

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2023

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

In the Church's calendar of saints' days, today is the feast of St Teresa of Avila. St Teresa lived in Spain in the sixteenth century. She was a Carmelite nun, who lived about half of her life as a nun in a convent that was run as a rather genteel community for ladies. However, already aged 41 years old, the Lord gave to Teresa the special grace of being spiritually pierced through the heart by his divine love. And so began the new, more devout, more radical, more ascetic and more apostolic life of St Teresa. She refounded the Carmelite Order, together with St John of the Cross, calling it the Discalced (barefoot) Carmelites, and going throughout Spain founding new communities, many of which still exist today. I tell this story because it is a sign

that it is never too late to have a spiritual experience which shapes your life anew. It is never too late to begin to have and impact on the life of others. It is never too late in life to begin to have a real influence in the life of the Church.

At the moment, in Rome, there is taking place the meeting of the Synod of Bishops. They are talking about something called 'synodality'. You would be easily forgiven for wondering what on earth that is. It means, in a nutshell, understanding the Church as a communion of people—of different races and cultures, of different ages and ways of life, of clergy, religious and lay people—all of whom are called to work together to advance the mission of Christ through the life of the

Church. I am not sure exactly how much influence a Synod of bishops and influential people in Rome will have an effect on this. However, it is a lesson that we all need to learn, and one which the Popes since Vatican II have all been saying, that it is the responsibility of all of us to live the life of Christ and do the work of the Church to bring the Gospel to others. It is my sincere belief that it is through prayer that the greatest change comes about. That was the experience of St Teresa almost 500 years ago.

The prayer life of most Catholics needs to be improved. I believe this needs to be the driving force of our parish life as this alone has the power to change the lives of people, and in turn the life of the Church, made up of living stones.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Thecla of Kitzingen d. 790

Born in southern England, she was educated at Wimborne Abbey, alongside her cousin and fellow saint, St Lioba. They both joined the community once they finished their schooling. At this time St Boniface was bringing together a group to evangelise Germany, and he enlisted the two

cousins in his group. His desire was to establish monastic life in mission territories and for the sisters to educate children. Boniface evidently valued his monastic coworkers. Thecla was chosen to be the abbess of a new abbey at Ochsenfurt, later also overseeing the abbey at Kitzingen. She was an abbess for over 40 years.

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

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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.stjite.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

MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) St Joseph's Sun 10.30am English Martyrs' Sun 8.30am St John's Sat 6pm St Patrick's Sun before Mass on request	
Saturday 14th			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Winefride & Leonard Atherton
Sunday 15th Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Child Geoff Lovatt People of the Parishes
Monday 16th St Margaret Mary						
Tuesday 17th St Ignatius of Antioch				2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 18th St Luke						
Thursday 19th St Paul of the Cross						
Friday 20th Feria						
Saturday 21st Our Lady			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 22nd Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Margaret Walley Int Proscovia's family Thanksgiving (MJ)
Monday 23rd Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Stephen Holmes & family
Tuesday 24th St Anthony Claret	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention (TH)
Wednesday 25th Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Special Intention
Thursday 26th Feria	12noon	9.30am 6.00pm			Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass Holy Hour for Vocations	People of the Parishes Deceased of Child family
Friday 27th Feria		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Int Schiavone family
Saturday 28th St Simon & St Jude			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 Grolik Angela Bissell Thanksgiving (St Patrick's)

Vocations Prayer Month This month is the North Staffs Deanery month of prayer for Vocations. We will be dedicating our weekly Rosary before Sunday Mass to prayer for vocations. We will have a Holy Hour to pray for Vocations at St Joseph's on Thursday 26th October at 6pm. Please remember to pray for Vocations in your daily personal prayers too!

Rosary before Mass Starting next Sunday, we will have the Rosary before Mass. We need volunteers to lead the Rosary, so please let Fr Julian know if you are able to help:
21st/22nd—Sorrowful mysteries
28th/29th—Glorious mysteries

Day with Our Lady The People to Lourdes Trust are having a Day with Our Lady on Saturday 21st October at St Joseph's Church, Burslem, from 11am to 3pm. There will be Mass, followed by lunch in the Church house. After lunch, there will be Rosary, Confessions and Benediction. The day will be led by Fr Tony, the Trust's chaplain. Everybody welcome

November List of the Dead Next Sunday, 23rd October, we will be handing out the slips of paper so that we can begin preparing for the month of the Holy Souls. You will be invited to make a list of all your beloved dead, of friends and family, and include them in our November list. Offerings will provide for Masses in November, and throughout the year.

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

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Our next prayer service for the residents at Lawton Rise Goldenhill is this Wednesday 18th October 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.

There will also be a prayer service for harvest for residents at Maple Tree Court in Kidsgrove on Monday 23rd October at 2.30pm. Please come along and join the residents to make it a special time for them.

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!

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 next meeting will be on 31st October. The following meeting is 28th November (the pre-Christmas party!). The meeting time for these two sessions only will be 1pm to 4pm. Everybody is welcome to come and join us!



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.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, KIDSGROVE

You will all have heard by now that St John's Kidsgrove is going to be closing shortly. The last Saturday evening Mass will be a Thanksgiving Mass on Saturday 28th October at 6.30pm. It will be wonderful to have as many people there as possible, from the parish, for whom St John's means so much, and from the partnership of parishes and beyond. It is very sad to say goodbye to St John's after 131 years. However, we can be grateful for all the people who have been part of the community, and for all the events which have taken place in the church.

Once the Mass ends, the process to 'canonically' close the Church begins. This is a formal process, at the end of which the Archbishop formally closes the Church by a decree. Fr Julian has to confirm that everyone has been consulted in this process. If you have any comments to be considered, please forward them to Fr Julian by 28th October.

DEANERY COMBINED SCHOOLS' MASS, LONGTON

Each year the Primary and Secondary schools of the Deanery get together for the Combined Schools' Mass, which always takes place at St Gregory's, Longton. Some children from each of our three schools went to take part in the Mass. Here some of the children share their impressions of the annual event.



Harry, Isaac and India from St John the Evangelist's wrote:

We attended the Combined School Mass at St Gregory's in Longton. Canon Paul said the Mass with several other priests including Fr David, who is the parish priest. During his homily, Canon Paul talked about St John Henry Newman, who is our Collegiate patron saint. We know a lot about him because he is our patron saint and

we had an assembly about him on Monday as it was his feast day. He loved to learn and thought it was important that everyone should learn about God. He also cared for the poor, such as the poor Irish families that fled the famine in Ireland. He believed that God has a special mission for us all.

Canon Paul talked about how St John Henry Newman taught us all about vocation and our unique mission that God has called everyone to do. We have done some work on Vocations in school and how it is our calling from God to be in the service of others.

He went on to talk about Bl Carlo Acutis, a boy that was born in London and sadly died only aged 15, due to a rare blood cancer. He became unwell and died just 12 days later, but during his short time on earth, he asked his parents to take him to church and helped those less fortunate than himself, such as taking Christmas and birthday presents to local charities to give to poor children that did not have much as he felt that he had plenty. He heard his calling from God and acted upon it, which is a brilliant example to us all.

We really enjoyed the Mass and liked gathering together with the other schools, but most importantly felt that we gained a lot from it, as it made us think again about our own unique mission.

Ava, Stanley, Olivia and Ella from Our Lady of Grace wrote:

We enjoyed the Deanery Mass as we got to participate in this special Mass and we came together with all the different schools at St Gregory's Church. It made us feel special because we were invited to such a lovely Mass and felt connected with God. Ava and Stanley

held up our school banner in the entrance procession. Canon Paul McNally said the Mass and the theme was Vocations and Service. Father's homily was about the saint we were focusing on: Bl Carlo Acutis, who died aged 15 from blood cancer. He fell sick at 15 and it was discovered that he had blood cancer.

We sang the hymns 'Follow me, follow me', 'Take our Bread', 'This is my body' and 'My Lighthouse'. Our favourite parts of the Mass were: Singing My Lighthouse and receiving Holy Communion (Ava); singing all the hymns, receiving Holy Communion and seeing our banner in the church (Ella); being with all the different schools, singing the hymns and receiving Holy Communion (Olivia); listening to the homily and singing (Stanley).

Ava, Joseph, Leighton and Scarlett from St Joseph's wrote:

We were very proud to be chosen to represent St Joseph's at the annual Combined Schools Mass at St Gregory's in Longton on Thursday 12th October 2023. Mass was celebrated by Canon Paul McNally and Father David Newell. We sang the opening hymn "Follow me, Follow me" and heard the story of Jesus and the fishermen. In his homily, Canon Paul reminded us that Jesus calls us, just like He called His disciples. Canon Paul told us that vocation means "calling". We all have a calling from Jesus and we will hear our calling if we know God (through prayer), love God (through actions) and trust God (through faith). When Jesus told the disciples to let down their nets, they didn't expect to catch any fish but they trusted Jesus and did as He told them. They were amazed by their catch. If we listen to what Jesus tells us (through prayer), do as He asks and trust Him, we will get great rewards, just like the fishermen did.

We enjoyed seeing the children and staff from other Catholic schools in North Staffordshire and liked remembering that we are part of a big Catholic family.



PARISH REGISTERS

Death

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Angela Hilda Horsnall. Funeral service at Bradwell Crematorium on Friday 27th October at 2.40pm.

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 15th Oct:

St John's: John Martin; Davenport family

St Joseph's: Kevin Potts

Week beginning 23rd Oct:

St John's: Margaret Jones RIP; Brenda Chadwick (Birthday)

St Joseph's: Leese 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.