

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

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

## A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Listening to Boris Johnson map the pathway out of COVID restrictions sounded like there was still quite a pilgrimage to make! It doesn't quite match the journey of the people of Israel who were in the wilderness for forty years, but we can, maybe, identify with Our Blessed Lord who spent his forty days in the desert a little better this Lent. The important thing to remember is that we will get out of this period and we will be able to reopen all our churches and cut back on the restrictions. But... NOT YET!

On the last bulletin I mentioned how we need to build back our life as a Partnership of Parishes based on the firm foundation of renewal in prayer. During the last few

months, I have been considering this. As the theologian Karl Rahner said, a long time ago, "the Christian of the future will be a mystic, or will not be a Christian any more." We have reached the time where this has been fulfilled. A Catholic who does not have a personal relationship with the Lord is destined to leave the practice of the Faith, and ultimately will no longer be a member of the Church in any meaningful sense. A Catholic who never comes to Mass, who never goes to Confession and who never prays is not really a Catholic any more, in any way that has meaning. Being Catholic and Christian is not a badge of belonging, but the name given to someone who has a real knowledge of, and love for, Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, I do not think that many of us think of ourselves as 'mystics'. What Rahner meant was simply, people who know the Lord and have a relationship of prayer with him. Over the past few weeks, I have discovered, and have got to know about a wonderful initiative: "Prayer & Life Workshops". It is a 15 week workshop, meaning it is practical rather than theoretical, helping you to learn how to pray in different and deeper ways. I have arranged for this initiative to come to our Deanery later this year. So you will hear more about it. I hope that many of you will come to it, because I think it has the capacity to transform our lives, and the lives of our communities. So... Watch this space!

## 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: *Vacant*  
Goldenhill: Suzanne Meakin  
Kidsgrove: Denise Hewitt  
Packmoor: *Vacant*  
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)

## YouTube Channel

<https://tinyurl.com/wqtqx76>

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

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### Bl Villana de Botti 1332-1361

Aged 13, Villana ran away to join a convent, but she was turned away. This rejection marked her early life, and, once married, she lived a lazy and extravagant lifestyle. She wore the finest clothes and bought great jewels. But she was plagued by visions of demons when she looked in

the mirror. She tore off these clothes, wore simple clothes and sought confession. She took up a life of penance, prayer, meditation on the Scripture and lives of saints, and joined the Third Order of St Dominic. Her austerity and ecstasies disturbed her husband and detractors but in the end they came to recognise her sanctity.

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	The <b>Sacrament of Forgiveness</b> (Confessions) <b>St Joseph's</b> Sat 6pm and after Mass; Sun after 11am Mass; Fri 5.30 to 6pm ( <i>Main porch</i> ) <b>English Martyrs'</b> Sat after 9.15am Mass; Sun 8.30am and 9.40am ( <i>Side chapel</i> ) Otherwise by request	
<b>Saturday 27th</b>		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
<b>Sunday 28th</b> <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> <b>(B)</b>	9.00am 10.00am	11.00am			Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Lin Goldsmith Sarah & Arthur Holmes
<b>Monday 1st</b> <b>St David</b>		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Int Jordanne Sloan
<b>Tuesday 2nd</b> <b>St Chad</b>	9.15am 9.45am				Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Holy Souls
<b>Wednesday 3rd</b> Feria of Lent		9.30am 6.30pm			Holy Mass Reception into church	Doreen Clare Mary Doherty RIP
<b>Thursday 4th</b> Feria of Lent	6.00pm	11.00am			Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Mary Doherty RIP John Keane
<b>Friday 5th</b> Feria of Lent		6.00pm 6.30pm			Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Natalie Griffiths
<b>Saturday 6th</b> Feria of Lent	9.15am	6.30pm			Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Private Intention Robert Watts & Int Jean Watts
<b>Sunday 7th</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> <b>(B)</b>	9.00am 10.00am	11.00am			Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Karol Grolik, George & Barbara Connell People of the Parishes Tessie Barretto
<b>Monday 8th</b> Feria of Lent <i>St John of God</i>		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Stephen Holmes & family
<b>Tuesday 9th</b> Feria of Lent <i>Comm St Frances of Rome</i>	9.15am 9.45am				Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Holy Souls
<b>Wednesday 10th</b> Feria of Lent		6.00pm			Novena Mass	Bernard Cunningham
<b>Thursday 11th</b> Feria of Lent		6.00pm			Novena Mass	Special Int (MM)
<b>Friday 12th</b> Feria of Lent	11.00am	6.00pm 6.30pm			Funeral Service Novena Mass Stations of the Cross	Frank Beveridge RIP Fred Coates
<b>Saturday 13th</b> Feria of Lent	9.15am	6.30pm			Holy Mass Novena Mass for Sunday	People of the Parishes Winifred Maughan
<b>Sunday 14th</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>(B) Laetare/Mothering</b> <b>Sunday</b>	9.00am 10.00am	11.00am 6.00pm			Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass Novena Devotions	Baby Owen Paul Frank Beveridge (SVP) John Martin

## LENT EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

There will be an Evening of Recollection for the part of Lent called Passiontide, when we focus on the Cross of the Lord.

It will be on Friday 26th March at St Joseph's Goldenhill.

5.30pm Stations of the Cross  
6.00pm Holy Mass

6.30pm Holy Hour with Confessions available with visiting priests

The day is the old feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, so come and join Our Blessed Lady in contemplation of her Son and Saviour.

## CONFESSIONS

Confessions are available at the following times each week of Lent:

Saturday before and after evening Mass (St Joseph's)

Sunday before and after 9am Mass (English Martyrs')

Sunday after 11am Mass (St Joseph's)

Friday evening before 6pm Mass (St Joseph's)

Saturday morning after 9.15am Mass (English Martyrs')

Confessions at St Joseph's take place in the main porch. At English Martyrs' in the side chapel. The confessionals are not in use.

## LENTEN ALMS

From this Sunday we will have Lenten Alms collections as follows:

2nd Sunday of Lent—CAFOD

3rd Sunday of Lent—No. 11 charity Burslem

4th Sunday of Lent—Lepra (Leprosy Mission)

5th Sunday of Lent—St Chad's Sanctuary Birmingham

Palm Sunday—Holy Places

*Please be generous to our Lenten Alms collections. Please place in the second collection plate as you leave church.*

## YEAR OF ST JOSEPH SOLEMN NOVENA

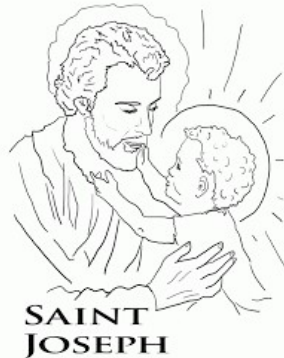
From Wednesday 10th to Thursday 18th March we will hold a Solemn Novena of St Joseph at St Joseph's Goldenhill to prepare for the celebration of the Feast Day. There will be Mass and Devotions to St Joseph each evening at 6pm (Saturday 13th at 6.30pm; Sunday 14th, Devotions will be an afternoon service at 6pm).

## FEAST OF ST JOSEPH

On Friday 19th March we will celebrate the Feast of St Joseph. The main Mass will be at 6pm in St Joseph's Church. One of the classes from the school will also come in for a morning Mass in church on that day.

## 33 DAY CONSECRATION

We are well into the 33 day Consecration now. Although the invitation was there to do this in preparation for the Feast Day, you can choose to do it on another series of 33 days instead. The daily meditations are on the parish YouTube channel.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come and join us to pray the Stations of the Cross each week as follows:

Tuesday 9.45am English Martyrs'

Friday 6.30pm St Joseph's



## SACRAMENTS & LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

**Baptisms** Baptisms are going to be permitted from 8th March with a limit of six people attending.

**Weddings** Weddings will be permitted from 29th March with six people attending.

**Funerals** Funerals, including Requiem Masses, can still take place in church. The number attending funerals is still limited to 30, not including the priest, stewards and funeral directors' staff. The number attending auxiliary acts, such as Reception into church and burial of ashes, is 6.

**First Holy Communions** The remaining children for First Holy Communion will be able to receive the Sacrament after Easter. Children in the current Year 3/4 will start preparation after Easter.

**Confirmation** The Confirmations which were scheduled to take place in March, and then rescheduled for November, but which haven't yet taken place will take place after Easter. The children from the present Year 6 will start preparation after Easter.

**Last Sacraments** The so-called Last Sacraments can always take place, and people should not hesitate to call a priest in good time before the death of a loved one.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Otherwise known as 'Women's World Day of Prayer'

Praying with Vanuatu

Join Christians Together ST8 to worship at 1.30pm on Friday 5th March via YouTube or listen to the service on the phone by calling 01782 939017

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMZobh7UIDdk>

**Hospital** If you know someone in hospital, ask the nurses to call the Chaplain on call. Otherwise, please call the chaplaincy on 01782 676400, and specify that it is the Catholic chaplain you want.

## SWITCHING TO DIRECT GIVING

It would be a great help to the Parishes if parishioners would begin to pay their weekly/monthly collection money by Standing Order from your bank to ours. Our bank now charges us for paying in cash, and the lack of branches makes it harder to make deposits.

We need as many parishioners as possible to pay by Standing Order. It means we receive your offertory even when you are unable to be at Mass! Please use the form here:

<https://tinyurl.com/uqstlr> or pick up a copy at church and deliver/post to St Joseph's presbytery.

This is a great time to reassess your giving to your parish. When is the last time you increased your giving?

How realistic is your giving compared to the needs of the parish and the number of people who support it?

If you are a current Standing Order giver, and wish to increase your donation, please contact the Parish Office. If you are a tax payer, please also Gift Aid your donation. It costs you not a penny more!

Coming soon: Contactless and online payments!

**Biddulph & Packmoor 125 Club** Yearly £51 & half yearly £26 monies are due. Please make cheques payable to 'English Martyrs Church Biddulph' or you can pay by cash, all put into an envelope marked 125 club. If you need to contact someone please phone Mary Jervis on 01782 514829.

**Goldenhill & Kidsgrove 200 Club Weekly Draw:** 21/2/2021 £20, 28 H Leech; £10, 155 P Convey. 28/2/2021 £20, 91 J Clarke; £10, 145 F Chappell. **Monthly Draw:** £50, 160 N Cook; £25, 27 C Leech; £25, 124 J Cooper. If you would like to pay your subscriptions by Standing Order, there will be forms available, either collect from church or contact Teresa. We can only offer this for quarterly and annual subscriptions.

### Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

Teresa our Parish secretary is working from home. She can be contacted on email or by leaving a message at the Presbytery. Fr Julian is able to meet people in church, or speak on the phone. Please contact him by email, or call the presbytery.

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Mary Doherty. Requiem Mass will be celebrated for the repose of her soul at St Joseph's on Thursday 4th March at 11am. Her body will be received into church on Wednesday at 6.30pm. Committal will be at Fenton cemetery.

And also for the soul of Frank Beveridge. There will be a Funeral Service on Friday 12th March at English Martyrs', followed by committal at Carmountside crematorium.

### *Requiescant in pace*

*Numbers permitted to attend are strictly limited. Please do not come to a funeral without asking family*

### *Sanctuary Lamp Dedications*

#### *Dedications for w/b 28th Feb:*

St Joseph's: Ken Holmes; Intention of JS

#### *Dedications for w/b 7th March:*

St Joseph's: Int of Betty Smithson; John Martin

*Please put donation (£5 min) in an envelope. Write on 'Sanctuary lamp' and church and intention.*

## NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

### Third Sunday of Lent: John 2:13-25

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

### Fourth Sunday of Lent: John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'