

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

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2018

## A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



The Second Sunday of Advent each year is accompanied by the voice of St John the Baptist crying in the wilderness to prepare a way for the Lord. Although St John the Baptist has little popular devotion among Catholics today, in the Middle Ages he was far more popular. After Our Lady, it is St John the Baptist who has the greatest presence in the Church's liturgy among all the saints. St John the Baptist is more than a mere herald, he is like the shadow of the

Lord himself. For example, we celebrate the Birth of St John the Baptist, exactly sixth months before/after Christmas. St John describes himself as a 'voice' but also as the 'friend of the bridegroom'. Meanwhile Jesus tells us that 'there has been no greater born of woman than John the Baptist'. In St John's Gospel, we are told that John the Baptist came as a 'witness to the light'. We need to heed the voice of so great a prophet, and take it seriously when he says that we need to make the path straight for the Lord. How are you going to do that? How would you prepare the way for a guest? We should take the same care and pay the same attention to preparing for the coming of the Lord as we would a visiting guest.

You will notice that we have the carol services in the week before Christmas. These are opportunities to invite people who do not often come to Mass. Next Sunday you will have the Christmas cards which have all the details of Masses and services over Christmas. You will also see that I have added another Mass to the Christmas schedule. I really like Midnight Mass, so I've put it on. However, I realise that most people prefer to come to the vigil Masses these days. So it will be a little bit different—Mass will be in Latin with Adoration and the Office of Readings before. The music will be Gregorian chant. If that sounds up you street, then come along! I look forward to seeing people at the Ember Day retreat evenings at St Patrick's this week too.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### St Peter Fourier 1565-1640

Ordained priest in Trier at the age of 23, Peter went to continue his study of theology. He impressed his teachers and the Bishop offered him a high position. He chose, instead, to return to his community, and serve as a curate in a parish. He used his discernment to see the needs

there. He set up a credit union, as helping even one poor person helped the community. He engaged people with dialogue sermons to explain the Faith better. He led a very simple life which was very prayerful, including night vigils. He also founded an order of sisters who gave free schooling to children, and this order spread.

## 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

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

### 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.

## 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](mailto:safeguarding@rc-birmingham.org)

## Website

[www.partnershipparishes.org](http://www.partnershipparishes.org)

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

## 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	
<b>Saturday 8th</b>			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Int John Martin
<b>Sunday 9th</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Flatley Doris Cahlin People of the Parishes
<b>Monday 10th</b> Feria of Advent		6.00pm	9.30am 10.00am		Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	Holy Souls Int John Martin
<b>Tuesday 11th</b> Feria of Advent	9.15am		9.30am	2.15pm	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Holy Rosary	Bridget & Adrian Drew & family
<b>Wednesday 12th</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe				6.30pm	<i>Embertide Mass</i> Followed by talk &	Patrick Dempsey Eucharistic Adoration
<b>Thursday 13th</b> St Lucy		9.30am		6.30pm	Holy Mass (in school) <i>Embertide Mass</i> Followed by talk &	For the sick Sarah Baker Eucharistic Adoration
<b>Friday 14th</b> St John of the Cross			9.30am	6.30pm	Holy Mass <i>Embertide Mass</i> Followed by talk &	Special Intention Leonard & Catherine Johnson Eucharistic Adoration
<b>Saturday 15th</b> Feria of Advent	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parishes Teresa Foden
<b>Sunday 16th</b> <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Jean & Bob Sutch Ronald Fawkes Jack & Lucy Barron

### CRIB APPEAL: BIG FAMILY CHRISTMAS WITH MARY'S MEALS



Once again, this Christmas we are raising funds for the Mary's Meals feeding programme in Toleza School in Malawi. Mary's Meals is a wonderful initiative which gives a nutritious meal to children in developing countries each day in school. This means the children get the nutrition they need, as well as the education to promote the development of their country. All the food is locally grown and the feeding programme is run by local volunteers. Over 93 per cent of donations goes directly to feed the children. This year again, we are asking for parishioners to donate £13.90 to feed a child for the whole year. So, why not feed a child for the coming year, or even two or more! All donations can be Gift Aided. This year the UK government are matching every donation pound for pound, so the value of your gift can be more than doubled!



**ADVENT EMBER DAYS**

Come and join in our three day Advent retreat evenings and give time to the Lord in preparation for Christmas.

The retreat evenings are at St Patrick's, Packmoor

Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th December 2018

We will be showing videos of talks given by Bishop Robert Barron, on Wednesday & Thursday from the Adoremus Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool, and on Friday from the World Meeting of Families.

6.30pm Holy Mass

7.00pm Bishop Barron talk

*Wednesday: On the Mass*

*Thursday: Sainthood and what makes us holy*

*Friday: Living as the Image of God*

8.00pm Eucharistic Holy Hour & Benediction

Each evening ends at 9.00pm

**Christmas Mass Times**

Here are the Christmas Mass times for our Partnership of Parishes this year:

**Christmas Eve**

4.00pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's, Goldenhill

6.30pm Vigil Mass at English Martyrs', Biddulph

**Christmas Day**

12 midnight Night Mass at St Joseph's, Goldenhill (Low Mass preceded by Adoration from 11am and Office of Readings)

9.00am Dawn Mass at St Patrick's, Packmoor

10.30am Day Mass at St John's, Kidsgrove

**Parish Priest's Open House**

Fr Julian is available to be seen on Monday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Presbytery at Goldenhill. There is no need to book, just turn up.



The Friendship Club Christmas party is on Tuesday 11th December from 1pm to 4pm at Kidsgrove Town Hall. Buffet, refreshments, entertainment, raffle, Bingo, and a visit from Santa! For members of the Club the party is free of charge. For non-members tickets are £5. For more information, to book a ticket, or for help with getting there, please call 01782 269990. Book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited.

**Care Home Prayer Services**



**Kidsgrove** The next prayer service will be at Maple Tree Court, Gloucester Rd at 10.30am on Tuesday 18th December.

Some of the children from St John's school will also be joining us in the singing.

**Biddulph** The prayer service for our Biddulph Churches Together group is on Sunday 9th December at Tall Oakes Care Home at 3pm. We welcome everyone to come and join us.

**Christmas Cribs** Please stay behind after Mass next Sunday to help to put up the cribs at English Martyrs', St Joseph's and St Patrick's. Please help. Lots of hands make light work.

**Sanctuary Lamps**

*This week the lamps are dedicated for:*

St John's: Blood & Welsh Families; T Clarke (BC); Winnie Maughan & Family

St Joseph's: Brian & Joy Rawlins (Diamond Wedding)

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

*You are invited to come and take part in our*  
**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES**

English Martyrs' Biddulph  
Wednesday 19th December 7pm

St Joseph's Goldenhill  
Thursday 20th December 7pm

*Sing lots of favourite carols*

*Hear an uplifting message*

*A gift for all the children*

*Mince pies and refreshments for all*

*Always a most moving experience*

Come along and invite your friends, family and neighbours!

**¡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 £365.55, Non Gift Aid £186.17, Total £551.72. **Goldenhill** Gift Aid £215.00, Non Gift Aid £187.82, Total £402.82. **Kidsgrove** Gift Aid £197.30, Non Gift Aid £154.21, Total £351.51.

**Goldenhill and Kidsgrove 200 Club Weekly Draw:** 1st Prize £20, No.85 W Walley; 2nd Prize £10, No.179 B Crotty; 3rd Prize £5, No.6 M Aylward.

**Second Collection** Next Sunday will be for Christmas flowers.

### Christmas Raffles

#### St Patrick's Hampers

Tickets are now on sale for the Hamper Raffle. Could the parishioners who have offered items for the hampers bring them to church by next Sunday.

#### St Joseph's SVP

The SVP will be holding their Christmas raffle, with tickets on sale on 2nd and 9th December. The draw will be after Mass on the 9th. Any prizes please hand to the SVP.

#### St John's

Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle. The money raised was £258.

## DEANERY & BEYOND

**Lay Chaplain vacancy** St John Fisher Catholic College, Newcastle are seeking to appoint a lay chaplain. They are looking for a dynamic practising Catholic with a high level of interpersonal and organisational skills to support the liturgical and Catholic life of the school. Initial 12 month temporary contract. 25 hours per week. Starting salary £23,111 pro rata (£14,120 actual). For more information email [hr@ctkcc.co.uk](mailto:hr@ctkcc.co.uk). Closing date: 12th December at 9am

**Reconciliation Services** There will be Reconciliation Services, with the opportunity for individual confession, at the following churches in the Deanery:

Monday 10th Dec 7pm at Holy Trinity, Newcastle

Monday 17th Dec 7pm at St Augustine's Meir

Tuesday 18th Dec 7pm at St Wulstan's Wolstanton and 7.15pm at Our Lady & St Werburgh's Clayton

Wednesday 19th Dec 7pm at Our Lady & St Peter's Stoke

Thursday 20th Dec 7pm at Sacred Heart, Hanley.

**Christmas Mass Times** The times of Masses around the parishes of the North Staffordshire Deanery are on the noticeboards in our churches. Alternatively, you can find the list online at [www.northstaffsdeanery.org.uk](http://www.northstaffsdeanery.org.uk)

## 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 3:10-18

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

**KEY VERSE:** "He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire"

**TO KNOW:** John the Baptist preached a message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Those who desired to reform their lives asked, "What then should we do?" . John told each group to do more than the law required. John contrasted his baptism with that of Jesus. He baptized *only* with water to symbolize a conversion to the will of God, but that "one more powerful" was coming whose baptism would be definitive. The baptism of Jesus would be an act of God bringing salvation through the Holy Spirit and the purifying fire of judgment. John used the image of a winnowing fan, a shovel used to separate the wheat from the chaff, to describe God's coming judgment that would divide the good from the bad. In Baptism, a Christian dies to their former lives of sin, and rises to a new life with Christ.

**TO LOVE:** Pray for someone who needs more joy in his or her life.

**TO SERVE:** Lord Jesus, enkindle in me the fire of your love so that I might do your works.