

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 6TH JANUARY 2019

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



In November, I went to the exhibition of the artworks of the nineteenth century Midlands artist, Edward Burne Jones. I have always been impressed by his unique style. At the exhibition at the Tate Gallery, I was taken aback by the beauty and clarity of the tapestry of the Adoration of the Magi, which came at the end of the exhibition. It was a moment where I had to sit

down in order to take in the beauty of what was depicted. The vivid colours of the work bring out in a lively way the mystery of what we celebrate on this feast of the Epiphany. The profound adoration of silence of the Magi, and the radiance of what they witnessed: the Word-made-flesh and his blessed Mother. This feast day, and what is revealed of its nature in this work of art, is the key

to making our parishes truly places of mission. I am reminded of the book written by Cardinal Robert Sarah, when he spoke about his boyhood in Guinea. What awakened faith in him and drew him to the priesthood was seeing the profound silent prayer of the mission priests. This impressed itself on him, and drew him to seek the one whom they knew and loved. This has to be the same in our parishes. I dream of our churches being places which impress people entering with the beauty of adoration of worship of the Lord who is present. It is for us, through finding this presence of the Lord in silence ourselves, to make our churches places of adoration, and to allow our lives to be made beautiful in holiness.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St André Bessette 1845-1937

When Alfred Bessette arrived at the Holy Cross Brothers in Montreal to try his vocation, it seemed doomed. He suffered chronic stomach pains which had stopped him working. He was 25, and was unable to read and write, and wanted to try his vocation in a teaching

order. But he arrived with a note from his parish priest, "I am sending you a saint." He was very devoted to St Joseph and decided to build a shrine, which he did by his own hard work and fundraising. His apostolic work was greeting visitors as the porter. He teaches us to start small and, given over to God, the things we do will grow

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

Rev Fr Julian C Green
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Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
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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 5th			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Justine Killeen
Sunday 6th THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Phyllis Salt Int John Martin Andrew Moruzzi
Monday 7th St Raymund of Penyafort		6.00pm	9.30am 10.00am		Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	Justine Killeen Michael Meaney & family
Tuesday 8th Christmas Feria	9.15am		9.30am	2.15pm	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Holy Rosary	Sarah Baker
Wednesday 9th Christmas Feria		6.00pm 6.30pm			Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Fred Wright
Thursday 10th Christmas Feria	6.00pm	9.30am			Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Janice Copeland
Friday 11th Christmas Feria			9.30am		Holy Mass	Malachy & Barney Doherty
Saturday 12th St Aelred of Rievaulx	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parishes 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

THE MEANING OF THE EPIPHANY

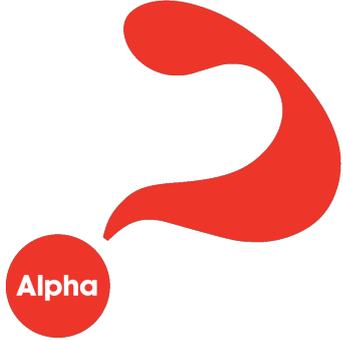
The feast of Epiphany is overshadowed by that of Christmas. Now after contemplating the staggering fact that God has become a human child, we realise that this seemingly helpless Child is, in fact, the omnipotent God, the King and Ruler of the universe. The feast of Christ's divinity completes the feast of His humanity. We see that whereas Christmas is the family feast of Christianity, Epiphany is the great "world feast of the Catholic Church." Four of the themes which form part of the Feast are:

Divine manifestation: The feast unites three events in the life of Christ when His divinity, as it were, shines through His humanity: the adoration of the Magi; the baptism of Christ in the Jordan; and the first miracle at the wedding feast of Cana. Moreover, at Epiphany the Church looks forward to the majestic coming of Christ when His manifestation as God will be complete.

Royal kingship: The Epiphany is the extension of Christ's kingship to the whole world. The revelation of Christ to the three kings at Bethlehem is a symbol of His revelation to the whole of the Gentile world. Epiphany presents to us the calling of not merely a chosen few, but all nations to Christianity.

Your Light is Come: During Advent, the world was in darkness. At Christmas the Light shone forth, but dimly, seen only by a few around the crib: Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. But at Epiphany the Light bursts forth to all nations.

The royal wedding: Epiphany celebrates the marriage of God to humanity. It is an idea on a completely different level from the historical events we celebrate. The three Persian Magi represent the Gentile world coming to a relationship with God that previously was only given to Israel; the gold, frankincense and myrrh are royal wedding gifts for the mystical marriage feast of heaven.



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 are starting 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 will be on Tuesday evenings, every other week, beginning on 8th January at 9pm 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 7th January 6.30pm to 7.00pm (note the shorter time). On 14th January it will be the usual slot from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

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:

English Martyrs: Thank you to everyone who supports the SVP
St John's: Beryl Darby (BC); Winnie Maughan & Family; Lily Giannasi
St Joseph's: Kathleen Steele

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



Kidsgrove 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 Crib Please stay behind after Mass next 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

We are in the last week of our annual crib appeal, raising funds for the Mary's Meals programme in Tolesa School in Malawi. Mary's Meals is an initiative which gives a nutritious meal to children in developing countries each day in school. This year again, we are asking for parishioners to donate £13.90 to feed a child for the whole year. So, why not feed a child for the coming year, or even two or more! 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!

FUNDRAISING

Collections

23/12/18 Biddulph/Packmoor
Gift Aid £396.50, Non Gift Aid
£149.07, Total £545.57. **Gold-**

enhill Gift Aid £171.00, Non Gift
Aid £163.23, Total £334.23.

Kidsgrove Gift Aid £256.10, Non
Gift Aid £170.06, Total £426.16.

30/12/18 Biddulph/Packmoor
Gift Aid £343.50, Non Gift Aid
£186.45, Total £529.95. **Gold-**

enhill Gift Aid £206.00, Non Gift
Aid £166.45, Total £372.45.

Kidsgrove Gift Aid £207.00, Non
Gift Aid £199.94, Total £406.94.

Christmas Offering Fr Julian
would like to thank all parishioners
for their usual generosity in the
Christmas offering. God bless.

**Goldenhill and Kidsgrove 200
Club 30/12/18 Monthly Draw:**
1st Prize £75, No.164 M Cook; 2nd
Prize £50, No.76 M Twomey; 3rd
Prize £25, No.9 T Moran. **Weekly
Draw** 1st Prize £20, No.180 C Tay-

lor; 2nd Prize £10, No.78 K Chap-
pell; 3rd Prize £5, No.103 B Bentley.
06/01/18 Weekly Draw: 1st Prize
£20, No.48 P Savage; 2nd Prize £10,
No.11 B Fryer; 3rd Prize £5, No.63
B Sumsion.

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 col-
lection or hand in to the Parish office

DEANERY & BEYOND

Vocations Mass The parishioners
of St Teresa's, Trent Vale invite eve-
ryone 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 Mi-
chael 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 Cath-
edral on Sunday 3rd February at
11am. If you are celebrating a mile-
stone 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 situ-
ations, and who serve the suffering. It
will be taking place at Maryvale Insti-
tute on Saturday 16th March. No
charge, donation only. Contact Paul
Northam on 0121360 8118.

DR 19

The Divine Renovation
Conference 2019

comes to Birmingham!

7th to 8th February

Bethel Convention Centre

Birmingham

*We have a group of parishion-
ers 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 Di-
vine Renovation model, will
share their stories, experi-
ence 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

Luke 3:15-16,21-22

A feeling of expectancy had grown
among the people, who were begin-
ning to think that John might be the
Christ, so John declared before them
all, 'I baptise you with water, but
someone is coming, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am
not fit to undo the strap of his sandals;
he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit and fire. Now when all the peo-
ple had been baptised and while Jesus
after his own baptism was at prayer,
heaven opened and the Holy Spirit
descended on him in bodily shape,
like a dove. And a voice came from
heaven, 'You are my Son, the Be-
loved; my favour rests on you.'

KEY VERSE: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased" (v. 22).

TO KNOW: Throughout Jewish history it was traditional for Jews to demon-
strate repentance through washing ceremonies. John the Baptist was preaching
repentance for the coming of God's reign. His baptism may have been related to
the purifying washings of the Essenes at Qumran near the Dead Sea. (It is possible
that John may have been a member of this community). The people were filled
with expectation of the Messiah, and they wondered if John was God's anointed
one. John answered that his baptism was only a preparation for "one mightier"
who would baptize with "the Holy Spirit and fire" (v. 16). Although Jesus had no
need of repentance, he entered the murky waters where the people had been
baptized, thereby uniting himself with sinful humanity. The baptism of Jesus was
another "epiphany," or manifestation of the divine presence. While Jesus was
praying, the Spirit descended upon him, and God's voice was heard confirming
Jesus as the "beloved Son" (v.22). On Calvary, Jesus would undergo a baptism of
fire that would bring salvation to the whole world (Lk 12:49-50). This transform-
ing fire would be poured out on the Church at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).

TO LOVE: Does my life give evidence that I am God's beloved son or daughter?

TO SERVE: Father, Son and Spirit, I renew my Baptismal vows to renounce sin
and believe in the truth you have revealed.