

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

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2023

## A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Being in the company of the saints is always an inspiration. And so my trip to France, two weeks ago, to participate in the Society of St John Vianney winter gathering was particularly inspirational. If you were at Mass you'll have heard about the escapade of sixty clergy on at the bowling alley in Villefranche, but there was a serious side to our gathering too.

On the Monday evening we joined together in the Basilica of Ars for a celebrated Mass. This gave time for a time of silent prayer before the glass

casket of St John Vianney. As you know, I am a regular visitor to Ars, and some of you have been there with me on pilgrimage. It is always an inspiration to be at the feet of the relics of the saint, whose body is incorrupt and to ask his intercession for my ministry.

On the Thursday, we had a pilgrimage day to Paray-le-Monial, the site of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to St Margaret Mary. We were able to celebrate Mass

in the chapel of the apparitions, and later in the day to have a Holy Hour there. We were also given a talk by a very lively priest of the shrine who spoke about St Claude de la Colombiere, the spiritual director of St Margaret Mary. He became the main preacher of the Sacred Heart, and even came to London, where he was imprisoned for a year for his trouble! Anyway, all your intentions were remembered at the shrines of these saints.



## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### St Gonsalo Garcia 1556-1597

St Gonsalo is one of the 26 Martyrs of Japan, a companion of St Paul Miki. He was a Franciscan lay brother, born near Bombay, in Portuguese territory. He studied at the Jesuit school, and joined some Jesuit missionaries to Japan. He remained there as a catechist for eight years. After

this time of mission, he became a merchant and made great wealth. However he got to know the Franciscans in Manila, and eventually became a lay brother. He was sent to Japan on mission. Suspicion turned on the missionaries, and Garcia was arrested and condemned to death in Nagasaki with his companions.

## 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 Shufflebotham & 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	Packnoor	The <b>Sacrament of Forgiveness</b> (Confessions) <b>St Joseph's</b> Sun 10.30am <b>English Martyrs'</b> Sun 8.30am <b>St John's</b> Sat 6pm <b>St Patrick's</b> On request before or after Mass	
<b>Saturday 4th</b>			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Connor Young
<b>Sunday 5th</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Gerard Quinn Peter & Elaine Minshull People of the Parishes
<b>Monday 6th</b> Ss Paul Miki & Companions		5.30pm 6.00pm			Reception into church Holy Mass	Ethel Dean RIP Special Intention
<b>Tuesday 7th</b> Feria	9.15am	2.15pm		2.15pm	Holy Mass Requiem Mass Holy Rosary	Mary Child Ethel Dean RIP
<b>Wednesday 8th</b> St Josephine Bakhita		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 9th</b> Feria	12noon	9.30am 6.00pm			Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Fr Anthony de Vere Mary & Mick Clifford
<b>Friday 10th</b> St Scholastica		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Michael & Maureen Meaney & family
<b>Saturday 11th</b> Our Lady of Lourdes	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Dec of Child & Thompson fams Veronica Williams
<b>Sunday 12th</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Denis McGinley Vincent & Lydia Davies
<b>Monday 13th</b> Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Michael & Maureen Meaney
<b>Tuesday 14th</b> <b>St Cyril &amp; St Methodius</b>	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Fr Mooney, Fr Gough & Parish Clergy
<b>Wednesday 15th</b> Feria						
<b>Thursday 16th</b> Feria	12noon	6.00pm	9.30am		Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Mgr John Heslin John & Paddy Clifford
<b>Friday 17th</b> Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 18th</b> Our Lady	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Margaret Casey & family Winifred Maughan
<b>Sunday 19th</b> <b>Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Child Michael & Maureen Meaney People of the Parishes

**Confirmation** Bishop Stephen Wright will be coming to our parishes on Tuesday 21st March to give the Sacrament of Confirmation to all who wish to receive it. If you are a parent of a young person who wishes to receive the Sacrament, or you are an adult and want to be confirmed then please see Fr Julian. Children in our schools (Year 6) will be prepared in school.

**Intercultural Mass** For the first time the Intercultural Mass for the Diocese will take place in our Deanery, on Saturday 18th February at 12noon at Holy Trinity, Newcastle. The Mass will celebrate the wonderful cultural diversity that the Catholic community in North Staffs possesses. The celebrant is Bishop Stephen Wright. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate together. There will be a celebration afterwards with entertainment and shared food afterwards in the parish centre.

**Deanery Vocations Mass** This year's Mass to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life will be at St Giles', Cheadle on Thursday 2nd March at 7pm. The celebrant will be Fr Eric Kemball, the parish priest, with the participation of Painsley Catholic College. Everyone welcome.

**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.

**Mary's Meals** We have received a 'thank you' letter from Mary's Meals for our Christmas Crib Appeal donations, confirming that they will be matched as part of the Double the Love scheme by the charity's benefactors. Thanks to everyone once again.

**Red Mission Boxes** If you have a red Mission box from Biddulph/Packmoor then please bring your box in for emptying and counting over the next couple of weeks. Thanks.



## PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

### A New Evangelization

Prayer & Life Workshops return to our parishes this spring! PLW is a 15 week programme, introducing various ways of praying, as well as helping participants towards a closer relationship with God.

Why not come to the Introductory session on Saturday 4th March, 10am to 12noon in the meeting room at English Martyrs'. The weekly sessions take place at the same time each week.

**Retrouaille** is a programme for couples who are experiencing difficulties in marriage and has helped thousands of couples across the world. The next Retrouaille programme begins with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City, Herts, 24th-26th February. For more information have a look at the website <http://www.retrouaille.org.uk/>

**Gap Year opportunity** Are you 18-30, or do you know someone who is? Do you want to develop a wide range of skills including leadership while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, believes in equipping and inspiring young adults to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering, with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage. Visit the CAFOD website for more information: [cafod.org.uk/gapyear](http://cafod.org.uk/gapyear)

**'Come and See' weekend** The Sacred Heart Fathers (Betharram) are hosting a weekend for young men who are considering vocation to the priesthood and religious life. It is at Shallowford House near Stone on

24th to 26th February. For more information, contact Br Andrew [Br.andrewscj@holyname.org.uk](mailto:Br.andrewscj@holyname.org.uk) or Fr Wilfrid [Wilfred15@hotmail.com](mailto:Wilfred15@hotmail.com)

## Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

Booking is now open for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes which takes place from Saturday 27th May to Friday 2nd June. There are various travel and hotel options. For more information and booking, please visit the [Diocesan website](http://Diocesan website) or contact Kath in the pilgrimage office on 0121 230 6288/ [admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk)

**Right to Life** Recently some MPs attempted to introduce legal abortion right up to birth. Please sign Right to Life's petition to the Prime Minister asking him to do all he can to reject this terrible move. You can find the petition online <https://righttolife.org.uk/signthepetitiontorishi>

**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 problems, please contact the parish office.

## 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

Each Tuesday from 10am to 1pm, parishioners are 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.*

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Ethel Veronica Dean. Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Tuesday 7th February at 2.15pm. Reception into church on Monday 6th February at 5.30pm.

Also for James William Thompson. Funeral service and committal at Bradwell Crematorium on Monday 27th February at 11.20am.

Also for the soul of George Gerald (Gerry) Booth. Funeral service at English Martyrs' on Friday 3rd March at 12.45pm followed by committal at Bradwell Crematorium.

*Requiescant in Pace*

### *Sanctuary Lamp Dedications*

#### **Week beginning 5th February:**

English Martyrs': Intention of PJP

St John's: John Martin

St Joseph's: Maureen Grocott

#### **Week beginning 12th February:**

English Martyrs': Intention of PJP

St Joseph's: Jim Sadler

### **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.

## BIDDULPH IN BLOOM



Last week, volunteers from Biddulph in Bloom joined parishioners to plant a mini-orchard by the side of English Martyrs' Church in memory of the late Hilda Sheldon. Money was originally collected at church for flowers, but this was thought to be a better lasting memorial.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SICK 11TH FEBRUARY 2023

*Next Saturday is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and is the International Day of Prayer for the Sick. Here is a part of the message from the Holy Father for this year's day of prayer (the full message can be found on the Vatican website):*

Dear brothers and sisters! Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion, it can become inhumane. When we go on a journey with others, it is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see *how* we are walking together: whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to "make do". For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick... I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the way of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness. [...]

Here it is especially important to recognize the condition of loneliness and abandonment. This kind of cruelty can be overcome more easily than any other injustice, because – as the parable of the Good Samaritan tells us – it only takes a moment of our attention, of being moved to compassion within us, in order to eliminate it. Two travellers, considered pious and religious, see the wounded man, yet fail to stop. The third passer-by, however, a Samaritan, a scorned foreigner, is moved with compassion and takes care of that stranger on the road, treating him as a brother. In doing so, without even thinking about it, he makes a difference, he makes the world more fraternal.

Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty. In this way, when evil bursts onto the scene and wounds us, we are left stunned. Moreover, others might abandon us at such times. Or, in our own moments of weakness, we may feel that we should abandon others in order to avoid becoming a burden. This is how loneliness sets in, and we can become poisoned by a bitter sense of injustice, as if God himself had abandoned us. Indeed, we may find it hard to remain at peace with the Lord when our relationship with others and with ourselves is damaged. It is crucial, then, even in the midst of illness, that the whole Church measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true "field hospital", for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time. We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who go on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers. [...]

On 11 February 2023, let us turn our thoughts to the Shrine of Lourdes, a prophetic lesson entrusted to the Church for our modern times. It is not only what functions well or those who are productive that matter. Sick people, in fact, are at the centre of God's people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left behind. To the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all of you who are ill; you who care for them in your families, or through your work, research and volunteer service; and those of you who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity. To all, I impart my heartfelt blessing.

FRANCIS