

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2018

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



At last we get to Christmas, and the last parish bulletin of the year, as it covers two weeks.

It has been quite a year again. It seems to go so quickly, and yet we have done so much. This year's highlight was the Mission week with the Franciscan Friars and Sisters in May. Another highlight for me was the walk to Santiago de Compostela with the group of men, mostly from our parishes, in October. And I look forward to doing it again next year.

Of course, it is the week by week round of Masses, prayer, and other activities which are the main life of the parish. And this presents great challenges, as we say farewell to parishioners who are called to God, and others who are no longer able to come to Mass because of age or illness, and others who give up the regular practice of the Faith. Another great challenge is the way in which most younger families do not come very often to Mass, or take an active part in their children's upbringing in faith. So, there is a lot of work to do. Covering such a large area, it means that that work cannot be entirely mine. It is the work of a community. And being part of a community is integral to being Catholic. It is a challenge for all of

us, to make our parishes places of belonging, welcome and outreach.

Last week on the bulletin, I gave you an idea of how children's catechesis would work in the future in our parishes. We are also going to move forward in the New Year on how we pass the Faith on to adults. We see the return of Alpha in February, and a catechesis for adults which I will give with people from our parish, which will be a follow on to Alpha. It will be the way we prepare adults for becoming Catholics, and for Catholics looking for renewal in faith.

Lastly, many thanks to all who do the unseen practical work in our parishes throughout the year, and to those who help in any way. We couldn't keep going without you!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl William Howard 1614-1680

The first Viscount Stafford, William was brought up in a Catholic household, who nominally conformed to the Church of England. He married into the Stafford family, who were Catholics. His life was not typical of a saint. He was known to be quarrelsome and was imprisoned, while in exile

in Holland, for debts. He was implicated in the 'Popish Plot' and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. He was charged with treason, and chose to be tried by the House of Lords. Titus Oates presented false evidence against him purporting to show he was plotting with the Pope against the King. Executed at Tower Hill.

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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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*

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	The Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) Kidsgrove Sat 6pm Biddulph Sun 8.30am Goldenhill Sun 10.30am Packmoor Sun 6pm	
Saturday 22nd			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Int John Martin
Sunday 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00am	11.00am 5.00pm		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Reception of Body Holy Mass	Patrick Phelan People of the Parishes Malachy Doherty RIP Patrick Dempsey
Monday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE	6.30pm	11.15am 4.00pm 11.00pm 12.00am			Requiem Mass Vigil Mass Vigil Mass Eucharistic Adoration & Office of Readings	Malachy Doherty RIP Frank Smithson Andrew & Carmen Sturgess
Tuesday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY			10.30am	9.00am	Midnight Mass Dawn Mass Day Mass	People of the Parishes Fionn Hussey Winifred Maughan
Wednesday 26th St Stephen		11.30am			Servers' Mass	George & Agnes Martin
Thursday 27th St John Evangelist			11.00am		Holy Mass	Thanksgiving (St Anthony)
Friday 28th Holy Innocents				11.00am	Holy Mass	Helen Manifold
Saturday 29th St Thomas a Becket	11.00am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Andrew Lamb Russell Whalley
Sunday 30th The Holy Family	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	George & Barbara Connell & Karol Grolik Michael Maughan Bill & Mary Whitehouse
Monday 31st Christmas Octave <i>St Sylvester</i>		7.00pm	9.30am		Holy Mass Holy Hour to pray for the New Year	Ellen & George McHugh
Tuesday 1st MARY MOTHER OF GOD	10.00am	11.30am			Holy Mass Holy Mass	Int Mr & Mrs Beveridge (75th Wedding) People of the Parishes
Friday 4th Feria				6.00pm	Holy Mass	Patrick Dempsey
Saturday 5th Feria	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Rels & friends Biggane & Clifford Justine Killeen
Sunday 6th EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Phyllis Salt People of the Parishes Andrew Moruzzi



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?

St Patrick's Hamper Raffle Winners

1st Prize Mrs Ward 41-45 Yellow
 2nd Prize Mary J 406-410 Yellow
 3rd Prize Tess Hall 416-420 Yellow
 4th Prize Ethel Broad 46-50 Orange
 5th Prize F Moulson 306-310 Yellow
 6th Prize L Parker 371-375 Orange
 7th Prize L Clowes 311-315 Orange
 8th Prize Gill Hussey 11-15 Orange
 9th P Whitehouse 366-370 Orange
 10th Prize Tricia 51-55 Orange
 11th prize Veronica 111-115 Green
 12th Bessie - Ethel 221-225 Yellow
 13th George Rigby 226-230 Yellow

Parish Priest's Open House

There is no Open House during the festive season. The next Open House will be on Monday 7th January 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

A Very Merry Holy Christmas & a Happy Blessed New Year to all our parishioners from Fr Julian

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.

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.

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:

English Martyrs: Deceased of Jeffries & Jervis Families

St John's: Maureen & Tony Giannasi (BC); Winnie Maughan & Family

St Joseph's: Special Intention (MM)

St Patrick's: Fionn Hussey

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

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 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 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 £464.00, Non Gift Aid £184.47, Total £648.47. Flowers £130.51. **Goldenhill** Gift Aid £250.00, Non Gift Aid £164.44, Total £414.44. Flowers £104.75. **Kidsgrove** Gift Aid £189.70, Non Gift Aid £115.33, Total £305.03. Flowers £100.97.

Goldenhill and Kidsgrove 200 Club Weekly Draw: 1st Prize £20, No.18 M Maughan; 2nd Prize £10, No.42 B Grandfield; 3rd Prize £5, No.187 E Mannion.

Christmas Offering The Collection at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is the Christmas Offering for the Parish Priest.

Thanks for all the pre-Christmas fundraising efforts:

To all at St Patrick's for the Christmas Hamper raffles which raised a total of £216 for parish funds.

To all at St John's for the Christmas raffle which raised £258 for parish funds.

To Jackie Menzies who made £250 on the jam and preserves stall after Masses at English Martyrs'.

To the UCM at St Joseph's for their donation of £100 to the parish.

To the Goldenhill Slim Together for their generous cheque of £150.

To all at St Joseph's who raised £105 in the raffle for the SVP funds.

Thank you to everyone who gives generously through the year to the parish and its work, to groups in the parishes, and to charities we support.

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 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

KEY VERSE: "Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?"

TO KNOW: As a faithful Jew, Jesus went with his parents to the Temple to celebrate the feast of Passover, which commemorated Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. At the end of the feast, the family assumed that their son was in the caravan returning to Nazareth. When the anxious parents did not find him after the first day of travel, they returned to the Holy City to look for him. After three days, the astonished parents found Jesus in the Temple with a group of teachers who were amazed at his wisdom. When Mary reproached her son for causing them grief, Jesus replied that he "had" to be about the work of his Father. Then Jesus obediently returned to Nazareth where he grew in stature, wisdom and grace.

TO LOVE: In what ways is the Holy Family an example for my family?

TO SERVE: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, teach me how to live in holiness and faithfulness.

Next Sunday is the feast day of the Holy Family, but also every family's feast day, since the Holy Family is the patron and model of all Christian families. The general breakdown of the family at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instil into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.