

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

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 30TH APRIL 2023

## A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Good Shepherd Sunday, which is the name given to the fourth Sunday of Easter, is the day designated for prayer for vocations to the priesthood. You will have heard His Grace the Archbishop encourage us in the support of our future priests in his pastoral letter this Sunday. Every priest is also a man with a family background, and a life before the priesthood. God, in his wisdom, chooses men with all their

weaknesses and makes them strong through the outpouring of his grace in the Sacrament of Holy Order. Sometimes all that we see with our human eyes is the man, with all the weaknesses that we can see, and fail to see the image of Christ that God makes present in him by the power of his grace. It's a bit like the Eucharist. Without faith, all we see is bread and wine. Through faith we are able to perceive the

reality, which is the presence of Christ. So it is with the priest (and all the other Sacraments!).

St John Vianney used almost shocking language to express the reality of the priesthood. He said that if he were confronted with an angel or a priest, he would bow down to the priest first, because not even an angel can command that God come down from heaven to be present on the altar. This sort of language doesn't sit easily side by side with our knowledge of the sins and failings of priests. But we should not let those failings make us doubt the reality of God's work, who can even take a sinful man and make him a channel of grace. So I appeal to you to pray for your priests, and pray for more vocations.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### St Augustus Schoffler 1822-1851

Augustus joined the Society of Foreign Missions in Paris. After seminary and ordination, he was sent to Vietnam in 1848. In 1850, his superior gave him a particular region to evangelize. A persecution of Christians broke out in 1851. Fr Schoffler was arrested and was impris-

oned. Although he wasn't tortured, the wooden frame around his neck and the shackles, as well as the vermin in the prison, were a particular trial. He was sentenced to death by beheading. After his death his head was thrown in the river and his body buried at the site of martyrdom, but it was recovered and reburied in a Christian village

## 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:  
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*

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	<b>Confessions</b> <b>St Joseph's</b> Sat 6pm; Sun 10.30am <b>English Martyrs'</b> Sun 8.30am <b>St Patrick's</b> Sun before Mass on request	
<b>Saturday 29th</b>		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	Joan & Peter Jackson & Kath Bailey
<b>Sunday 30th</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Good Shepherd Sunday</i>	9.00am				Holy Mass	George & Barbara Connell & Karol Groluk
		11.00am			Holy Mass	Geoff Lovatt
				6.30pm	Holy Mass	Special Intention (M & RJ)
<b>Monday 1st</b> St Joseph the Worker		9.30am			Holy Mass	Bernard Cunningham
<b>Tuesday 2nd</b> St Athanasius	9.15am				Holy Mass	Maria William
				2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
<b>Wednesday 3rd</b> <b>Ss Philip &amp; James</b>		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 4th</b> <b>ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>	9.15am				Holy Mass	Dec of Child family
		6.30pm			First Confessions Service	
<b>Friday 5th</b> Feria of Easter			9.30am		St John's Day Mass (in school)	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 6th</b> Feria of Easter		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
<b>Sunday 7th</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	9.00am				Holy Mass	Ellena Flatley
		11.00am			Holy Mass	Dec of Plant & Bailey families
				6.30pm	Holy Mass	Malachy Doherty
<b>Monday 8th</b> Feria of Easter		9.30am			Holy Mass	Bernard Cunningham
<b>Tuesday 9th</b> Feria of Easter	9.15am				Holy Mass	Jean Longshaw
<b>Wednesday 10th</b> St John of Avila		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Special Intention
<b>Thursday 11th</b> Feria of Easter		9.30am			Holy Mass (in Church)	People of the Parishes
	12noon				Holy Mass	Holy Souls (HC)
		6.00pm			Holy Hour for Mary's Meals	
<b>Friday 12th</b> St Pancras		9.30am			Holy Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 13th</b> Our Lady of Fatima			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Winefride & Leonard Atherton
<b>Sunday 14th</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	9.00am				Holy Mass	John, Mary & Lynne Hunter
		11.00am			Holy Mass	Michael, Elizabeth & Deceased of the Murphy family
				6.30pm	Holy Mass	Bishop David McGough

## MAY, MONTH OF OUR LADY: PRAYING FOR MARY'S MEALS

For over ten years, our Partnership of Parishes has promoted the wonderful charity, Mary's Meals, and we have supported the charity with our Christmas crib offerings, sending thousands of pounds each year to help to feed children in a place of education in the developing world.

Money is good, but prayers are better! And so, Mary's Meals are asking that we dedicate Our Lady's month of May to praying for the work of the charity. So this is our time to be generous in time for prayer for Mary's Meals.

During this month we will:

Pray the Rosary for the intentions of Mary's Meals before each of the Saturday evening/Sunday Masses in each of our churches. (6th/7th May Joyful Mysteries; 13th/14th May Luminous Mysteries; 20th/21st May Sorrowful Mysteries; 27th /28th May Glorious Mysteries.

There will be a Holy Hour to pray for the work of Mary's Meals, on Thursday 11th May at 6pm at St Joseph's Goldenhill.

There will be sign up sheet for individuals/families to say the Rosary on each of the days of the month of May.

**Clergy Training Fund** This week the second collection is for the Clergy Training Fund. It may surprise you to know that the seven years of training of a priest costs about £200,000! As well as giving to the collection today, please consider a regular donation which you can set up at <https://www.vocations.org.uk/ctf>

**Flowers at St Joseph's** As you know, the flowers at Christmas (which lasted until Lent), and the Easter flowers have been arranged professionally. We would like to express our thanks to Elaine Simpson who, together with Bernadette McGough previously, has faithfully provided and arranged the flowers at

St Joseph's. Elaine has now stepped back from doing this. So we need to arrange a rota for people to ensure that there are flowers on the altar from week to week. This will need to begin very soon. You don't have to be a professional arranger! Flowers can be placed in large vases rather than in arrangements, so it's really easy to do. Please see Fr Julian if you are willing to be on the rota, and most especially if you are willing to organise the rota for the flowers.

**English Martyrs' car park** The gardener has requested that we try to ensure that cars park only on the gravel car park and do not stay onto the grass. Please be careful when parking your cars.

**First Confessions** Please pray for the children from the parish who will be making their confession for the first time on Thursday 4th May.

**St John's Church** The water supply should be restored to St John's this week, and we are anticipating we will be able to reopen the church for Saturday evening Mass on 13th May. In order to prepare for that reopening, there will be a volunteer cleaning party—details next week!

**Welcoming Places Goldenhill** Welcoming Place at St Joseph's Academy Goldenhill resumes on 18th April 10am to 1pm at St Joseph's Academy. Why not drop in for tea, coffee and a chat?

**Walsingham Pilgrimage** The Diocesan one day pilgrimage to Walsingham is on Saturday 13th May. There are places available on a coach leaving from Holy Trinity Newcastle. If you would like to book a place (£25 for adults), the please call Julie on 07791 759713

**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](https://www.diocese.org.uk) or contact Kath in the pilgrimage office on 0121 230 6288/ [admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk)

## DIOCESAN VISION: UNFOLDING GOD'S PLAN

The clergy of the Deanery have asked the Area Pastoral Council to organise three meetings so that parishioners from across the parishes of North Staffs can get together to discuss the Diocesan Vision and its implications for our Parishes. Everyone is invited to these remaining two sessions:

Wednesday 31st May "Make a powerful change"

Wednesday 28th June "My commitment and prayer"

All the sessions take place at St Teresa's Church, Trent Vale, beginning at 7pm and finishing at 8.30pm. The views from your Parish are important to us and to the future of our Church.

## FEAST DAYS

### FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

Thursday 4th May is the Feast of the English Martyrs. We will celebrate the Feast Day at English Martyrs' Church, Biddulph with a parish Mass at 9.15am with the school children from Our Lady of Grace in attendance.

Please note: the Parish meeting room will be being used as a polling station for the local elections. Parishioners can still enter through the main entrance, while the side entrance will be used for the school children.

### FEAST OF ST JOHN

St John's School celebrates the Feast of St John on Friday 5th May with Mass at 9.30am.

It will be the first Mass to be celebrated in the new school hall at Gloucester Road. Parishioners are warmly invited to come for the Mass, and also to have a look around the new school. There will also be refreshments served to those who wish to stay behind. Everyone welcome!

At these two Masses there will also be prayers for the King as we prepare for his Coronation.

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Harry Isaiah Price, baptised at St Joseph's on 23rd April.

### Deaths

The funeral for John Woodall is no longer taking place at St Joseph's this week.

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Paul McGough.

**Retrouvaille** is a lifeline for Married Couples. Do you feel lost, alone or bored in your marriage? Has your marriage become cold, stressed or unloving? Do you argue often? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced or are thinking about it? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need. The next programme begins with a virtual weekend on 6th to 9th July. For more information phone or text: 07887 296983 or 07973 380443. Alternatively, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) Website: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**Cursillo** is a Catholic movement, dedicated to spreading the Word of God and helping Catholics to form a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. The 3-Day Weekend provides adult faith formation within the experience of a loving Christian community together with the celebration of the Sacraments. The cost of the three days is £240. There is financial support available. No one should be excluded because of the cost. Cursillo Weekend: Thursday 11 May to Sunday 14 May, at Shallowford House, Shallowford, Near Stone, Staffs. ST15 0NZ. Contact:

### 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.

**Open House** The 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 22nd May at 6.30pm, which, because of Bank Holidays and other commitments, is the only Open House in May.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

#### Week beginning 30th April:

English Martyrs': John & Mary Hunter

St Joseph's: Michael & Maureen Meaney

St Patrick's: Int Alan Brain

#### Week beginning 7th May:

English Martyrs': The King & Queen

St Joseph's: The King & Queen

St John's: Crotty, Howle & Davenport families

*To dedicate a lamp, please place min donation of £5 in an envelope with preferred church and intention written on the front, and put into the collection or hand to a steward.*

**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.

Canon Michael Leadbeater [canon.michael.leadbeater@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:canon.michael.leadbeater@rcaob.org.uk) or Paul Northam [paul.northam@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:paul.northam@rcaob.org.uk) Website: [www.cursillouk.org](http://www.cursillouk.org)

## MARY'S MEALS: PRAY IN MAY



Today, more than 2.4 million hungry children will eat Mary's Meals at school. Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who believe in our mission. Our work is named after Mary, Mother of God, who brought up her own child in poverty. We hope that you will join with us in prayer as we honour Our Lady during the month of May.

Mary, as the mother of Jesus, knew the joys and sorrows of motherhood as she loved and cared for her son. We pray for all those responsible for nurturing and protecting children, especially all parents, caregivers and teachers. Lord, bless all who love and care for children across the whole Mary's Meals family. Bless each of them as they face the daily challenges to ensure that children are fed, educated and safe. Amen.

Our Lady brought up her own son in poverty. We pray for a fairer world where resources are shared more equally. Lord, we ask that all families struggling at this time, may know your love and be lifted up in

your care. Help us to be willing to share what we have with those who lack even the most basic of things. Mary, mother of the poor, wrap us in your mantle and protect all those in need. Amen.

The example of Mary's faith was demonstrated in her saying yes to being the mother of Jesus. We thank you, Lord, for those who continually say yes to supporting the work of Mary's Meals through their little acts of love and especially those who choose to volunteer for this mission throughout the world. We ask that more people may answer the call to demonstrate their faith in action by joining our work to ensure life-changing meals for so many children. Amen.

Mary knew what it was to flee from her own country. We bring to you all refugee families and the most vulnerable communities in our society – we remember especially the children who eat Mary's Meals in Syria, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Kenya. We pray, Lord, that you bless and protect all those who are trying to build new homes and a new life. We humbly ask you to bring healing and to restore their freedom. Amen.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for all countries experiencing conflict. At Mary's Meals, we've seen, time and time again, how conflict exacerbates suffering and how children are always the greatest victims of war. May we strive to imitate Mary as beacons of hope, as channels of peace and as vessels of God's Divine Mercy. Amen.