

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2020

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Now that we are into the time of summer holidays, even if it is not exactly the normal holiday season this year, we are returning to having one bulletin every two weeks.

Next Sunday, all being well, I will be travelling with Fr Richard Aladics, and Deacons Sean Gough and Benedict Skipper, to Ars for the annual summer gathering of the Society of St John Mary Vianney. Most of the priests of the society are getting together this week for a week-long retreat in the Alps, but it hasn't been possible for me to get there for that. We will just be spending four days in Ars, for the feast of the Curé of Ars, on 4th August, and the General Assembly of our priestly Society. It will be a great opportunity to meet with

the other priests, including Fr Eloi, whom you remember from his time with us, and other priests who have visited us such as Fr Emeric, the Moderator of the Society, who brought the stole of St John Vianney and spoke at the end of Mass last year.

I was pleased to be able to get together with the group of volunteers from St Joseph's and St John's who wish to re-found the SVP as a joint conference for the two parishes. I was heartened that seven people came to the meeting who wish to go ahead and start up the SVP in these parishes again. The SVP is invaluable in a parish, always keeping practical support of people, of whatever faith or background, at the forefront of our parish mission. If you feel

called to help with befriending the elderly and housebound, and reaching out to those in need, then please see Fr Julian who will give you further information.

It is very heartening, also, to see more parishioners returning to Mass each week. As you know, there is currently no Sunday obligation, and you may prefer to wait for a while, or come to a quieter weekday Mass. Whenever you decide to come to church, we look forward to welcoming you and helping you. If you are still shielding or prefer not to return to church just yet, then please remember you are in our prayers and the Mass is being offered for you. Let's continue to pray for an end to the present crisis too.

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
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Parish Secretary

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Email:
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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

Website

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



St Botvid d. 1100

Botvid was a Swedish layman. He came to England as a young man on a business trip. He came into contact with the Catholic faith, was instructed and baptised. Botvid realised that he had to take the faith back to Sweden, which was still very pagan. He was commissioned as a lay mis-

sionary by St Sigfrid, where he was to work alongside Anglo-Saxon monks, St David of Munktorp & St Eskil. Following normal missionary practice, he bought and freed a Finnish slave, instructed him and had him baptised. However, this man turned on Botvid and killed him, before escaping with his boat.

MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	The Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) The confessionals are out of bounds for the moment. However, Fr Julian is available for confessions after each Mass outside church. Please wear a face covering, and maintain one metre's distance.	
Saturday 25th		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 26th Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)	9.00am 6.30pm	11.00am 5.30pm			Holy Mass Holy Mass Reception into church Holy Mass	Helena & Cyril Jeffries Int Mrs Killeen Veronica Orme RIP People of the Parishes
Monday 27th Feria		1.30pm			Requiem Mass	Veronica Orme RIP
Tuesday 28th Feria	9.15am				Holy Mass	Arthur & Iris Jervis
Wednesday 29th St Martha		6.00pm 6.30pm			Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Madeline Jones
Thursday 30th St Peter Chrysologus	6.00pm 6.30pm				Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Int Brian & Sheila Keane
Friday 31st St Ignatius Loyola		10.30am			Requiem Mass	Mavis Tooth RIP
Saturday 1st St Alphonsus Liguori		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	Int Mr & Mrs Convey
Sunday 2nd Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)	9.00am 6.30pm	11.00am			Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mrs B Wheeldon Int Paul Jones & Family Morna Biggane
Monday 3rd Feria						
Tuesday 4th St John Vianney						
Wednesday 5th Ded of St Mary Major						
Thursday 6th Transfiguration						
Friday 7th St Sixtus II <i>First Friday</i>		6.00pm 6.30pm			Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Veronica Orme
Saturday 8th St Dominic		6.30pm			Holy Mass of Sunday	John Holmes
Sunday 9th Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)	9.00am 6.30pm	11.00am			Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Cullen (25th Ann) Queenie Price People of the Parishes

CHURCH OPENING FOR MASS & PERSONAL PRAYER

St Joseph's & English Martyrs' churches are now open for Mass & personal prayer at the following times:

St Joseph's: Church is open on Sunday 10.30am to 11.30am, and on weekdays as shown on the weekly schedule. **English Martyrs':** Church is open on Sunday 8.30am to 9.30am, and on weekdays at the times shown on the weekly schedule.

If you are ill even with mild symptoms of sore throat, cough, fatigue, lack of senses of taste or smell, or with any other illness, then you **must not** come to church.

You will have to remain at least 1 metre away from all other people, other than those from your household or 'support bubble' at all times, when entering, seated, going to Holy Communion and on exiting.

You have to wear a face covering at all times inside the church, during Mass or personal prayer.

Children under the age of 16 are not allowed to access church for private prayer without a responsible adult.

There will be no toilet facilities available in church.

In each church there will be a one-way system:

At St Joseph's please enter by the side chapel door and leave by the main doors.

At English Martyrs', please enter by the main doors and leave by the fire exit at the side.

During Holy Communion please follow the directions of the stewards and do not leave your seat until invited to do so. Holy Communion will be distributed only by the priest, and will only be given in the hand. Specific instructions will be given before Mass, or by the stewards, which should be observed.

Any items you pick up in church (sheets with prayers or readings) you must take home with you. Please sanitise your hands as you leave.

During Eucharistic Adoration: please remain silent in church.

PARISH PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Loving Father, You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son, that we might believe in him and have eternal life.

May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day and live the Good News with joy.

Though the power of the Holy Spirit, help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim" our faith with confidence.

Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel by our words and actions.

Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary, so that you may be known and loved by all people.

We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Lady of Grace, pray for us!

SACRAMENTS

It is now possible to arrange Baptisms and Weddings as well as Funerals in church. The celebration of the Sacraments is subject to strict limits as regards numbers. The law at the moment dictates that only 30 people may attend these 'significant life events'. This may change before the time a baptism or wedding takes place, but we will have to obey the regulations as they apply at the time of the celebration. In order to arrange, or rearrange, a baptism or wedding, please contact Fr Julian, preferably by email at his personal email address, as shown on the front of the bulletin. Otherwise, call the presbytery.

VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all the parishioners who have generously volunteered as stewards or cleaners to allow us to open our churches to open again. If you are able to help to spread this burden please see Fr Julian.

We also need new teams of regular cleaners at both St Joseph's and English Martyrs' for the long term, as a number of our regulars have had to finish. Again, if you are able to help once a month, then please let Fr Julian know.

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

Teresa is back in the parish office but only part time. **There is no access to the parish office or presbytery for parishioners for the present.** If you need to see Teresa, then you will have to speak through the office window or in the porch.

There will be no parish priest's Open House time for the foreseeable future. If you need to see Fr Julian in person, then please arrange by phoning or emailing. In good weather he can see parishioners in the garden or in the church maintaining distancing.

SWITCHING OVER 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!

To begin paying your contribution to the Parish by Standing Order please use the form here: <https://tinyurl.com/uqsttlr> or pick up a copy at church and deliver/post to St Joseph's presbytery.

Thanks to those parishioners who have responded and filled in a standing order form.

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

APF Red Mission Boxes If you are a box holder in either **Biddulph** or **Packmoor**, then please bring your box to Mass, and hand it in for emptying and counting. Many thanks.

Biddulph/Packmoor 125 Club Second half year monies are due on 2nd August, which is £26 for each member, or £51 for the year. A correction to the previous bulletins: the draws continued during lockdown, and the prizes are available in the porch.

CAMINO PILGRIMAGE

Now that the restrictions on travel and quarantine are being lifted, Fr Julian is hoping to return to the Camino in September and October. You can still donate to Teen-age Cancer Trust at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/frjuliancamino

Good news! The fundraising is almost at the two-thirds point. Let's work to get the fundraising to £10k.

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Please pray for the soul of Veronica Orme. Requiem Mass will be on Monday 27th July at St Joseph's at 1.30pm followed by committal at Carmountside Crematorium. Reception into church on Sunday 26th July at 5.30pm.

And also for the soul of Mavis Tooth. Requiem Mass will be on Friday 31st July at St Joseph's at 10.30am followed by committal at Bradwell Crematorium,.

Numbers allowed at funerals are still restricted to 30 people. Please ask the family if you wish to attend.

Requiescant in pace

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:

St Joseph's: Special Int (MM)

St John's: Janet Convey; July Birthdays (TG)

Sanctuary lamps can still be dedicated (minimum donation £5). Please write your requested prayer intention on an envelope and put offering inside. Then place this on the collection plate at Mass.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

KEY VERSE: "Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children" (v. 21).

TO KNOW: The long awaited Messiah was expected to be a prophet like Moses (Dt 18:15-18). It was hoped that he would repeat the wonders of the Exodus when Moses fed the people with "manna" in the desert (Ex 16:15). Likewise, the prophet Elisha miraculously fed a hundred people (2 Kgs 4:43-44). All four evangelists tell the story of Jesus and the multiplication of the loaves in the desert, which emphasized its importance as foreshadowing the Eucharist. The words "take, bless, break, and give" are still used in the Eucharistic liturgy today. Jesus gave the bread to the disciples and the disciples gave it to the crowd. Jesus worked through the hands of his followers that day, and he still does. It is true that the disciples were incapable of feeding so many on their own, but it is also true that the Lord needs people so he can act. Jesus says: "Come to me; bring me whatever you have, no matter how small, and I will use it greatly in my service." In the hands of Jesus, the little we have is always much. Jesus provided an over-abundance of bread for his hungry people. There were twelve baskets of fragments remaining, which may point beyond the Last Supper to the banquet of the Messiah at the final coming of the kingdom..

TO LOVE: What small steps can I take to help alleviate the problems of those who go hungry?