

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2018

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



First Sunday in Advent

Today we begin the whole cycle of the Church's year once again with the beginning of Advent. It is, for us as Catholics, a time for a new beginning, for a fresh start; for reflection on our lives and how they are going; and for making space in our lives for God to work in and through us.

Every year, I say the same thing about Advent, that it is so easily obliterated by pre-Christmas hype. I think, in reality, the com-

mercial party Christmas has become completely divorced from the reality of Christian Christmas. Each year I become more and more bored by endless adverts for presents, food and all the tinsel that goes with it. I'm not being a Scrooge here. I really love Christmas when it actually comes. I find Christmas quite a magical time which takes me back to the excitement of my childhood. I love being with loved ones and friends, the feasting, and the peace of Christmas week with its change of pace. I love the traditions and the joy of children. Yes, I love all those things.

But let me tell you that what makes all those things so much more special to me is the faith I have in the Birth of Our Lord: know-

ing that he has come to be one of us, and is still with us now. And the Christian Christmas, which begins on Christmas Eve and then continues until Epiphany, is made even more special for me by keeping away from the commercial stuff, and saving my feasting for Christmas Day.

This year, I'm aiming at keeping a spiritual Advent. It is a new Church year, so, like New Year, why not make a resolution? I'll share my Advent resolution with you: to give time to reading more. I have lots of unread good Catholic books. So I'm going to make time to read 25 pages a day. What resolution will you make this Advent? It could be prayer, Scripture, reading, acts of charity, penance... Just don't let Advent pass you by!

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

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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.

Website

www.partnershipparishes.org

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl Ivan Sleziuk 1896-1973

Born in the Ukraine, he went to seminary and was ordained priest in 1923. He was consecrated a bishop in secret in 1945 at a time of persecution of the Ukrainian Catholic Church by the Soviets. He was arrested and sentenced to ten years of hard labour. He was released in 1954,

and began to minister to his people. However he was arrested again in 1962, this time sentenced to five years in a strict prison. After his release, he was not left alone, but was frequently arrested by the KGB and taken for interrogation. The last of these was only two weeks before his death. He was beatified by St John Paul II in 2001.

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 1st			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Maureen Kent
Sunday 2nd First Sunday of Advent	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	In Thanksgiving (TnT) Int John Martin Barbara Heath
Monday 3rd St Francis Xavier		6.00pm	9.30am 10.00am		Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Int Maureen Meaney
Tuesday 4th Feria of Advent	9.15am		9.30am	2.15pm	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Holy Rosary	John & Julia Biggane
Wednesday 5th St Birinus		6.00pm 6.30pm			<i>Triduum Mass</i> <i>Triduum Devotions</i>	Special Intention Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 6th St Nicholas	6.00pm 6.30pm	9.30am			Holy Mass (in school) <i>Triduum Mass</i> <i>Triduum Devotions</i>	For the sick Johnny Lacey Eucharistic Adoration
Friday 7th St Ambrose			9.30am	6.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Mass (in school) <i>Triduum Mass</i> <i>Triduum Devotions</i>	Margaret Coates Johnson family Eucharistic Adoration
Saturday 8th THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	10.00am	12noon	6.30pm		Holy Mass Baptism Holy Mass of Sunday	Bill Adams Int John Martin
Sunday 9th Second Sunday of Advent	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Flatley Doris Cahlin People of the Parishes



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY

On Saturday we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Lady. This is a really great feast. Not only is the Immaculate Conception a great Solemnity in the Church's calendar, she is also the patroness of our Diocese. Unfortunately, while in other countries a great deal is made of the feast day, in our country it is often forgotten. This year in our parishes we are having a triduum (three days of prayer) to prepare. Come if you can (see the box opposite). Even if you can't, please pray each day this prayer and try to come to the feast day Mass on Saturday:

O most Holy Virgin, immaculate in body and spirit, look kindly on me as I implore your powerful intercession. O most Holy Mother, receive my prayers as I present them to God. (state your intentions here) O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother, you intercede for us with your Son. O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Amen.

**TRIDUUM OF THE
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**



*Come and join
in three days of
prayer, in preparation for the
Feast of Our
Lady's Immaculate Conception*

Wednesday 5th December

St Joseph's Goldenhill

Thursday 6th December

English Martyrs' Biddulph

Friday 7th December

St Patrick's Packmoor

6pm Holy Mass

6.30pm Rosary & Devotions

Saturday 8th December

Mass of the Solemnity

10am English Martyrs' Biddulph

Followed by refreshments

*Come and join in honouring
Our Lady's Immaculate
Conception*

Christmas Mass Times

Here are the Christmas Mass times for our Partnership of Parishes this year:

Christmas Eve

4.00pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's, Goldenhill

6.30pm Night Mass at English Martyrs', Biddulph

Christmas Day

9.00am Dawn Mass at St Patrick's, Packmoor

10.30am Day Mass at St John's, Kidsgrove

Parish Priest's Open House

Fr Julian is available to be seen on Monday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Presbytery at Goldenhill. There is no need to book, just turn up.

The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club Christmas party is on Tuesday 11th December from 1pm to 4pm at Kidsgrove Town Hall. Buffet, refreshments, entertainment, raffle, Bingo, and a visit from Santa! For members of the Club the party is free of charge. For non-members tickets are £5. For more information, to book a ticket, or for help with getting there, please call 01782 269990. Book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited.

Care Home Prayer Services



Kidsgrove The next prayer service will be at Maple Tree Court, Gloucester Rd at 10.30am on Tuesday 18th December.

Some of the children from St John's school will also be joining us in the singing.

Biddulph The prayer service for our Biddulph Churches Together group is on Sunday 9th December at Tall Oakes Care Home at 3pm. We welcome everyone to come and join us. It would be great to have some new people come along!

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:

St John's: Pat Killeen & Family (BC); Enid Carr (TG)

St Joseph's: Special Intention (MM)

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

Mass Intentions Mass intentions for Christmas Eve/Day have been allocated already. Thanks for the support for the November List. Donations will provide for 169 Masses (30 already offered in November).

ADVENT EMBER DAYS

Come and join in our three day Advent retreat evenings and give time to the Lord in preparation for Christmas.

The retreat evenings are at St Patrick's, Packmoor

Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th December 2018

We will be showing videos of talks given by Bishop Robert Barron, on Wednesday & Thursday from the Adoremus Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool, and on Friday from the World Meeting of Families.

6.30pm Holy Mass

7.00pm Bishop Barron talk

Wednesday: *On the Mass*

Thursday: *Sainthood and what makes us holy*

Friday: *Living as the Image of God*

8.00pm Eucharistic Holy Hour & Benediction

Each evening ends at 9.00pm

¡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 will 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 (75 miles). Return flights from Manchester to Porto. Probable cost will be about £500. To secure a place, please let Fr Julian have £200 non-returnable deposit for the flights.

FUNDRAISING

Collections

Biddulph/Packmoor Gift Aid £347.90, Non Gift Aid £174.31, Total £522.21. Catholic Youth Service £80.68. **Goldenhill** Gift Aid £323.00, Non Gift Aid £165.53, Total £488.53. Catholic Youth Service £32.59. **Kidsgrove** Gift Aid £215.20, Non Gift Aid £142.21, Total £357.41. Catholic Youth Service £102.85.

Kidsgrove 200 Club Weekly Draw: 1st Prize £20, No.40 B McGough; 2nd Prize £10, No.124 J Cooper; 3rd Prize £5, No.34 G Lovatt.

Biddulph & Packmoor Autumn Fayre The money raised from the fayre was £2400. Well done and thank you to everyone who helped

and supported the fayre. **As an added bonus** Jackie Menzies will be selling jams and preserves next week as she has this week.

Second Collection Next Sunday will be for Poor Parishes. The following week will be for Christmas flowers.

DEANERY & BEYOND

Lay Chaplain vacancy St John Fisher Catholic College, Newcastle are seeking to appoint a lay chaplain. They are looking for a dynamic practising Catholic with a high level of interpersonal and organisational skills to support the liturgical and Catholic life of the school. Initial 12 month temporary contract. 25 hours per week. Starting salary £23,111 pro rata (£14,120 actual). For more information email hr@ctkcc.co.uk. Closing date: 12th December at 9am

Christmas Raffles

St Patrick's Hampers

Tickets are now on sale for the Hamper Raffle. Could the parishioners who have offered items for the hampers bring them to church by next Sunday.

St Joseph's SVP

The SVP will be holding their Christmas raffle, with tickets on sale on 2nd and 9th December. The draw will be after Mass on the 9th. Any prizes please hand to the SVP.

Carol Singing at the Royal Stoke University Hospital

The Hospital Chaplains would like to invite local congregations to come and sing carols around some of the hospital wards. It will take place on Monday 17th December, meeting at the Prayer centre, Main Building, Lower Ground 2 at 5.30pm for a 6pm start. If this is something you would like to do please give your name to Fr Julian or ring the parish office before 7th December.

DR 19

The Divine Renovation

Conference 2019

comes to Birmingham!

7th to 8th February

Bethel Convention Centre

Birmingham

Parishioners are invited to attend this exciting event helping us to move in our parishes 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).

There will be a choice to stay in Birmingham overnight at extra cost, or to travel down each day.

If you have any questions, or would like to book for this exciting event please see Fr Julian as soon as possible.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

KEY VERSE: "All mankind shall see the salvation of God"

TO KNOW: On the Second and Third Sundays of Advent we hear the proclamation of John the Baptist. He is one of the key figures in Advent because his urgent message sums up what the season is about: a time to prepare our hearts and minds to accept the gospel that Jesus offers and to carry it out in our daily lives. Luke situated the beginning of Jesus' ministry within the political and religious history of Palestine. He noted that it was the fifteenth year of the reign of the Roman emperor Tiberius Caesar (27-29 C.E.), the second of the Roman emperors, and the successor of Augustus. Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judaea, Herod Antipas ruled Galilee and Perea, and Caiaphas served as high priest. During this time, God called John the Baptist to announce the coming of God's anointed one. God did not call John to be a prophet in a temple or in a palace, but in the desert. John preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins in preparation for the imminent reign of God. Luke quoted the prophet Isaiah to show the fulfilment of God's promises in the scriptures: a voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths'

TO LOVE: As you light the second candle of the Advent wreath pray for someone in your family who needs Christ in their life.

TO SERVE: Lord Jesus, help me this Advent to prepare a place for you in my heart.