

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 17TH DECEMBER 2023

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



The lighting of the third candle on our Advent wreath today belies the fact that Christmas is only eight days away. Next Sunday is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve.

Today we begin the preparations in our churches for the festivities. After Mass today we have put up the Christmas cribs. I also invite you to take the parish Christmas cards, and maybe take one or two for your relatives, friends or neighbours. It is a great

way of inviting people to come and celebrate Christmas in church, without even having to say a word.

We are beginning our annual Christmas appeal for Mary's Meals today. You can read more about it on the back page of the bulletin. We have raised so many thousands of pounds for Mary's Meals over the years, and I know that your generosity will be renewed this year. I can't believe that there is another parish in the Diocese which has a

larger collection for crib offerings, and this is because of your generosity and the way in which Mary's Meals always strikes a chord with you.

Our year of prayer continues with new initiatives. Last week I began the Prayer and Life Workshops for children with the Year 6 classes, and will continue in the New Year. It is amazing to see the children respond, and sharing their experience of praying quietly.

I would like to thank everyone who has been very supportive to me during this last week. My mother had a bad fall on Monday, and has had an operation and is recovering. Thank you so much to everyone for the prayers for her, which I really believed helped her. God bless.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Nicholas Factor 1520-1583

Nicholas was noted for his holiness and piety even from childhood. As a child, he fasted three times a week, giving his food to the poor, and tended the sick. He entered the Franciscans and was ordained a priest. He was a great artist and painted devotional images. He was also most

noted as an itinerant preacher, always mortifying himself severely before preaching a sermon. He always desired to go on the missions, but his mission never went beyond his homeland of Spain. In the process of beatification, he had other saints who knew him attesting to his holiness, and his body was found to be incorrupt.

CHURCHES

Biddulph English Martyrs' Church, Church Road, Biddulph, ST8 6NE

Goldenhill St Joseph's Church, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 5RD

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
OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri
9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs
9am to 1pm.

Safeguarding

The Partnership of Parishes operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are:

Biddulph & Packmoor: Julie Shufflebotham & Lorraine Connell

(sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk)

Goldenhill: Jo Kirkham
(sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk)

Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240

or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Parish Website

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

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) St Joseph's Sun 10.30am English Martyrs' Sun 8.30am St Patrick's Sat 5pm	
Saturday 16th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Lydia Davis
Sunday 17th Third Sunday of Advent <i>Gaudete Sunday / O Sapientia</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Barbara & George Connell, Karol Grolik Int Bernadette McGough
Monday 18th <i>Feria O Adonai</i>		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Int Mrs Jean Green
Tuesday 19th <i>Feria O Radix Jesse</i>	9.00am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	John, Julia & Bernard Biggane
Wednesday 20th <i>Feria O Clavis David</i>		1.45pm 5.45pm 6.00pm		School Carol Service in church <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Bridget Dowd
Thursday 21st <i>Feria O Oriens</i>	11.00am 12noon	9.30am 6.30pm		Holy Mass (In church) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass Penitential Service	Private Intention Dec of Child family
Friday 22nd <i>Feria O Rex</i>		9.30am 5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St John's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Holy Souls
Saturday 23rd <i>Feria O Emmanuel</i>		12noon	4.30pm 5.30pm	Confessions <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Denis O'Leary
Sunday 24th Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Burton family Connor Young
CHRISTMAS EVE (VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY)	6.30pm	4.30pm		Vigil Mass of Christmas Christmas Night Mass	Frank Smithson People of the Parishes
Monday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY		11.00am	9.00am	Christmas Dawn Mass Christmas Day Mass	Int Mary & Roy Jervis Winifred Maughan
Tuesday 26th St Stephen, Martyr	10.30am			Holy Mass	Karol Grolik, George & Barbara Connell
Wednesday 27th St John the Evangelist		10.30am		Holy Mass	Bernard Cunningham
Thursday 28th Holy Innocents	9.30am 10.30am			<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Mary Child
Friday 29th St Thomas a Becket		9.30am 10.30am		<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Saturday 30th Christmas Octave			4.30pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Bill & Mary Whitehouse

Sunday 31st The Holy Family	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Luigi & Annanina Maraffino Michael Maughan
Monday 1st MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	10.00am	11.30am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Winifred Maughan
Tuesday 2nd St Basil & St Gregory	9.00am 9.15am			<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Bridget & Tom Drew
Wednesday 3rd Holy Name of Jesus		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Thursday 4th Feria	11.00am 12noon	6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Dec of Child family
Friday 5th Feria		5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Saturday 6th Vigil of Epiphany			4.30pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of the Feast	Special Int (MW)
Sunday 7th THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Noel & Maureen Kelleher Kevin Potts

Parish Christmas Cards Please take the cards home for yourselves and distribute to any friends and family who might like to receive one, particularly lapsed Catholics, or sick or housebound.

Christmas Offering Please take an envelope for the Christmas offering, which is the collection taken at Christmas for the Parish Priest. Fr Julian thanks you for your kindness and generosity.

Year of Prayer Working Group The previously advertised Year of Prayer working group meeting, scheduled for Monday 18th, will be rescheduled in the New Year.

Advent Penitential Service There will be a joint Penitential Service for the northern parishes of the Deanery (our parishes, Tunstall, Burslem and Norton) at St Joseph's Goldenhill on Thursday 21st December at 6.30pm. There will be priests hearing confessions, as well as Eucharistic Adoration, and seasonal reflections.

Foodbank Appeal Thanks to everyone who gave extra goodies for the foodbank Christmas parcels. We gave out 35 extra parcels of Christmas

treats last week, and still have more for our visitors who come this week.

Parish Pilgrimage in 2025? The Jubilee year in 2025 is a good opportunity to go on pilgrimage as a parish. The obvious destination for a pilgrimage in a Jubilee Year is Rome. It would also be good to include the shrine of Our Lady of Grace at Nettuno, and some other shrines nearby. As arranging pilgrimages takes some effort, we need to know in advance the level of support. So please let Fr Julian know if you are interested in such a pilgrimage.

Walsingham Pilgrimage The Walsingham Association are organising a three-day pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham from Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd March 2024. Priority booking for members of the Association is now open. Places will be available to non-members from 14th October. The cost for the pilgrimage together with en suite accommodation is £354, and in budget accommodation is £297. For more information and bookings please contact Mary Shirley on maryroseshirley@gmail.com It is urgent to let Mary know as soon as

possible as bookings need to be made by the New Year.

Filipino Community Mass The Filipino community will celebrate a pre-Christmas Mass on Friday 22nd December at 6pm at Holy Trinity Church, Newcastle. Everyone is welcome.

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Please come and join us at Lawton Rise Goldenhill on Wednesday 20th December at 11am for a simple Christmas service. Please come and join us and help the singing. Meet outside before the service to gain access.

HOSPITALITY

Our parish hospitality will have a break over Christmas.

The Warm Space at English Martyrs' returns on Wednesday 10th January 11am to 2pm.

The Welcoming Space at St Joseph's Goldenhill is open this Tuesday, 19th December, and then returns on Tuesday 9th January 10am to 12noon.

MARY'S MEALS CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL 2023



Today we are launching our twelfth annual appeal for Mary's Meals. As we set up our Christmas cribs in our churches, we begin our appeal to feed hungry children in the developing world in a place of education.

This year, the donations made to Mary's Meals over the Christmas period, up to 22nd January 2024, will be match funded up to a limit of £1million. So please be generous to our appeal, so that the charity will be able to help double the number of children. And, of course, you can



help further, if you are a UK income tax payer, by Gift Aiding your donation! Gift Aid forms are available next to the collecting basket at the crib. Please fill them in carefully with all the details required.

Every year, Mary's Meals let us know how much it costs, on average, to feed a child for a year across all the places in the developing world where the Mary's Meals programme is operating. This year the cost to provide a child with a

meal each day for a year, in a place of education is... **£19.15**

That is a considerable increase on last year's amount, as charities' costs risen like everyone else's. If you can give that amount (or preferably £20 to save having lots of change!) then we are most grateful. If you can't afford that amount, then please give what you can, as every penny benefits the children. Don't forget that Mary's Meals keeps expanding.

At the moment the number of children receiving Mary's Meals each day is **2,429,182**

That's an amazing number, and it will no doubt soon touch two and a half million. So please help us to provide nutrition and education to children where they are most in need. We will keep parish donations open until the Epiphany Sunday, 7th January 2024. So please get your donations in as soon as possible.

Remember this is a work of Our Lady, who inspired Mary's Meals—hence the name. So please also join in praying the Mary's Meals prayer:

Our Father, give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for the times when we take more than our share of the bread that belongs to all.

Let us help You fill the starving with good things, not with scraps from our table.

Teach us how to share what is not ours to keep. Clothe us with Your love that we may complete each good work You created us to do.

Place in our hearts Your compassion for each starving child and use our little acts of love so that they starve no more. Amen.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Congratulations to Chimizitere Jedidiah Daniel, who is being baptised during Mass at St Joseph's this Sunday.

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 you want the Catholic chaplain.

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the times advertised on the front of the bulletin. The office will be closed for Christmas after office hours on 22nd December, and will reopen on **Open House** is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. There is no Open House over Christmas. The next Open House on Monday 8th January from 6.30pm. No need to book, just turn up!

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 17th December:

English Martyrs': Int Mrs J Green

St Joseph's: Connor Young

St Patrick's: John Martin

Week beginning 24th December:

English Martyrs': Brian Stanway

St Joseph's: Winifred Maughan & family

St Patrick's: McGough family

Week beginning 31st December:

English Martyrs':

St Joseph's: Winifred Maughan & family

St Patrick's: Coates & Harding family