

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY 2018

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

It is still a couple of weeks until we begin Lent, but I do want to ask you to start considering what you are going to do to allow God to use this Lent to renew you in faith, hope and love. In other words, how to make this 'The Best Lent ever'.

We have available today the daily reading books for Lent *Rediscover Jesus*. I would ask you only to take one if you intend to read it. I hope that lots of you will read it, either alone or, preferably, with others. Parishioners have already told me that they are planning to get together with a friend to read it and have a coffee once a week. For those of you who are devotees of *Walk With Me*, the prayer books and the calendars will be available next week.

As well as books and pamphlets, we will have additional opportunities for prayer together in Lent. There will be weekly Stations in each church, and an early workers' Mass on Fridays of Lent at 7am preceded by Adoration. Let me know if you think the time needs to change. We will offer breakfast after it for those going straight to work. There will also be Holy Hours on the Thursday evenings of Lent.

I am going to speak today, in the homily, at each Mass about our Partnership vision. You will remember, I hope, how I spoke towards the end of last year about the general vision I have for the parishes, based on three words: community, celebration and discipleship. Each of these needs to be expanded upon, and I

intend to do this at certain points over the coming months. Today I will speak about how we are led and how we lead others more deeply along the path of discipleship in our communities. Our Pentecost mission event 'On Fire!' will be a focus for us to work together, and an opportunity to invite new people. Please get involved in this event. There are lots of practical things to do, as well as devising ways of inviting, and putting the programme together. Please begin to pray for it.

I am very pleased at how the new 'Welcome to Mass!' leaflets have been received in our parishes. I sense that there is a more prayerful atmosphere before Mass in each of our churches. I hope this really develops.

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

Rev Fr Julian C Green
St Joseph's Presbytery
715 High Street
Goldenhill
Stoke-on-Trent
ST6 5RD
Tel: (01782) 782121
Email: pp.partnershipparishes@gmail.com

Priest in Residence

Rev Fr Paul Dean

Deacon (retired)

Rev Dr David Child

Youth Pastor

Jonny Leybourne

Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
Tel: (01782) 782121
Email: partnershipparishes@gmail.com
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri
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



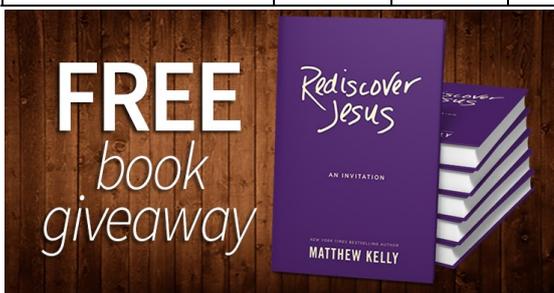
St Brigid of Ireland 451-525

Many legends surround the figure of St Brigid. We do know that she was born into slavery. When her master (and father), a Leinster chieftain, got tired of her charitable nature, he took her to the King. He immediately recognised her virtue, and urged her master to free her. Once

free, she took up religious life. Her final vows were received by St Patrick. She founded a monastery in Kildare, and gathered a community of women there. She invited St Conleth to be their pastor. Her fellowship with St Patrick became a great strength for the young Church in Ireland, and she remains a popular saint today.

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 27th			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Jill Tatton
Sunday 28th Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Nixon Dec of Culshaw & Fryer Families Lilian, Thomas & Joan Doyle
Monday 29th Feria	9.15am		2.15pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass (in school)	People of the Parishes
Tuesday 30th Feria	9.15am	6.00pm	9.30am	2.15pm	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Holy Rosary Holy Mass	Int Basil Mead Roy Marsh (SVP)
Wednesday 31st St John Bosco			12noon		Holy Mass	Joan & Tom Wareham
Thursday 1st Feria	6.00pm				Holy Mass	Special Intention
Friday 2nd Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) <i>First Friday</i>		10.00am		6.00pm	Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Margaret Hickson RIP Int Fr Julian Green
Saturday 3rd St Werburgh			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Donald Green
Sunday 4th Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Int Tony & Teresa Dutton (40th Wedding Anniversary) Alan Stanley Michael Fleming



Your Invitation to...Rediscover Jesus!

Today we will be giving away—yes, that's right, giving away free of charge—copies of the book *Rediscover Jesus* by Catholic author Matthew Kelly. We have 240 copies to give away to our parishioners. Once they have gone there are no more! The book is part of the 'Best Lent Ever' programme. It is a book which invites you to come to know Jesus better through forty Bible short bible studies, one for each of the days of Lent. The best way to use *Rediscover Jesus* is to read and pray through the pages day by day, but

then to get together in groups to look at what you have learned each week. Lent is still a few weeks away, but now is the time to start planning to connect with others. So, please email, phone or contact Fr Julian if you are willing to host a group—at home or at church—to get together for the few weeks of Lent and share the contents of this book each week. There is also a website and you can sign up to further Lent stuff at www.DynamicCatholic.com/BestLentEver

+ + + + + + + + + +
 + ASH WEDNESDAY +
 + Ash Wednesday is on 14th +
 + February this year. It is a day +
 + of obligatory fasting and abstinence. +
 + Everyone who is able, +
 + should also come to church to +
 + receive the ashes. It is not a +
 + Holy Day of Obligation—so +
 + Mass is not obligatory. We +
 + are distributing ashes at these +
 + times and places on Ash +
 + Wednesday. +
 + 7.00am Mass at St Patrick's +
 + 9.30am Liturgy of the Word +
 + at St Joseph's +
 + 11.00am Mass at English +
 + Martyrs' +
 + 2.15pm Liturgy of the Word +
 + at St John's +
 + 6.30pm Mass at St Joseph's +
 + + + + + + + + + +



On Fire
Set the world ablaze!

You are invited to be part of our great Pentecost Festival, On Fire! We need people who are willing to help with the practical side of the event. We also need ideas for outreach—inviting as many people as possible to be part of it. Our next meeting will be on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, at St Joseph's at 7.30pm. This mission week is for all our parishes—so it doesn't matter where you think you belong, please come and be part of it. And please keep On Fire! in your prayers each day.

Changes to daily Mass From the week beginning 11th February there will be changes to our daily Mass schedule, Monday to Wednesday:

Mondays

No Mass at English Martyrs'
 12noon Mass at St John's (except on weeks when there is a 2.15pm Mass at Gloucester Rd school).
 6pm Mass at St Joseph's

Tuesdays

9.15am Mass at English Martyrs'
 No Mass at St Joseph's

Wednesdays

No Mass at St John's
 6pm Mass at St Joseph's

DAY OF ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS



You are invited to make Monday 12th February a day which gives honour to Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Blessed Sacrament, and to pray for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

7.00am Votive Mass of Christ the High Priest and the beginning of the Adoration

Adoration throughout the day, with visits by the school children mid-morning.

5.45pm Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

6.00pm Holy Mass for Vocations

O come, let us adore him!

On Fire!

19th to 24th May 2018

St Joseph's Goldenhill

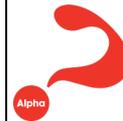
Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal

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The Friendship Club is our monthly meeting for older people. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 30th January, 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.

ALPHA



Alpha is up and running at St Joseph's once again. Our sessions are on Sunday afternoon at 3pm, and finish at 4.45pm. Afternoon tea, video presentation and discussion are what are involved. Friendship and welcome are included too. It's not too late to join this Alpha, so why not come and try it out? We look forward to seeing you!

Biddulph Churches Together

presents

The Watoto Children's Choir

in

'Signs & Wonders'

at

James Bateman Junior High on
 Wednesday 28th February at
 7pm

The Watoto Children's Choir concert is a fundraising event for Watoto, a church organisation from Uganda. The choir's members are orphans and other vulnerable children; many of them have suffered the loss of one or both parents. Accompanied by a team of adults, the choir presents Watoto's vision and mission by sharing personal stories, music and dance.

Tickets are free of charge and are available online at <http://bit.ly/2Fna13r>

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2018



You are warmly invited to a service at Biddulph Methodist Church, Station Road at 1.30pm on Friday 2nd March. The theme is 'All God's creation is Good'. The prayers will be for Suriname and the environment. The service will be led by women from all the Biddulph churches. Refreshments will be served and there will be a play area for pre-school children.

FUNDRAISING

Collections

Biddulph/Packmoor Gift Aid £396.50, Non Gift Aid £174.09. Total £570.59.

Goldenhill Gift Aid £144.00, Non Gift Aid £160.55. Total £304.55.

Kidsgrove Gift Aid £142.50, Non Gift Aid £166.11. Total £308.61.

Second Collection Next week there will be a second collection for the LIFE charity.

Mary's Meals The final total raised for Mary's Meals in our crib offerings appeal was £6,087.55. Because of matched funding this is worth £11,056.40 to the charity, and that's without the Gift Aid. So thank you so much to everyone for your help.

Goldenhill & Kidsgrove 200 Club Draw Weekly: 1st Prize £20, No.84 A Spruce; 2nd Prize £10, No.144 C Fell; 3rd Prize £5, No.109 G Hodgkinson. Monthly: 1st Prize £75, No.169 B Cunningham; 2nd Prize £50, No.46 L Jones; 3rd Prize £25, No.155 P Convey.

Cake Sales Goldenhill UCM will be having a cake sale after Mass on Sunday 11th February at **St Joseph's**. There will also be a cake sale at **St Patrick's** as part of Evie Wilson's fundraising for Lourdes.

Biddulph & Packmoor 125 Club

The 125 club subs are due in February. You can either pay £51 for the year or split it and pay £26 now and £25 in August. Cheque payments should be made payable to 'English Martyrs' Church, Biddulph'. The total raised to date is £54,501 so thank you for your continued support. There are numbers available if you would like to join, please phone Mary on 514829.

APF Red Boxes If you have a red box from Biddulph or Packmoor, then please bring them to church during February to be emptied and counted. Thank you.

DEANERY & BEYOND

Vocations Mass Everyone is invited to come to the annual Deanery Vocations Mass. It is going to be at St Giles' church in Cheadle on Tuesday 6th February at 7pm. The celebrant and preacher is Fr Michael Dolman, the Diocesan Vocations Director.

The Great Commandment The Dominican sisters are organising a St Thomas Aquinas Residential Study Weekend at St Dominic's Convent, Stone starting on Friday 23rd February and Ending on Sunday 25th. The cost is £150 for the whole weekend (all meals included) or £25 (Saturday only, includes lunch). To book a place contact Sr Valery Tel: 01785

81209 or email: valeryewalker@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Priest's Open House

The next Parish Priest's Open House, when Fr Julian can be seen, is available to be seen, is on Monday 12th February 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.

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:

St John's: Thanksgiving (JM); Lisa Griffiths; John Gibson

St Joseph's: John & Mary Leese

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

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Margaret Hickson. Requiem Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul on Friday 2nd February at 10am at St Joseph's followed by interment at Tunstall Cemetery.

Requiescat in Pace.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them. That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was. In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

Preparing the Gospel

The Gospel recounts a day in the life of Jesus bringing together four events. Firstly, Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law. After being healed, she immediately gets up and begins to serve. Jesus' action involves healing, leading to service and discipleship. "The greatest in the kingdom is the one who serves." Secondly, we see Jesus' Healing and Deliverance Service in the Streets. In this event, Jesus directly confronts his enemies, namely, evil and sickness, and he demonstrates his power over both. Notice that Jesus forbids the demons to reveal his identity. This is known as the "messianic secret." The popular understanding of the Messiah's role is political and military. Jesus knows that he is going to be a suffering Messiah who will triumph through suffering. Thirdly, Jesus teaches the importance of balancing a busy schedule with time for quiet and solitude. But the disciples chase after him saying, "Everyone is looking for you." Finally, Jesus heads back to the ministry of teaching and preaching, casting out demons along the way.