

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2018

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



I wish you a very joyful Gaudete Sunday. We are getting nearer to Christmas now, and I am most grateful to all of you who have helped to begin the preparations of our churches for the celebration, and those who will complete the decorations nearer the day.

This week we will have two carol services in English Martyrs' on Wednesday and in St Joseph's on Thursday. These are very relaxed occasions and I hope you will come, and

invite lots of others to come along too. There will be refreshments afterwards, for which we need volunteers! Please let me know if you can help.

Many of you will remember that, three and a half years ago, we welcomed a mission team from FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students from the USA. They were a great example of the faith of young people in our parish. The good news is that we have another group coming to our parishes in March for a week. Again, they will be going in to St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy to work with the young people there. Their visit also coincides with our next Parish Ember retreat days. So I will be asking them to lead those evenings in Lent.

Just like last time, we will be needing host families who will be able to welcome two of the team. Please let me know if you are able to welcome a pair of young people for the period from 10th to 17th March in your home. We will also be looking, nearer the time, for parishioners to do the catering and provide a good dinner on each evening of their visit. I know that you will make the young people most welcome, and I, for one, am really looking forward to them coming.

I would ask you to read the item on page 3 about sacramental preparation. This is something which I really feel we must take on in our partnership of parishes. I hope that we will be able to get plenty of helpers for this new project.

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
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Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
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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

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

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Josep Manyanet 1833-1901

Offered by his mother to Our Lady at the beginning of his life, her guidance cultivated his religious vocation. After ordination, he was made Bishop's secretary and seminary librarian. In 1864, he founded a congregation of men dedicated to the Holy Family, followed by a women's

order 10 years later. These were dedicated to teaching and parish ministry. He promoted devotion to the Holy Family, and helped families in trouble. He suffered with terrible sores, which he bore humbly as a penance. He commissioned the building of a church designed by Antoni Gaudi and founded a school in Barcelona.

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	
Saturday 15th			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Teresa Foden
Sunday 16th Third Sunday of Advent	9.00am	11.00am	5.30pm	6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Reception of Body Holy Mass	Jean & Bob Sutch Ronald Fawkes Joan Martin RIP Jack & Lucy Barron
Monday 17th Feria of Advent <i>O Sapientia</i>		6.00pm	1.30pm		Requiem Mass Holy Mass	Joan Martin RIP Deceased priests of our parishes
Tuesday 18th Feria of Advent <i>O Adonai</i>	9.15am	6.00pm	9.30am	2.15pm	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Holy Rosary Holy Mass	Maria Williams & loved ones Winifred Maughan
Wednesday 19th Feria of Advent <i>O Radix Jesse</i>	7.00pm	6.00pm	2.15pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass Carol Service	Private Intention Holy Souls
Thursday 20th Feria of Advent <i>O Clavis David</i>	5.00pm 6.00pm	9.30am 7.00pm			Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass Carol Service	Private Intention Patrick Dempsey
Friday 21st Feria of Advent <i>O Oriens</i>			9.30am	6.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Maureen Giannasi Dec family & friends (M&RJ)
Saturday 22nd Feria of Advent <i>O Rex</i>	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Relatives & friends Cullen family Int John Martin
Sunday 23rd Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>O Emmanuel</i>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Patrick Phelan People of the Parishes Patrick Dempsey

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!



Sacramental Preparation for children

One of the most noticeable things about our churches in recent years is the way in which the number of young families who bring their children to Sunday Mass has dropped to almost none. The number of baptisms is lower, but we still do have quite a good number. And there are a corresponding number of First Communion and Confirmations. We have a real duty: to try to connect the lives of the young families and their children to the life of the Church. We need to evangelise, that is bring the Gospel, not only to the children but also their whole families. When I first came to these parishes, I said that one of my priorities was catechesis—the teaching of the Faith. I wanted earlier to bring the preparation for the Sacraments back into the parish, or rather to make it a collaboration between parish and school. I drew back from doing that fully. But now I see that it is absolutely necessary that we reconnect the lives of our Catholic families back to the Church. I propose doing this by

- Inviting every couple who want their child baptised to come to Alpha, in the hope of them following that up by connecting with the life of the parish.
- Making the preparation for First Confession for children from year 3, and for First Holy Communion for children from year 4 a parish-based project. Parents will be asked to come along and be part of the preparation and to follow up the sessions at home, so participating in the handing on of the Faith. This will start in St Joseph's and St John's parishes this year, and next year in English Martyrs'.
- Creating a 'children's catechumenate' for children of years 5 and 6 to receive catechesis in the context of a children's group which meets in the parish. This will be started next school year.

In order to do this, I am looking at employing a pastoral assistant, who will have responsibility for all catechesis—adult and children. This will take time to do, and will of course require funds! But right from the beginning, we need catechists and helpers who will be able to support this work in the parish. I would ask all who are interested to let me know. There will then be a meeting for all volunteers on Sunday 6th January at 4pm at St Joseph's church, so that we can get working on this exciting project straightaway. Fr Julian

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.

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. This Monday is the last opportunity before Christmas. The next Open House will then be on Monday 7th January.

Lost & Found A leather bound missal has been left at St John's Church; it has been there for a number of weeks now. If you have lost yours or you know who it might belong to please contact the parish office.

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:

English Martyrs: O'Sullivan Family RIP65

St John's: Maureen Giannasi; Joe Monks-Neil; Kath Bailey (BC)

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!*

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Angelina Rose Stokes, who was baptised at St Joseph's last week.

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Joan Martin. Requiem Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul at St John's on Monday 17th December at 1.30pm followed by committal at Bradwell crematorium. Her body will be received into church on Sunday at 5.30pm.

Also for the soul of Malachy Dougherty. Requiem Mass will be offered for the repose of his soul at St Joseph's on Monday 24th December at 11.30am followed by committal at Tunstall cemetery. His body will be received into church on Sunday at 5pm.

Requiescant in pace.

FUNDRAISING

Collections

Biddulph/Packmoor Gift Aid £392.90, Non Gift Aid £200.24, Total £593.14. Poor Parishes £105.13. **Goldenhill** Gift Aid £230.00, Non Gift Aid £163.17, Total £393.17. Poor Parishes £49.15. **Kidsgrove** Gift Aid £202.50, Non Gift Aid £129.35, Total £331.85. Poor Parishes £101.08.

Goldenhill and Kidsgrove 200 Club Weekly Draw: 1st Prize £20, No.45 D Bailey; 2nd Prize £10, No.43 S Meakin; 3rd Prize £5, No.119 M Meaney.

Christmas Offering The collection at all Christmas Eve & Day Masses is the traditional collection for the Parish Priest. Please take a Christmas offering envelope this week.

DEANERY & BEYOND

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

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

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.

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 (Mass in Latin 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

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

KEY VERSE: "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled".

TO KNOW: Mary was God's obedient servant who responded to the Divine call in her life. She was accorded the greatest honour and privilege given to a Jewish woman, that of being the mother of the long-awaited Messiah. When the angel Gabriel announced that her aged kinswoman Elizabeth was also pregnant, Mary hastened to travel the four day journey to the hill country of Judah. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the babe in her womb leaped for joy, just as King David danced with exultation before the Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem. Elizabeth's wonderment echoed David's joy: "How can the ark of the Lord come to me?" Mary was the Ark of the New Covenant, the tabernacle of her divine son in her womb. Elizabeth proclaimed that Mary was blessed because of her trust that the Lord's words to her would be fulfilled.

TO LOVE: Pray that you can be a bearer of Christ to the world.

TO SERVE: Mary, my mother, help me to serve the Lord with joyful obedience.