

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (*LAETARE SUNDAY*)

SUNDAY 11TH MARCH 2018

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Happy Mothering Sunday

Every year, I have the same problem. I go in search of a card for my mother which wishes a 'Happy Mothering Sunday' and NOT 'Happy Mother's Day'. Mothering Sunday, the traditional English name for Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is not the same as the secular Mother's Day. The origin of the day in the Middle Ages was where people would travel to go back to the church in which they were baptised, which was their 'mother church'. This developed late into something more like what we know today.

On Mothering Sunday, servants, especially girls in service, were given the day off to go and visit their mothers. The practice fell into disuse, but was revived early in the 20th century. In more recent times, it has become commercialised, like all our celebrations. But we should remember that it is a day when we give thanks to God for motherhood, for all of our mothers, but also for the motherhood of the Church, and of our Blessed Lady.

Laetare Sunday is mid-Lent Sunday. It is a day off from our penances, if we wish to take it, and a day for looking at how we are doing so far with our practice of Lent. If you look back and think you could have done better, then Monday is the day to start again and re-

double our efforts and make a fresh start.

Next Sunday, you will receive the Holy Week/Easter cards, similar to the ones we give out at Christmas. We are having plenty of these printed, so that they can go to family and friends and act as an invitation to come and join us for Holy Week. It will also allow you to plan to be able to participate in our Holy Week services.

Finally, on a personal note, you all know that my mother was in hospital recently. She has asked me to convey her thanks for all the prayers, cards and best wishes she received. It has meant that I feel I have not been able to be around as much as I would wish in the parishes. I hope you all understand my having to make other priorities.

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

CLERGY & STAFF

Parish Priest

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Deacon (retired)

Rev Dr David Child

Youth Pastor

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9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs
9am to 1pm.

Website

www.partnershipparishes.org

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Louise de Marillac 1591-1660

Although, as a young woman, she wished to become a nun, she was persuaded to get married. However, her husband died after only 8 years, leaving her without children. At this time she met St Vincent de Paul, and devoted the rest of her life to assisting him in his

work. She helped direct the ladies who were devoted to the work of charity which he had begun. As such, she became the foundress of the Vincentian sisters, after she took vows in 1634, and attracted large numbers of sisters. She travelled all over France founding houses of sisters dedicated to the service of the poor.

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 6.00pm	
Saturday 10th			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Marie & Christine Twomey
Sunday 11th Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am 5.45pm		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Reception of Body Holy Mass	Baby Owen Paul Irene Aylward Alice Edwards RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 12th Lenten Feria		1.30pm	12noon		Holy Mass Requiem Mass	Herman Chlechowicz Alice Edwards RIP
Tuesday 13th Lenten Feria	9.15am		9.30am	2.15pm	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Stations of the Cross	Thanksgiving (Ss Anthony & Rita)
Wednesday 14th Lenten Feria		6.30pm			Stations of the Cross	
Thursday 15th Lenten Feria	6.00pm 7.00pm	9.30am			Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass Lenten Holy Hour	Holy Souls Timothy Child
Friday 16th Lenten Feria		6.00am 7.00am	9.30am 1.00pm	6.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Holy Souls William Johnson RIP Alice Edwards
Saturday 17th St Patrick			6.30pm	11.30am	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parishes Bridget Culhane
Sunday 18th Fifth Sunday of Lent	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Helena & Cyril Jeffries and Iris & Arthur Jervis Agnes Martin Winifred Maughan



ST JOSEPH NOVENA

St Joseph is a great saint to ask to help us in all our needs. Why not start the Novena today, so as to finish on his feast day next Monday? You can use this prayer:

Glorious St. Joseph, foster-father and protector of Jesus Christ! To you do I raise my heart and hands to implore your powerful intercession. Please obtain for me from the kind Heart of Jesus the help and graces necessary for my spiritual and temporal welfare. I ask particularly for the grace of a happy death, and the special favour I now implore (mention your intention). Guardian of the Word Incarnate, I feel animated with confidence that your prayers in my behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God. O glorious St. Joseph, through the love you bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name, hear my prayers and obtain my petitions.

LENT HOLY HOURS



This Lent we are inviting people to come together on Thursday evenings for an hour of led prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. If you never know how to pray in Eucharistic Adoration or how to pray in silence, come along and learn how to spend time with the Lord. Each Holy Hour begins at 7pm. This week the holy hour will be at English Martyrs

O come let us adore him!

Men's Disciple Group Having had to cancel the last two meetings—we'll try again! We will meet this Friday, 16th March at 7pm at St Joseph's.

Alpha The course is running at St Joseph's once again, on Sunday afternoons at 3pm, finishing at 4.45pm. Why not try out one of these sessions as a taster?

Holy Week Choir Once again this year we will be organising a joint choir for the Holy Week liturgies. We need singers! So please come along to the rehearsals on Wednesday 7th March at 7pm at St Joseph's.

Sacramental Preparation Any children who are not in Catholic schools, or who have missed out on the Sacraments, but wish to receive them this year, please see Fr Julian as preparation is due to start soon.

The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club is our monthly meeting for older people. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 27th March, at the usual time of 2pm at Kidsgrove Town Hall. We always welcome new people, so come and give it a try. If you need transport please contact Matt Ford on 07587034299.

ST PATRICK'S DAY



Come and celebrate the Feast of St Patrick at St Patrick's church, Packmoor on Saturday 17th March.

Holy Mass at 11.30am followed by Bring and Share Buffet Lunch.

ST JOSEPH'S DAY



St Joseph's Day is on Monday 19th March. Come to St Joseph's Church to celebrate the Feast of our Patron Saint.

Holy Mass in church with St Joseph's Academy at 9.30am

Holy Mass at 6pm

A great opportunity for our church communities to come together.

For each feast day, a visit to the respective church can gain a Plenary Indulgence, with Confession, Holy Communion and prayer for the Pope's intentions.

Care Home Prayer Service



This month our prayer service outreach to the elderly will be at Ravenswood, The Avenue Kidsgrove on Tuesday 20th March at 11am. We would love to see more parishioners coming along and bringing the light of faith to those in the home. Meet at the home.



On Fire

Set the world ablaze!

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

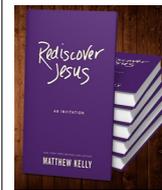
Of your charity please pray for the soul of Alice Edwards. Requiem Mass will be offered at St Joseph's on Monday 12th March at 1.30pm, followed by committal at Tunstall cemetery. Reception of body today at 5.45pm

Please pray also for the soul of William (Bill) Johnson. Requiem Mass will be offered at St John's on Friday 16th March at 1pm, followed by burial at Tunstall cemetery.

And also for the soul of Winifred Jackson. The funeral service will be at St Joseph's on Monday 26th March at 12.15pm, followed by burial at Burslem cemetery.

Requiescant in Pace.

Your Invitation to Rediscover Jesus



The weekly sessions to discuss the book continue on a Tuesday at St John's 10.30am to 11.45am, followed by tea & coffee. (Please note 20th March session will be on Monday 19th March.)

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you've already begun." Saint Josemaría Escrivá

On Fire!

19th to 24th May 2018

St Joseph's Goldenhill

Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal

You are invited to be part of our great Pentecost Festival, On Fire! Apologies for the late cancellation of last week's meeting. All who are interested in helping with the Mission—publicity, organisation, hospitality, celebration—please come to a meeting at St Joseph's on Wednesday 21st March at 7pm.

Parish Priest's Open House

The next Parish Priest's Open House, when Fr Julian can be seen, is on Monday 12th March from 6.30 to 7.30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery. There will be an open house most Mondays at the same time. Please call to confirm on the day to ensure that the open house is on.

FUNDRAISING

Collections

Biddulph/Packmoor Gift Aid £350.00, Non Gift Aid £174.52. Total £524.52.

Goldenhill Gift Aid £200.00, Non Gift Aid £192.27. Total £392.27.

Kidsgrove Gift Aid £202.50, Non Gift Aid £202.78. Total £405.28.

Goldenhill & Kidsgrove 200 Club Draw Weekly: 1st Prize £20, No.194 J Crompton; 2nd Prize £10, No.35 B Lyth; 3rd Prize £5, No.25 T Bickerton.

Biddulph & Packmoor 125 Club If you don't already have a number please consider subscribing. You pay £1 a week, collected quarterly or half yearly, for your chance to win a monthly cash prize. For more details contact Mary Jervis on 514829.

Collection Envelopes The new boxes of envelopes for St Joseph's are available to collect at Mass today.

The Lord measures out perfection neither by the multitude nor the magnitude of our deeds, but by the manner in which we perform them. St John of the Cross

LENTEN ALMS

Last week The collection for St Chad's Cathedral raised £295.03.

Next week We will welcome Teresa Kehoe will be with us next week to speak about the work of Aid to the Church in Need, and we will be collecting Lenten alms for the charity.

DEANERY & BEYOND

Deanery Visitation Closing Mass

The closing Mass for the Deanery Visitation will be at Holy Trinity, Newcastle, on Friday 23rd March at 7pm. The celebrant is His Grace the Archbishop. It was so encouraging to see so many come for the opening of the Visitation. Let's see the same support at the closing!

Taizé Brother John from the Taizé Community in France will be giving a presentation at St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Trent Vale today at 7.30pm.

Training & Reflection on Children's Liturgy Sr Gillian Murphy will present an evening looking at and reflecting upon the practice of 'Children's Liturgy' that we offer in our parishes. It is aimed at both beginners and the experienced and will take place at St Thomas More Catho-

lic Academy on Tuesday 13th March, 7.30pm to 9pm.

Evening for Parish Readers All the readers in our churches are asked to attend a Deanery training session at St Teresa's Trent Vale on *either* 17th or 24th April at 7.30pm.

Volunteer with Fr Hudson's Young at Heart Team

Can you help our Young at Heart team reach more isolated older people in North Staffordshire. We are looking for befrienders to visit people at home and keep them company for a while. All volunteers will be given training, travel expenses, a regular newsletter and ongoing support. If you'd like to get involved call the team on 01782 269990

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:

St John's: Finn family; Crotty, Howle & Davenport families; Winifred Maughan

St Joseph's: John & Margaret Bromley; Helen Marie & Family

St Patrick's: Rogers Family

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

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

John 12:20-30

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

Preparing the Gospel

KEY VERSE: "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself"

TO KNOW: Despite the many "signs" that Jesus performed, there were still those who refused to believe in him. The "hour" of Jesus' dying and rising would be the final sign that pointed to the saving mission of God at work in him. He made the comparison of a seemingly lifeless grain of wheat, which, when buried in the earth, came to life and bore fruit. Anyone who wished to serve Jesus must be willing to imitate him, even to the point of giving up one's life. Jesus was troubled as he contemplated his end, but he did not retreat from his goal to give glory to God, his Heavenly Father. When Jesus was "lifted up from the earth", all people would be drawn by God's love manifested by the sign of the cross.

TO LOVE: Am I willing to sacrifice my attachment to worldly things in order to serve Jesus?

TO SERVE: I adore you O Christ and I worship you, because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.