

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 5TH MARCH 2023

## A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



This coming week should have been the official opening and blessing of the new building of St John's Academy on Gloucester Road, to house the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 on the same site as Key Stage 2. However, because of the slowness of Staffordshire County Council to ensure that the legal documentation was completed, the building completed some months ago, remains unused. At least the end seems to be in sight, and it is probable that the school will move from The Avenue site to Gloucester Road over the Easter holidays. It will be good to see the new block in use, and finally to be able to welcome the Archbishop, who has agreed to come in September to bless the school. Of course, it means that the school on The Avenue will become a vacant build-

ing and it will be up to the Diocesan Trustees to decide, in due course what to do with the site.

As you know, St John's church is also currently suffering difficulties. The main water supply to the presbytery and church is leaking hundreds of litres of water per hour. I did notice that the pressure had dropped since the big freeze in December. As the old lead pipe passes under the school playground, and the school building, it is impossible to dig up the ground to repair it until the Easter holidays. And so, St John's church will remain out of use until Easter, and Saturday evening Masses will continue to be at St Joseph's. Let's hope that the cost is not too great and that the job is an easy one!

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### St Paul the Simple d. 339

Paul was a farmer who discovered, at the age of 60, that his wife was having an affair. He left her and became a hermit, approaching St Antony for help. Antony told him that it was impossible for a man of that age to adopt such a radical change. However Antony put Paul to the test

and he responded with dedication and humility. Eventually, after great testing, Antony allowed Paul to become a hermit, establishing him in a cell a short distance from his own. Paul had a great ministry of exorcism, reading minds and souls and curing the sick. The simplicity of his life was an example to all, and became his name.

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

## Website

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

## Diocesan Website

[birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

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

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	The <b>Sacrament of Forgiveness</b> (Confessions) <b>St Joseph's</b> Sun 10.30am <b>English Martyrs'</b> Sun 8.30am <b>St John's</b> Sat 6pm <b>St Patrick's</b> On request before or after Mass	
<b>Saturday 4th</b>		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	Bob Watts
<b>Sunday 5th</b> <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Baby Owen Paul Betty Smithson Veronica Williams
<b>Monday 6th</b> Feria of Lent		12noon			Holy Mass	Special Intention (GH)
<b>Tuesday 7th</b> Feria of Lent ( <i>Ss Perpetua &amp; Felicity</i> )	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Mary Child
<b>Wednesday 8th</b> Feria of Lent ( <i>St John of God</i> )		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Special Intention
<b>Thursday 9th</b> Feria of Lent ( <i>St Frances of Rome</i> )	11.30am 12noon	6.30pm	9.30am		Mass (in school) Stations of the Cross Holy Mass First Reconciliation Service	For peace  People of the Parishes
<b>Friday 10th</b> Feria of Lent		6.00pm 6.30pm			Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Special Intention
<b>Saturday 11th</b> Feria of Lent		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	Peter & Patricia Convey
<b>Sunday 12th</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Karol Groluk, George & Barbara Connell Tessie Barretto Special Intention
<b>Monday 13th</b> Feria of Lent		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Special Intention
<b>Tuesday 14th</b> Feria of Lent	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	K & A McCarty & family
<b>Wednesday 15th</b> Feria						
<b>Thursday 16th</b> Feria of Lent	11.30am 12noon	9.30am			Holy Mass (in church) Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	People of the Parishes  Gerry Booth
<b>Friday 17th</b> <b>St Patrick</b>				6.30pm	Holy Mass	Special Int (Fr J & mum)
<b>Saturday 18th</b> Feria of Lent		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
<b>Sunday 19th</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Laetare Sunday / Mothering Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Kathryn Hart Bridget Culhane Winifred Maughan

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

5th Mar CAFOD

12th Mar Compassion Kitchen

19th Mar Aid to the Church in Need

26th Mar Number 11

2nd Apr Holy Places

**Cathedral Maintenance** Thanks to everyone who supported last week's second collection for St Chad's Cathedral which raised £261.

**Holy Week Choir** This year—for the first time since 2019—we are seeking to bring together an ad hoc choir for the Holy Week liturgies. There will be a practice at St Joseph's Goldenhill on Wednesday 8th March at 6.30pm. It will be good to see you!

**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. It is often difficult to know people's personal situation. So, if you know someone needs a visit or Holy Communion, please let us 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](http://Diocesan website) or contact Kath in the pilgrimage office on 0121 230 6288/ [admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk)

**Old Currency** Teresa in the parish office is collecting old foreign currency—coins and notes—to send off to the Royal National Institute for the Blind. If you have any old coins from any country, then please bring them to the parish office any morning, or bag them securely and hand it at Mass (separately to the normal collection). Thanks!

**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.

## FEAST DAYS

The month of March sees us celebrate the Feasts of the Patron Saints of two of our churches. The Feast Day Masses are as follows:

### ST PATRICK

On Friday 17th March, Mass at St Patrick's Packmoor will be at 6.30pm. Followed by bring and share supper!

### ST JOSEPH

On Monday 20th March, Mass at St Joseph's Goldenhill will be at 9.30am. There will be no evening Mass on the Feast day.



## PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

### A New Evangelization

Prayer & Life Workshops return to our parishes this spring! PLW is a 15 week programme, introducing various ways of praying, as well as helping participants towards a closer relationship with God.

The first full session of the PLW is this Saturday, 11th March, at 10am in the meeting room at English Martyrs', and then on subsequent Saturdays at the same time. Everyone is welcome to come and try it out.

## LENTEN STATIONS



During Lent, you are invited to come to Stations of the Cross. Each week, there will be three opportunities to join in with this traditional Lenten devotion:

Tuesday 2.15pm St Patrick's

Thursday 11.30am English Martyrs'

Friday 6.30pm St Joseph's

**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.

**Deanery Guild of Catechists** The new Guild of Catechists for the Deanery is having its first regular meeting on Friday 10th March at 7pm at Coolock in Newcastle with a talk on the New Directory of Catechesis by Fr Julian. Anyone who is a catechist or involved in the teaching of the faith is welcome to come.

**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

## HOSPITALITY

**Warm Places Biddulph** This Thursday is the last session of the Warm Places for the winter. Everyone is welcome to come to this last one. We offer tea and coffee all day, and a hot simple lunch at 12.30pm. Why not drop in? Everyone is welcome.

**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

### 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 Lynn Marie Fellows. Funeral service and committal at Bradwell Crematorium on Friday 17th March at 11.20am.

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 Blood. Funeral service and committal at Bradwell Crematorium on Friday 24th March at 10am.

### *Requiescant in Pace*

**Pope Francis Anniversary** The Holy Father will complete 10 years as Successor of St Peter on 13th March. Prayer is the best gift that we can offer to support the Holy Father. An

initiative has been launched where people can promise a prayer on this day, and the location of those praying will be shown as a candle on a digital map. To join in the initiative please go to [decimus-annus.org](http://decimus-annus.org)

### **Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi**

Holy Trinity, Newcastle still have some places available on their pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi from 28th April to 4th May. If you are interested please phone Joe Walsh Tours on 0808 1890468

**Mass for Marriage 2023** Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2023? Or do you feel you would like to have your marriage blessed anyway? You are invited to the Mass for Marriage at St Chad's Cathedral on Saturday 29th April at 12noon. If you would like more information please contact Paul Northam on [marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:marriage.mass@rcaob.org.uk) or call 0121 321 5148.

**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](mailto:office.mission@rcaob.org.uk)

### **Sanctuary Lamp Dedications**

#### ***Week beginning 5th March:***

St Joseph's: Betty Smithson  
English Martyrs': Adams & O'Sullivan families

#### ***Week beginning 12th March:***

St Joseph's: Lee Walley  
St John's: John Martin

*If you wish to dedicate a sanctuary lamp in any of our churches, please place min donation of £5 in an envelope with preferred church and intention on the front.*

**Hospital** If you or someone you know needs a priest in hospital, you need to contact the chaplaincy yourself. For Royal Stoke call 01782 676400. It is important to specify that it is the Catholic chaplain you want.

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## PREPARING NEXT WEEK'S GOSPEL

This third Sunday of Lent is characterized by the Jesus' famous conversation with the Samaritan woman, recounted by the Evangelist John. The woman went every day to draw water from an ancient well that dated back to the Patriarch Jacob and on that day she found Jesus sitting beside the well, "wearied from his journey" (Jn 4:6). St Augustine comments: "Not for nothing was Jesus tried.... The strength of Christ created you, the weakness of Christ recreated you.... With his strength he created us, with his weakness he came to seek us out".

Jesus' weariness, a sign of his true humanity, can be seen as a prelude to the Passion with which he brought to fulfilment the work of our redemption. In the encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, the topic of Christ's "thirst" stands out in particular. It culminated in his cry on the Cross "I thirst" (Jn 19:28). This thirst, like his weariness, had a physical basis. Yet Jesus, as St Augustine says further, "thirsted for the faith of that woman", as he thirsted for the faith of us all.

God the Father sent him to quench our thirst for eternal life, giving us his love, but to give us this gift Jesus asks for our faith. The omnipotence of Love always respects human freedom; it knocks at the door of man's heart and waits patiently for his answer.

In the encounter with the Samaritan woman the symbol of water stands out in the foreground, alluding clearly to the sacrament of Baptism, the source of new life for faith in God's Grace. This Gospel, in fact is part of the ancient journey of the catechumen's preparation for Christian Initiation, which took place at the great Easter Vigil. "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him", Jesus said, "will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4:14).

This water represents the Holy Spirit, the "gift" par excellence that Jesus came to bring on the part of God the Father. Whoever is reborn by water and by the Holy Spirit, that is, in Baptism, enters into a real relationship with God, a filial relationship, and can worship him "in spirit and in truth" (Jn 4:23, 24), as Jesus went on to reveal to the Samaritan woman. Thanks to the meeting with Jesus Christ and to the gift of the Holy Spirit, the human being's faith attains fulfilment, as a response to the fullness of God's revelation.

Each one of us can identify himself with the Samaritan woman: Jesus is waiting for us, especially in this Season of Lent, to speak to our hearts, to my heart. Let us pause a moment in silence, in our room or in a church or in a separate place. Let us listen to his voice which tells us "If you knew the gift of God...". May the Virgin Mary help us not to miss this appointment, on which our true happiness depends. (Pope Benedict XVI, 27th March 2011)