

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2020

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



I am writing this Bulletin message before setting off on a long section of the Camino pilgrimage. By the time you read this, I will be on my way back or will have arrived back. Thanks for all the messages of support I receive on the pilgrimage, and thanks for the sponsorship. It is, of course, not just a 'sponsored walk'. It is a spiritual journey. Even with someone else accom-

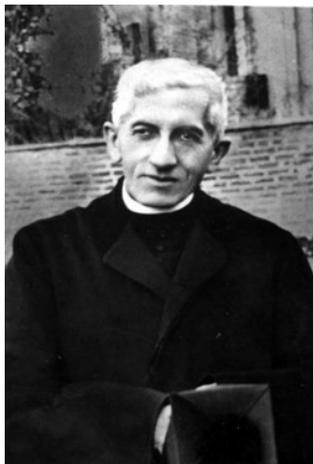
panying, it is a silent journey in many ways. Not only does small-talk run out quite quickly, but also the nature of the walk encourages long periods of silence, during which one can pray or reflect. The walk is also sometimes tedious or challenging, and these moments are easily offered up for many different intentions, both personal, and those that people to ask me to pray for.

This week we are invited to begin the preparation for the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary. The personal invitation to each of us is to Consecrate ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in preparation for the Rededication of the nation. Traditionally we prepare for making a Consecration to Our Lady with 33 days

of prayerful preparation. The booklets '33 days to Morning Glory' contain the prayers together with apt reflections for each day. I really do want to invite parishioners to do this Consecration and to begin the preparation on Friday this week. Pick up the booklet and simply follow it through each day.

Consecration will be made on 25th March, the Feast of the Annunciation. The Consecration can be made privately or with others. There will be a couple of options for making it with others, which I'll tell you about nearer the time. The important thing is to get on board with this. And at the same time continue with the reading of St Matthew's Gospel. With all this, it should be a really spiritual year!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl Joseph Allamano 1851-1926

As a young man from Asti, he attended one of St John Bosco's oratories for boys. He trained for the priesthood in Turin. After gaining his doctorate and a time in the seminary as Spiritual Director, he became Rector of the shrine of Our Lady Consolata. He developed and expanded

the shrine. His interests in helping the poor, and disseminating good Catholic literature allowed him to pursue many projects. His greatest work was founding the Consolata Fathers, a missionary congregation of priests and brothers, dedicated to mission in Africa. He urged the Pope to inaugurate World Missions Sunday.

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

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

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

Website

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) Biddulph Sun 8.30am Goldenhill Sun 10.30am Kidsgrove Sat 6pm Packmoor Sun 6pm	
Saturday 15th			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Winefride & Leonard Atherton
Sunday 16th Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	John A Lacey John Martin People of the Parishes
Monday 17th Seven Holy Founders		6.00pm	12noon		Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Sandra Nixon RIP Winifred Maughan
Tuesday 18th Feria	8.00pm			2.15pm	Holy Rosary Prayer Group	
Wednesday 19th Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Thursday 20th Feria	6.00pm	7.30pm			Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Eileen Marrow
Friday 21st St Peter Damian		6.00pm	9.30am		Holy Mass (in church) Holy Mass	Holy Souls Holy Souls
Saturday 22nd Chair of St Peter	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parishes John Martin
Sunday 23rd Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	George & Winifred Hall John Burton Int Baby Erin Primrose

CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



On 25th March 2020, the Bishops of England & Wales are inviting us to make an Act of Consecration to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart, as a preparation for the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary. But what is Consecration to the Heart of Mary?

Consecration means “to make holy.” When one makes an act of consecration, it is made ultimately to God with the understanding that our consecration is a serious commitment on our part to respond faithfully to God’s grace at work in our lives. When consecrating ourselves to Our Lady, we are consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Mary. As Pope St John Paul II explained, “Consecrating ourselves to Mary means accepting her help to offer ourselves and the whole of mankind to him who is holy, infinitely holy; it means accepting her help—by having recourse to her motherly heart, which beneath the cross was opened to love for every human being, for the whole world—in order to offer the world, the individual human being, mankind as a whole, and all the nations to him who is infinitely holy”.

So how do I prepare to make the Consecration?

St. Louis de Montfort (1673 – 1716) had a profound devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and wrote extensively on the virtues of Our Lady, what true devotion to her consists in, and how the faithful need to turn to her as the way to her Son, Jesus Christ. In his classic writings he recommends that the faithful formally consecrate themselves to the Blessed Mother. For this end he developed a specific 33-day program consisting of various prayers and readings to help the faithful detach themselves from the world and bond themselves more closely with Christ through the example and intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. These prayers are found in the booklet ‘33 days to Morning Glory’ available in church. We start the 33 days on Friday this week!

The Friendship Club

The Friendship Club is a monthly meeting for older people, organised by Fr Hudson's Care. The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th February, at the usual time of 2pm at Kidsgrove Town Hall. New people are always welcome, so come and give it a try. If you need more details or would like to arrange transport please ring 01782 269990

PRAYER GROUP

Come and join our Partnership of Parishes' Prayer Group at English Martyrs' on Tuesday 18th February at 8pm. We meet on every second Tuesday. Everyone welcome!

HEART TO HEART



Come and experience the joy of a Heart to Heart with Jesus. Each week we have an hour of prayer based on the Gospel.

Heart to Heart is on Thursdays at 7.30pm. Come and try it!

CARE HOME OUTREACH



Kidsgrove The next prayer service will be at Ravenswood, The Avenue, on Tuesday 18th February at 11am.

Biddulph The prayer service for our Biddulph Churches Together group is Sunday 8th March at Tall Oakes at 3pm.

We welcome everyone to come and join us.

Parish Priest's Open House

Open House is where Fr Julian is available in the Presbytery at St Joseph's to meet parishioners for any concern. Open House is on Monday evening from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. No need to book an appointment—just turn up.

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF OUR LADY

You are all invited to be part of this wonderful initiative of the Bishops of England & Wales: to rededicate England to Our Lady. This first happened in 1381, when King Richard II consecrated the country to Our Lady. The rededication has two parts: the personal consecration, which you are all invited to take part in, and the rededication of the country, which we are invited to participate in.

Friday 21st February: All are invited to start the preparation for the Personal Consecration, using the 33 day Preparation booklets. **Booklets are available in church. Please only take one if you intend to do the Consecration.**

Wednesday 25th March: For those who have prepared: making a Personal Consecration to Our Lady

Sunday 29th March: The rededication takes place around the country, at Walsingham shrine, and in Cathedrals and Churches at 12noon. That Sunday we have Bishop McGough with us. He will confirm the children at St Joseph's at 11am Mass. At the end of Mass we will join the national rededication. You are all invited to share in a 'bring & share' buffet after.

Used Postage Stamps The Mini Vinnies at Our Lady of Grace Academy are collecting used postage stamps to raise funds for the RNIB. They need 1cm of envelope to be left around the stamps. Thank you for your help.

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:
St John's: Kath Bailey & Dorrie Clare (BC); Winnie Maughan & Family
St Joseph's: John & Mary Leese
St Patrick's: Winnie Maughan & Family

Sanctuary lamps can be dedicated. Minimum donation £5. Please make a note of intention and preferred church.

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

And also for the soul of Sandra Nixon. Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul will be offered at St John's Kidsgrove on Monday 17th February at 12noon followed by committal at Carmountside Crematorium.

Requiescat in pace

Biddulph Refreshments To support Fr Julian's fundraising efforts for Teenage Cancer Trust we are looking for volunteers to make a dozen cupcakes and two slicing cakes to be served each Sunday after Mass with tea and coffee. The donations will go to his sponsorship for the Teenage Cancer Trust. We already have four volunteers and would like a few more to join a rota. If you are able to help then please see Jackie Menzies.

Fr Julian is currently walking the Via de la Plata and Camino Sanabrés from Seville to Santiago de Compostela this year. The whole route is 1000km and the aim is to raise £10 per km for Teenage Cancer Trust.

You can do this at

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/frjuliancamino
Sponsor forms are in church to support Fr Julian's Camino. **Please only sign up on the form when actually donating the money, to help with keeping track of the fundraising.**

Follow Fr Julian's progress at **frjulianscamino.blogspot.com**

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

'Praying with Zimbabwe'

Friday 6th March

You are warmly invited to a service at Biddulph Methodist Church at 1.30pm

Led by women from each church in the Biddulph area. Men and women are welcome.

A play area for pre school children will be set up at the back of church and refreshments served after the service.

FUNDRAISING

Collections

02/02/20 Biddulph/Packmoor

Gift Aid £363.12, Non Gift Aid £154.35, Total £517.47. **Goldenhill** Gift Aid £246.40, Non Gift Aid £184.67, Total £431.07.

Kidsgrove Gift Aid £208.90, Non Gift Aid £139.99, Total £348.89.

09/02/20 Biddulph/Packmoor

Will be on next weeks bulletin.

Goldenhill Gift Aid £190.95, Non Gift Aid £77.64, Total £268.59.

Kidsgrove Gift Aid £174.00, Non Gift Aid £79.97, Total £253.97.

Goldenhill and Kidsgrove 200

Club Last week 1st Prize £20, No.17 K Holmes; 2nd Prize £10, No.16 S Holmes; 3rd Prize £5, No.144 C Fell. **This week** 1st Prize £20, No.194 J Crompton; 2nd Prize £10, No.196 N Hoskins; 3rd Prize £5, No.176 J Edwards.

Kidsgrove Offertory Envelopes

The new boxes of envelopes for St John's parishioners are available to collect at the back of church.

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.

Biddulph & Packmoor 125 Club

The subs for the 125 club are due on the 2nd February. If paying for a full year it is £51 and for half a year £26. If you could kindly put your money in an envelope with your name on and marked FAO Mary Jervis and hand to one of the following people, Gloria Hancock, Kevin Hancock, Teresa Dutton, Sheila Plant or Paula Paskin. There are quite a few numbers available, if anyone would like to subscribe please speak to any of the above or ring Mary on 514829. Thanks for your continued support.

DEANERY & BEYOND

Through Lent with St Matthew

The priests of the Deanery are organising four evenings of study and prayer with St Matthew's Gospel. This provides a great way for parishioners to engage with the Gospel in this Year of the Word. It is taking place at Our Lady & St Peter's in Stoke, in the St Catherine Room, on the evenings of Friday 28th February, 6th, 13th and 20th March. The sessions are 7pm to 9pm. All welcome.

Thanksgiving for Marriage

There will be a Mass in thanksgiving for marriage on two consecutive Saturdays: 9th May & 16th May. Both Masses take place at 12noon at St Chad's Cathedral Birmingham and are followed by refreshments in the Grimshaw Room. The Mass is for all married couples and for those planning to get married this year. For more information, or to register to go, please contact Lianne Pap on lianne.pap@rc-birmingham.org If you are celebrating a milestone marriage anniversary this year, please email Lianne as your names will be included in the Mass booklet.

PILGRIMAGE

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

23rd - 30th May 2020

Come and join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in May half term! If you would like to go on the pilgrimage, you can download from www.tangney-tours.com. Alternatively you can phone the pilgrimage office on 0121 230 6288 or email: admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: *Eye for eye and tooth for tooth*. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

KEY VERSE: "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (v. 44).

TO KNOW: As Jesus continued his Sermon on the Mount, he cited the earliest known code of law: an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. This was known as the Law of Talion, which may be described as the law of "tit for tat." Its aim was the limitation of vengeance—the punishment must fit the crime. Jesus abolished the old law and introduced a new law of love and non-retaliation. He said that it was no virtue to love only those who love you; nonbelievers could do as much. A disciple was to go an "extra mile" in response to another person's needs, even at one's own expense, and to give generously without expecting repayment. Jesus asked his disciples to imitate the perfect love of God who gave gifts of sun and rain to the just and unjust alike. He emphasized that no limits could be placed on Christian forgiveness. They must never seek retaliation for any insult no matter how hostile. Injured parties might have to force themselves to love their enemies, but the Lord would show them the way. The Christian must strive to love even those who persecuted them. On the cross, Jesus gave us the supreme example of enemy love when he asked God to forgive those who were putting him to death.

TO LOVE: In what ways does capital punishment further the cycle of vengeance and retaliation?

TO SERVE: Lord Jesus, help me to strive to imitate your perfect love.