

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2023

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



This Saturday evening will be the last Mass celebrated at St John the Evangelist's Church, Kidsgrove. It will be a simple celebration of thanksgiving in gratitude to God for all that has happened in this church over the past 131 years of service to the Catholics of Kidsgrove. It was opened with great pageantry at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Ilsley, the Bishop of Birmingham (before this was

an Archdiocese, with an Archbishop) on 8th February 1892. There were hardly any Catholics at the time in Kidsgrove, but it was paid for by William Young Craig, the local MP,

JP and industrialist who had converted to the Catholic Faith. The Parish Priest of Goldenhill, Fr Thomas Kenny, went to become the first Parish Priest of Kidsgrove. Sixteen parish priests later, and we are sadly saying farewell to St John's church and parish.

For many of you who are Kidsgrove parishioners this day will come as a great sadness. I feel the sadness

too, and think of the times, even in recent years, when we had a good number of people attending Mass. I think also of the many baptisms, weddings and funerals over the past 11 years that I have been Parish Priest.

Many of you may wonder what will happen to the 'goods' of the Parish—the chalices, altar furnishings and statues. These will all be kept and redistributed in the three other churches of our Partnership. The two beautiful statues of Our Lady and the Sacred Heart, for example, will find a new home in English Martyrs' Biddulph. What is most important is that we continue to serve Kidsgrove from our remaining churches and the new school, and keep the Faith alive, as our forebears would expect.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Narcissus of Jerusalem c.99-c.216

The reign of the Bishops of Jerusalem in the early centuries was very short, because of the likelihood of being martyred. Narcissus was, by tradition, born in about 99, became Bishop of Jerusalem at the age of 80 and was martyred in 216. He presided over a

Council which decreed that Easter should be kept on a Sunday and not on the day of the Jewish Passover. The saintly bishop had his enemies, and three of them made false allegations against him. Narcissus withdrew into the desert to pray, but justice was triumphant, and he returned to Jerusalem and continued his episcopate.

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

Teresa Harding
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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) **Kidsgrove:** Denise Hewitt (sg.stjtc.kidsgrove@rcaob.org.uk) Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Parish Website

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

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) St Joseph's Sat 12.30pm; Sun 10.30am English Martyrs' Sun 8.30am St Patrick's Sat 5pm	
Saturday 28th			6.30pm		Thanksgiving Mass on the closure of St John's	Blood & Welsh families
Sunday 29th Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	George & Barbara Connell & Karol Grolík Angela Bissell Thanksgiving (St Patrick's)
Monday 30th Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Michael & Maureen Meaney & family
Tuesday 31st Feria (Vigil of All Saints' Day)				2.15pm 6.30pm	Holy Rosary Vigil Mass of All Saints	People of the Parishes
Wednesday 1st ALL SAINTS' DAY <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>	6.30pm	9.30am			Holy Mass of All Saints Holy Mass of All Saints	November List Dec of Maughan family
Thursday 2nd All Souls' Day	9.15am	6.00pm			Holy Mass Holy Mass	November List Holy Souls
Friday 3rd St Martin of Porres		6.00pm			Holy Mass	November List
Saturday 4th St Charles Borromeo		12noon		5.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	November List Thanksgiving (WW)
Sunday 5th Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am			Holy Mass Holy Mass	John Biggane Stephen Barretto
Monday 6th Feria		1.00pm 6.00pm			Funeral Service Holy Mass	Christine Llewelyn RIP November List
Tuesday 7th Feria	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	November List
Wednesday 8th Feria					<i>Private Mass</i>	November List
Thursday 9th Dedication of Lateran					<i>Private Mass</i>	November List
Friday 10th St Leo					<i>Private Mass</i>	November List
Saturday 11th St Martin of Tours		12noon		5.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	November List John Martin
Sunday 12th Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am			Holy Mass Act of Remembrance & Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Sarah & Arthur Holmes & family

All Saints' Day This Wednesday is the Solemnity of All Saints, and is a Holy Day of Obligation. The Masses will be as follows: Tuesday Vigil at St Patrick's at 6.30pm; Wednesday morning Mass at St Joseph's at 9.30am; Wednesday evening Mass at English Martyrs' at 6.30pm.

All Souls' Day Thursday is the commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. There will be Masses at 9.15am at English Martyrs' and at 6pm at St Joseph's.

Heart to Heart There will be no Heart the Heart Holy Hour for the next two weeks. It returns on 16th November.

Mass intentions requested for St John's will be celebrated at St Patrick's. If you prefer another church, please contact Fr Julian.

St John's Church: keys and access After the final Mass this Saturday, I would request that all keyholders for St John's return their keys to Fr Julian. After today there can be no access to the Church, as its insurance status changes, and we are not insured to have parishioners in the building unattended. If you need to recover anything from the church after this weekend, please contact the parish office.

Year of Prayer The Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025 begins on the First Sunday of Advent, 3rd December 2023. We want to take advantage of this year to turn our hearts back to God in prayer in our parishes. Fr Julian would like to ask all who are interested in helping to put together our Partnership programme for the Year of Prayer to come to a meeting on Monday 13th November at 7.15pm at St Patrick's church, Packmoor.

November List of the Dead Today we have available in our churches the slips of paper so that we can make our list of beloved dead for the month of the Holy Souls. Please take an envelope and place your list and an offering to go towards our Masses for the November List which will be offered on each day of November, and throughout the year. Please note,

offerings made in the November list envelopes go to the Masses for the whole November list, and not just for your named intentions. If you want a specific Mass for your departed loved ones then please use the normal Mass offering envelope.

Filipino Community Mass The next Filipino community Mass will take place at Holy Trinity, Newcastle on Sunday 5th November at 3pm.

Walsingham Association The 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

Bonkers Bingo Night You are invited to come to a charity Bingo Night with pie and pea supper, at KMF on High Carr Industrial Estate, in aid of St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy and Port Vale Foundation. It is on Friday 1st December from 6.30pm to 10.30pm. Tickets (over 18s only) are £25. To book please go to www.tinyurl.com/zxbbynwu

Father Hudson's Care is seeking a new CEO: Father Hudson's serves the needs of vulnerable people, without discrimination, within the large Archdiocese of Birmingham. We are seeking a new CEO to play a full part in shaping and delivering future developments for the charity. For more information visit fatherhudsons.org.uk/vacancies.htm

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Our next prayer service for the residents at Lawton Rise Goldenhill is this Wednesday 15th November at 11am. (And on the third Wednesday of each month thereafter, unless notified in the bulletin). Please come and join us. Meet outside before 11am.

COMING SOON: PRAYER & LIFE WORKSHOPS



PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS
A New Evangelization

Prayer & Life Workshops are a way for people to learn to read the Bible, discover prayer, and to gain joy of heart. We are offering an opportunity to experience the Prayer & Life Workshops to people from our parishes and beyond.

The workshops are offered **for men** on Saturdays beginning on 4th November with an introductory session, at St Joseph's Church, Goldenhill from 9.30 to 11.30am. Come for tea, coffee and a bacon butty at 9am.

There is another workshop **for everyone** on Fridays beginning 10th November at St Joseph's Goldenhill, from 10am to 12noon.

There will also be a workshop **for everyone** at Our Lady & St Werburgh's church, Clayton, on Saturdays beginning 18th November from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

HOSPITALITY



Our Welcoming Space, where you can just drop in for tea, coffee and a chat, is running on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon. It is at St Joseph's Academy, Mobberley Road. Everyone is welcome to come and drop in! It is however not running this week, because it's school half term.

From the first Wednesday of November, we are beginning our 'warm places' drop in session at English Martyrs' once again. This year it will be on Wednesdays through the winter, from 11am to 2pm for tea, coffee, soup, sandwiches and dessert. Everybody is welcome.

In Kidsgrove, the Young at Heart club meets on the last Tuesday of every month. The last meeting of the year will be on 28th November (the pre-Christmas party!). The meeting time for this session only will be 1pm to 4pm. Everybody is welcome to come and join us!

COMING TOGETHER AS ONE NEW PARISH

You will all be aware by now that we are in the process of merging the three parishes of Kidsgrove, Biddulph and Goldenhill into one combined parish. The period of consultation has now ended, with the people of the parishes, the schools, the Diocesan Department for Education, the Parish Boundary Commission, the Diocesan Solicitor, Archivist and Treasurer all having been consulted. Having done all this consulting, this week I was able to draft the document which has to be sent to the Diocesan Chancellor (the priest responsible for ensuring we all conform to Canon Law in the Archdiocese), Fr Ray Corbett, asking him to present a petition to the Archbishop on my behalf for the merger to take place. The Archbishop will confer with the Chapter of Canons, and his Council, before the matter is taken to the Council of Priests, the last stage of the process. I will be going to the Council of Priests on 23rd November to present the case for the merging of the parishes. Once this has happened, the Archbishop is able to issue a decree and the whole process comes to an end.

I say that the whole process comes to an end, but it is also a new beginning. Or rather, it is the next stage of the life of the parishes, which are currently the Partnership of Parishes, becoming formally one parish. This is a great moment of opportunity to strengthen the life of our communities.

Firstly, it is a moment when we can recognise that we all belong together. Many people in our communities very much associate themselves with one particular church, and each church has its regular congregation. That is great, because that builds community in a particular place. However, we also need to recognise that we belong to a wider parish. It means that if something is happening in one of our churches, it doesn't mean that it's just for the people who go there. I'll give an example: if there is a Mass or Holy Hour on a particular day in one church and not in another, then we should not feel that we have been deprived of the celebration of Mass on that day. It would be a wonderful thing if there were more crossing of the imaginary boundaries between our churches to pray together. That is my greatest wish for the merging of the parishes. I realise that some people cannot travel easily, and for them it is impossible to travel for a weekday Mass, but so many are mobile. It is also an opportunity to offer a lift to someone else, so that they too can come to pray with others.

The second thing I would say is that none of our communities attached to each church is particularly large. And yet we have a great wealth of talents and gifts with our parishes. That is a 'resource' that needs to be shared. We have those who are good at doing and mending, those who are good at organising, others who feel a call to reach out to the elderly and sick and housebound, others who serve those who go without in our own community, those who can lead study groups and prayer circles. And the list could go on. So what I would like to see is a series of working groups, based on a particular gift or type of outreach, formed from people across the parishes, that can help each other, and help the future united parish to progress in its mission. The first of these will be a working group to look at prayer and spirituality, and will meet shortly to look at how we can keep a good 'Year of Prayer' in 2024 in preparation for the Year of Jubilee.

From this set of working groups, there will be a Parish Pastoral Council, to draw all of these ideas together. Canon Law talks about such Parish Councils as being optional but desirable. In the past most parishes had one, but often they were talking shops where people could disagree on all sorts of practical things, and most of them have gone into abeyance. In the wake of the present Synod, which has, as its theme, the way we talk together and work together, it is a good moment to found a joint Parish Pastoral Council. It will focus on exactly what it says: pastoral realities. In other words, how we serve each other in faith, and how we serve our local communities. Fewer discussions about the colour the paint in the sacristy, and more discussions about how we make Christ present to others!

In addition to the pastoral working groups and the Council, there will also be the need for a joint Finance Committee, which already exists, and maybe ad hoc meetings for the maintenance of property, which is also important.

Finally, I am hoping that the Archbishop will agree to my suggestion of calling our new parish "Our Lady of Grace Parish, Kidsgrove, Biddulph & Goldenhill". I placed the Partnership of Parishes under the patronage of Our Lady of Grace when I first arrived. I hope that she accompanies us with her prayers and presence as we move forwards.

Fr Julian

PARISH REGISTERS

Death

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Christine Llewelyn. Funeral service at St Joseph's on Monday 6th November at 1pm. Committal at Bradwell. *Requiescat in pace.*

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. It is always advisable to phone in advance of visiting.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. Open House is on Monday evenings starting at 6.30pm. There is no Open House this Monday, 16th October. The next opportunity is on 23rd October.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 29th Oct:

St Joseph's: Winifred Maughan & family

Week beginning 5th Nov:

St Patrick's: John Martin

St Joseph's: Potts family

To dedicate a lamp, please place min donation of £5 in an envelope with preferred church and intention written on the front, and put into the collection.

Lamps previously requested for St John's will now be dedicated at St Patrick's or another church.