offering.

Filipino Community Mass The next Mass for the North Staffs Filipino community will be at Holy Trinity, Newcastle on Sunday 5th May at 3pm.

Talks on St John of the Cross The Carmelite priest, Fr Matt Blake OCD, will be visiting St Wulstan's parish, and giving a series of talks on St John of the Cross, on the weekend of Friday 10th to Sunday 12th May. The talks will be on Friday at 7pm, and then on Saturday at 10am and 3pm, and finally on Sunday at 3pm. All the talks will take place in St Wulstan's school, Wolstanton. Don't

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Come and join us at **Lawton Rise Goldenhill** on Wednesday 17th April at 11am for our next care home service. Please come and join us and help the singing. Meet outside before the service to gain access.

HOSPITALITY



Why not come and join us for a cuppa, a bite to eat and a chat with others?

The Warm Spaces at English Martyrs' has come to an end as spring has arrived! Thanks to our volunteers who provided delicious refreshments over the cold months.

The Welcoming Space at St Joseph's Goldenhill is on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon starting again on Tuesday 9th April. Drop into St Joseph's Academy and meet with friends and have some light refreshments.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, takes place at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday 30th April from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome!

miss this opportunity to hear an inspirational and expert presentation.

Men's Prayer & Life There will be a reunion morning for the men who did the Prayer & Life Workshops with Fr Julian. We will have a cooked breakfast, and then have a look at the ways we can follow up to the Workshops. We will gather on Saturday 20th April at St Joseph's at 9.30am.

Heart to Heart Since we started having the silent Adoration on Friday evenings, which was very popular, Heart to Heart has suffered by having few people attending. So we will continue with Friday evenings Adoration, and on First Fridays have a devotion to the Sacred Heart, and Heart to Heart will be discontinued.

OUR LADY OF GRACE PART 2

A few weeks ago we looked at the English origins of the title of Our Lady of Grace, which was the devotion attached to the shrine of Our Lady of Ipswich. The statue that was there before the Reformation is now honoured in Nettuno in Italy. Today we look at some of the other shrines dedicated to Our Lady of Grace.



It would seem that, in spite of the English devotion to Our Lady of Grace, the title is French in origin. The earliest devotion to Our Lady of Grace was directed towards an icon which was acquired and then set up at the Cathedral in Cambrai in France in the fifteenth century. Like many icons, it was believed that the icon was painted by St Luke, the patron saint of religious artists, and was therefore treated as a relic. It is still taken in procession through the streets of Cambrai on the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.

There is another image which is called “Our Lady of the Bowed Head” at the Carmelite Convent in Döbling in Austria. It is an oil painting of Our Lady which a Carmelite friar found in Rome on a rubbish tip. He said that the image miraculously spoke to him while he was trying to clean it. It was eventually brought to Austria where the Emperor attributed victory in a battle to the image.

In part 3 we will look at Our Lady of Grace of the Miraculous medal: the image we best know as “Our Lady of Grace”.

ST JOHN'S UPDATE

It already seems like a long time since we sadly had to close St John's church, shortly after the Avenue site of the school was vacated too. During the process of consultation on the closure of the church, the search of the archives revealed that the original donor of the site had written in a restriction to the use of it as a Catholic church, presbytery and school. And so, although we have had a willing buyer for the whole property—the Coptic Orthodox Church—it is impossible to sell it without a change to the restriction by the Charity Commissioners. This is still in progress.

However, it has been possible now to make an arrangement with the Coptic Church for them to move in and to start to use the church and presbytery, under a ‘lease at will’ arrangement. In due course, then, they will be able to buy the whole site from us (the proceeds coming half to Our Lady of Grace parish and half to the Diocesan Department for Education). And so, on Thursday, Fr Julian was able to hand over the keys to Fr Bishop of the Coptic Church. He will be moving into the presbytery shortly, and the church will be used for the celebration of the Coptic liturgy.

Fr Bishop is very keen to stress that, while it will become a Coptic Orthodox church, it is still the church that has been the home of Catholics in Kidsgrove for well over 100 years. And he wants us to feel that, although they will come to own it in the future, that it is still ours too, and to come and visit and pray there, and to maintain good relations with them. It is good to see that the plan to maintain St John's as a Christian church is coming to fruition, even if it is sad that we have had to leave it.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism, Confirmation & First Holy Communion

Welcome to the family of the Church to Dale Hodgson who receives the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil at St Joseph's church.

Confirmations

Congratulations to Kacper Alaj who is receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil at St Joseph's church.

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Josie Clare Maughan who is being baptized at St Joseph's church on Sunday 7th April.

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of June Mary McNicholas. Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Friday 5th April at 1pm followed by burial

at Tunstall cemetery.

And also for the soul of Joan Simcock. Funeral service & committal will be on Tuesday 16th April at Bradwell Crematorium.

Requiescant in Pace

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is closed from Wednesday to Friday in Holy Week, and on Easter Monday. It is open at the other times advertised on the front of the bulletin.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. The next Open House is on Monday 15th April at 6.30pm.

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. For Haywood Hospital please contact Fr George at Sacred Heart, Tunstall. If in doubt contact the ward staff.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 31st March

English Martyrs': Past parishioners RIP

St Joseph's: Int J Hodgkinson

St Patrick's: John Martin

Week beginning 7th April

English Martyrs': Mandy Buxton

St Joseph's: Kate Smallman

St Patrick's: Jean Green

Week beginning 14th April:

English Martyrs': Jean Green

St Joseph's: Kevin Potts

St Patrick's: John Martin

If you would like to dedicate a lamp in one of our churches for any intention, please place donation (min £5) in an envelope