

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 19TH MARCH 2023

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



This weekend marks the midpoint of our Lenten journey. It is a time to relax our Lenten penances and prepare for the second part of Lent where we focus on the Passion of the Lord. It is a weekend which is extended by the feast days of two of our patron saints. On Friday we celebrated the Feast of St Patrick at Packmoor. It was the first time we had been able to do so since just before the lockdown in 2020. We had a lovely gathering of parishioners

and shared a delicious buffet afterwards. Thanks to everyone who came, and especially to those who worked hard to prepare food for our supper.

Today is Laetare Sunday, better known as Mothering Sunday. We pray especially for all our mothers, grandmothers, and great-grandmothers. We pray in thanksgiving for all their love and hard work for our families. And for those who have already gone to God, we pray for their

eternal rest and the reward of their goodness in the eternal life of heaven.

Today is the day we would normally celebrate St Joseph. However, this year the feast is moved to the Monday. The children from school will be joining parishioners for Mass on Monday morning at 9.30am. I hope that as many parishioners as possible will be able to come to Mass, and also to come across to the school afterwards for refreshments. See page 3 of the bulletin for the invitation from the mini-Vinnies. How could you refuse such a lovely invitation?

Let us then make the most of the last three weeks of Lent. Don't forget to plan your Holy Week, and get to confession before the great feast day!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl John of Parma 1209-1289

John was a teacher who felt the call to become a Franciscan friar. As a priest he gave classes in theology at the Universities of Bologna, Naples and Paris. He was asked to attend the Council of Lyons in 1245. Here he was seen by the Pope who then suggested him as the successor minis-

ter general, the head of the Order. He wanted to return the Order to its original purity and began a visitation of all the Friars starting in England and France. He was sent as envoy of the Pope to try to make unity with the Orthodox church. After making peace with the Dominicans he resigned and became a hermit.

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
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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

Website

www.partnershipparishes.org

Diocesan Website

birminghamdiocese.org.uk

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

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	The Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) St Joseph's Sun 10.30am English Martyrs' Sun 8.30am St John's Sat 6pm St Patrick's On request before or after Mass	
Saturday 18th		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 19th Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Laetare Sunday / Mothering Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Kathryn Hart Bridget Culhane Winifred Maughan
Monday 20th St Joseph		9.30am			Holy Mass	Bernard Cunningham
Tuesday 21st Feria of Lent		7.00pm		2.15pm	Stations of the Cross Confirmation Mass	
Wednesday 22nd Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Special Intention
Thursday 23rd Feria of Lent (<i>St Turibius</i>)	11.30am 12noon	6.00pm	9.30am		Mass (in school) Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Heart to Heart	People of the Parishes John Atkinson
Friday 24th Feria of Lent		5.30pm 6.00pm			Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	<i>Note change of time</i> Special Intention
Saturday 25th Feria		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	John Hodgkinson
Sunday 26th Fifth Sunday of Lent	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Kath & Betty Bailey Michael & Maureen Meaney Int Winnie & Vincent Farrell
Monday 27th Feria of Lent		11.15am 6.00pm			Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	Bernard Cunningham
Tuesday 28th Feria of Lent	9.15am	10.45am		2.15pm	Holy Mass Requiem Mass Stations of the Cross	Biggane family & friends Geoff Lovatt RIP
Wednesday 29th Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Frank Smithson
Thursday 30th Feria of Lent	12noon 12.30pm	9.15am 7.00pm			Holy Mass (in church) Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Penitential Service	People of the Parishes Mrs Merrick <i>Note change of time</i>
Friday 31st Feria of Lent		5.30pm 6.00pm	9.30am		Holy Mass (in school) Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	Fr Lawrence Crowe <i>Note change of time</i> Holy Souls
Saturday 1st Feria of Lent		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	Joan & Michael Eardley
Sunday 2nd Palm Sunday	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Bill Adams Bernard Cunningham Bill & Mary Whitehouse

A message from the St. Joseph's Mini Vinnies

St. Joseph's Day Celebrations!



Hello everyone! We are the children who are in the Mini Vinnies group at St. Joseph's school. On Monday 20th of March, we will be celebrating our patron saint St. Joseph. There will be mass at St. Joseph's church and a celebration in the school hall afterwards. We will have tea and cakes and arts and crafts to join in with if you would like to. It would be very nice if lots of parents and parishioners come and join our celebrations! Thank you!



Lenten Alms Charities We will have a second collection for a different cause each week:

19th Mar Aid to the Church in Need

26th Mar Number 11 (Burslem)

2nd Apr Holy Places

Thanks for your generosity to our previous weeks' Lenten alms collections. We collected £594.25 for CAFOD. Last week we collected £1000 for the Compassion Kitchen. The Sisters want to express their thanks to everyone.

Lawton Rise Service On Wednesday 22nd March, a group of parishioners is going to Lawton Rise Care Home in Goldenhill to lead a simple service for the residents at 11am. If you want to join please let Brenda McGough know, or contact the parish office.

Holy Week Choir Our Holy Week and Easter choir is up and running. If you want to participate come to the practices on Wednesday evening at 6.30pm at St Joseph's.

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.

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](#) or contact Kath

in the pilgrimage office on 0121 230 6288/ admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk

Old Currency Thanks to everyone who contributed to our collection. The coins and notes have now been sent off to the RNIB.

Retreat Evening for Men St Teresa's Trent Vale are inviting all men from the Deanery to come to an evening of Lenten retreat to prepare for Easter on Thursday 23rd March 7pm to 8.30pm. Ends with refreshments including a pint for those who want it.

Vocations Holy Hour There will be a Holy Hour to pray for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life at Our Lady & St Werburgh's Church, Clayton, on Tuesday 28th March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to come and pray for vocations.

Talk on Edith Stein Fr Michael Miners continues his series of talks on female mystics of the Church with a talk on Edith Stein (St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross). This promises to be very interesting like the rest of this series. It is taking place at St Wulstan's Wolstanton on Tuesday 28th March at 7pm. Everyone welcome.

Stainer's 'Crucifixion' There will be an ecumenical service, which will include a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion, at St Wulstan's, Wolstanton on Sunday 26th March at 4pm. There will be light refreshments served afterwards and everyone is welcome.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

You are invited to come to our Partnership of Parishes' Penitential Service

Thursday 30th March at 7pm

St Joseph's Goldenhill

There will be visiting priests available for individual confessions, and Eucharistic Adoration

HOSPITALITY

Warm Places Biddulph The Warm Places scheme has now come to an end at Biddulph. Many thanks to our volunteers who made this possible throughout the winter months.

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.

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 is now on Mondays at 6.30pm. If you or anyone you know wants to see the Parish Priest personally for anything at all, please come to the presbytery on a Monday evening.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Rory Alexander Copeland baptised at English Martyrs' on Saturday 11th March.

And to Ava June Barnett baptised on Sunday 12th March at St Joseph's.

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Geoffrey Lovatt. Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 28th March at 10.45am, followed by burial at Tunstall cemetery.

And also for the soul of Sylvia Marie Scragg. Funeral service and committal at Bradwell Crematorium on Monday 20th March at 3.20pm.

And also for the soul of John Anthony (Tony) Blood. Funeral service and committal at Bradwell Crematorium on Friday 24th March at 10am.

Requiescant in Pace

Cursillo is all about encounter with Christ. It invites participants to live a fully Christian life, through doing our daily tasks with the consciousness of being Christ-like. You are invited to an Encounter Day to discover more about Cursillo at St Mary the Mount church in Walsall on Saturday 25th March 10.30am to 2.30pm. Email office.mission@rcaob.org.uk

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 19th March:

St Joseph's: Winifred Maughan & family

Week beginning 26th March:

St Joseph's: Kevin Potts

St John's: John Martin

To dedicate a lamp, please place min donation of £5 in an envelope with preferred church and intention on the front.



Mass for Marriage

THE ARCHDIOCESE of BIRMINGHAM
OFFICE for MISSION
"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

An invitation to married couples, those celebrating a milestone anniversary and those preparing to marry this year.

Celebrant: Bishop Stephen Wright
Saturday 29th April 2023, 12 noon
at St. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
followed by light refreshments

To let us know you are coming (by 17th April) visit:
www.vocations.org.uk/marriage-mass

PREPARING NEXT WEEK'S GOSPEL

In our Lenten journey we have reached the Fifth Sunday, characterized by the Gospel of the resurrection of Lazarus. It concerns the last "sign" fulfilled by Jesus, after which the chief priests convened the Sanhedrin and deliberated killing him, and decided to kill the same Lazarus who was living proof of the divinity of Christ, the Lord of life and death. Actually, this Gospel passage shows Jesus as true Man and true God. First of all, the Evangelist insists on his friendship with Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary. He emphasizes that "Jesus loved" them, and this is why he wanted to accomplish the great wonder. "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him out of sleep", he tells his disciples, expressing God's viewpoint on physical death with the metaphor of sleep. God sees it exactly as sleep, from which he can awaken us. Jesus has shown an absolute power regarding this death, seen when he gives life back to the widow of Nain's young son and to the 12 year-old girl. Precisely concerning her he said: "The child is not dead but sleeping", attracting the derision of those present. But in truth it is exactly like this: bodily death is a sleep from which God can awaken us at any moment. This lordship over death does not impede Jesus from feeling sincere "com-*passion*" for the sorrow of detachment. Seeing Martha and Mary and those who had come to console them weeping, Jesus "was deeply moved in spirit and troubled", and lastly, "wept". Christ's heart is divine-human: in him God and man meet perfectly, without separation and without confusion. He is the image, or rather, the incarnation of God who is love, mercy, paternal and maternal tenderness, of God who is Life. Therefore, he solemnly declared to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die". And he adds, "Do you believe this?". It is a question that Jesus addresses to each one of us: a question that certainly rises above us, rises above our capacity to understand, and it asks us to entrust ourselves to him as he entrusted himself to the Father. Martha's response is exemplary: "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world". Yes, O Lord! We also believe, notwithstanding our doubts and darkness; we believe in you because you have the words of eternal life. We want to believe in you, who give us a trustworthy hope of life beyond life, of authentic and full life in your Kingdom of light and peace. We entrust this prayer to Mary Most Holy. May her intercession strengthen our faith and hope in Jesus, especially in moments of greater trial and difficulty.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday

Masses with Blessing of Palms:

Sat 6.30pm St Joseph's Goldenhill

Sun 9am English Martyrs' Biddulph

11am St Joseph's Goldenhill

6.30pm St Patrick's Packmoor

Holy Monday & Spy Wednesday

6pm Mass & Stations at St Joseph's

Holy Tuesday

9.15am Mass & Stations at English Martyrs'

Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at English Martyrs' Watching till 12am

Good Friday

10.30am Stations at English Martyrs'

12noon Family Stations at St Joseph's

3pm Solemn Liturgy at St Joseph's

6pm Liturgy at English Martyrs'

Holy Saturday

8pm Easter Vigil at St Joseph's

Easter Sunday

9am Mass at English Martyrs'

11am Mass at St Joseph's

6.30pm Mass at St Patrick's