

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

TWENTY-FIRST & TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST & 2ND SEPTEMBER

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

The World Meeting of Families in Dublin has begun. This is a four-yearly international gathering of Catholic families with bishops, priests, religious and theologians, to be an inspiration for Catholic family life. In reality, these big international Catholic events pass most average Catholics-in-the-pew by, without them noticing. It is a sad reality that most Catholics get their stark knowledge of what is going on in the Catholic Church (beyond their own parish) from the BBC, ITV, Sky, or the papers. And so, most Catholics will know that Pope Francis is visiting Ireland this weekend, but won't realise that it is for this family Congress.

The visit, and the Congress, take place with the backdrop of yet more scan-

dals from within the Catholic Church in the USA. We find that respected churchmen—and that includes bishops—have, for decades, not only perpetrated outrages against children and the vulnerable, but have also covered each other's tracks. I don't know how it makes you feel but, at this stage, I have become pretty numb to yet more revelations. What was, at one time, very shocking, now feels like another punch to the head of one who is already punch drunk.

The problem is that we can become very reticent and inward looking. The fact is: Jesus Christ is still the God who loves us, and has saved us. The Catholic Church is still the fullness of what he desired his Church to be. It still con-

tinues his mission. And we are called to be part of that. What is needed is a wholesale reform of the Church. We need to strip away the deferential culture of 'clericalism' which has allowed such abuse to exist. But it is not the changing of structures and institutions, or putting more stringent safeguarding procedures (however necessary) that is the solution. While we may not have done the evil, we can work against it, and the reform begins with us. To turn back to the Lord, repenting of our sins and in reparation for those of others. The key to reform and renewal is found, not in new policies, but in Adoration. It is found, not in carefully worded official apologies, but in the confessional. And it begins with each one of us.

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

CLERGY & STAFF

Parish Priest

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Deacon (retired)

Rev Dr David Child

St Margaret Ward Chaplain

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9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs
9am to 1pm.

Website

www.partnershipparishes.org

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Jeanne Jugan 1792-1879

St Jeanne was the founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor. From a poor Brittany family herself, she learned the meaning of true Christian charity from the lady to whom she was a maid. She went to work in a hospital, but was then employed by a lady, Madame Lecoq. She gave catechism

to local children and started a regular life of prayer. In her 40s, Jeanne formed a little community of three with an old lady and an orphan girl. They rented a cottage and brought the most abandoned ladies to live with them. Thus was born the Little Sisters. The community grew, built on prayer and generosity in response to begging.

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Kidsgrove	Packmoor	The Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) Kidsgrove Sat 6pm Biddulph Sun 8.30am Goldenhill Sun 10.30am Packmoor On request during August	
Saturday 25th			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Peter & Janet Convey 40th Wedding
Sunday 26th Twenty-First Sunday of the Year	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Terry Wilson People of the Parishes Sr Augustine
Monday 27th to Thursday 30th No Masses or Services						
Friday 31st St Aidan			9.30am	6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Ellen & George McHugh Holy Souls
Saturday 1st Our Lady	9.15am	12.30pm	6.30pm		Holy Mass Wedding Service Holy Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls David O'Brien & Tiffany Porter John James Gibson
Sunday 2nd Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year	9.00am	11.00am 2.30pm		1.00pm 6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Baptism Nuptial Mass Holy Mass	Roland & Margaret Deaville 50th Wedding People of the Parishes Charles Ward & Amanda Maughan Int Sr Josephine
Monday 3rd St Gregory the Great		6.00pm	9.30am 10.00am		Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	Int John Martin Int Bernadette McGough (ES)
Tuesday 4th St Cuthbert	9.15am 6.00pm		9.30am	2.15am	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Holy Rosary Reception of Body	Thanksgiving (NB) Marie-José Gannon RIP
Wednesday 5th <i>Feria Votive of St Joseph</i>	11.00am	5.45pm 6.00pm 6.30pm			Requiem Mass Reception of Body Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Marie-José Gannon RIP Lynn Dobson RIP George, Catherine & Kenneth Illsley
Thursday 6th Feria	5.00pm 6.00pm	11.00am			Requiem Mass Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	Lynn Dobson RIP Special Intention
Friday 7th <i>Feria</i> <i>First Friday—Sacred Heart</i>			9.30am	6.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Teresa Foden Holy Souls
Saturday 8th Nativity of Our Lady	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls Jean Finn
Sunday 9th Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Marie-José Gannon Int Bernadette McGough (ES) People of the Parishes

Care Home Prayer Services



Kidsgrove The next prayer service will be at Ravenswood at 11am on the 25th September. There will be no service in August as previously advertised. We would love to see more parishioners coming and bringing the light of faith to residents. Come and meet us at the home.

Biddulph The next prayer service for our Biddulph Churches Together group is on Sunday 26th August at 3pm at Park Lane Home. (Please note the correction to the previous details). We welcome everyone to come and join us.

Retreat Day at Colwich Abbey

There is a retreat day for all ladies organised by the UCM on Sunday 23rd September. If you would like to go please contact Cathy Hancock on 07929 213849/01782 853941 no later than 14th September. There will be a coach leaving Goldenhill; pick up times to be advised. The cost for the day is £12 (inc. coach).

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Queenie Price whose Requiem Mass was celebrated on Wednesday at St Joseph's Church.

Please pray also for the soul of Mary-José Gannon. Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul will be offered on Wednesday 5th September at 11am at English Martyrs' Church followed by internment at Woodhouse Cemetery. Her body will be received into church on Tuesday at 6pm.

Please pray also for the soul of Lynn Dobson. Requiem Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul on Thursday 6th September at 11am at St Joseph's Church, followed by cremation at Bradwell. Her body will be received into church on Wednesday at 5.45pm.

Requiescant in pace

EMBERTIDE

PARISH RETREAT DAYS

The Ember Days are part of the traditional Christian calendar, and mark the four seasons of the year. They were taken out of the liturgical calendar at the reform of the liturgy after Vatican II. They are a quarterly opportunity to be renewed in grace through penance, fasting, prayer and thanksgiving.

In our partnership of parishes we are renewing the spirit of the Ember Days by inviting parishioners to come to a parish-based retreat each quarter.

The first Ember Days Retreat will be at St John's Kidsgrove from Wednesday 19th to Friday 21st September.

All our parishioners from across our parishes are invited to come together for three days of spiritual renewal. Each day of the retreat, Wednesday to Friday, there will be the following programme:

- 6.00am Eucharistic Adoration
- 7.00am Holy Mass
- 9.30am Holy Mass with Homily
- 6.00pm Eucharistic Adoration
- 7.00pm Retreat Evening

"Lent is our annual retreat, while the Ember Days serve as quarterly check-ups. A grave and earnest mood comes over Mother Church, but there are no tears or mourning. Fasting is not so much an expression of penitence and sorrow as a joyous tithing to God, and an incentive to almsgiving." (Fr Pius Parsch)

The Friendship Club is our monthly meeting for older people. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28th August, at the usual time of 2pm at Kidsgrove Town Hall. We always welcome new people, so come and give it a try. If you need more details or would like to arrange transport please ring 01782 269990

Church Cleaning and Flowers at Biddulph

We are appealing for a few more people to join the church cleaning and flower rotas at English Martyrs. If you are interested in volunteering please see Teresa Dutton or give your name and phone number to Fr Julian.

Sharing the Journey Thanks to all who took part in our walk a week last Saturday. The sun shone as we made our way through Biddulph. It was a bit tiring but, hopefully, thoughtful and inspirational. A report has been sent to CAFOD and the miles we walked have been added to others who did likewise throughout the world. The latest figures show that people have walked the equivalent of over four times around the world!

Parish Priest's Open House

Fr Julian is next available to be seen on Monday 3rd September, 6.30pm to 7.30pm at St Joseph's Presbytery Goldenhill for all enquiries.

Safeguarding in the Archdiocese of Birmingham

Archbishop Bernard Longley has commissioned a review of our current safeguarding/child protection practices to ensure that our systems to protect our children and young people are as effective as possible. The review is being conducted by an independent charity called Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). As part of the review, SCIE would like to speak with any individuals who have had experience with any safeguarding issues within the Archdiocese, and have experience of working with our parish safeguarding representatives and the safeguarding team at the Archdiocese. **If you are able to contribute to this important review and share your experiences with SCIE then please contact Hugh Constant (Hugh.Constant@scie.org.uk or 020 7766 7374 or 07872 602207.**

FUNDRAISING

Collections

12/08/2018: Biddulph/Packmoor Gift Aid £357.73, Non Gift Aid £162.96, Total £520.69. **Goldenhill** Gift Aid £240.00, Non Gift Aid £161.80, Total £401.80. **Kidsgrove** Gift Aid £217.00, Non Gift Aid £129.55, Total £346.55. **19/08/2018: Biddulph/Packmoor** Gift Aid £388.00, Non Gift Aid £155.82, Total £543.82. **Goldenhill** Gift Aid £163.00, Non Gift Aid £124.19, Total £287.19. **Kidsgrove** Gift Aid £151.90, Non Gift Aid £140.15, Total £292.05.

Mission Appeal On 8th/9th September we welcome Fr Melaku who will be making an appeal on behalf of the Comboni Missionaries.

Sponsored Walk Eugene Menzies is undertaking a 17 mile walk on be-

half of the local charity C-R-Y Jordan Burndred Memorial Fund to provide heart screening for young adults. You can sign up to sponsor him after Mass at English Martyrs' on 19th and 26th August. The walk is on 27th and goes from Meakins CC to Knypersley CC and back. Your support would be much appreciated. If you are not attending Mass at English Martyrs' and wish to sponsor Eugene, please contact Teresa in the parish office.

Goldenhill & Kidsgrove 200 Club Weekly Draw 19/08/18 1st Prize £20, No.25 T Bickerton; 2nd Prize £10, No.32 A Sproston; 3rd Prize £5, No.92 D Hewitt. **26/08/18** 1st Prize £20, No.4 M Aylward; 2nd Prize £10, No.19 E Minshull; 3rd Prize £5, No.87 A Walker. **Monthly Draw** 1st Prize £75, No.125 J Cooper; 2nd prize £50, No.54 N McNicholas; 3rd Prize

£25, No.12 B Finn. The monthly, quarterly and annual subscriptions are all due in September. The annual prize winners will be announced in the next bulletin.

Biddulph and Packmoor 125 Club The half yearly subscription of £25 is now due. You can pay by cash or cheque made payable to English Martyrs Church, Biddulph. There are numbers available; please contact Mary Jervis on 514829.

Sanctuary Lamps

This week the lamps are dedicated for:

St John's: Janet Convey (BC); Int John Martin

If you would like to dedicate the sanctuary lamps at our churches for an intention, please see Fr Julian. Minimum donation £5.

NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

Sunday 2nd September: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless; the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

Sunday 9th September: Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Preparing the Gospel

KEY VERSE: "This people pays me lip service but their heart is far from me" (v 6).

TO KNOW: The religious leaders of Israel had developed elaborate rituals to separate themselves from those who did not believe in God. These oral traditions were regarded as having the same binding force as the Law of Moses. Jesus and his disciples were criticized by the religious leaders for their failure to perform the market and kitchen purification rites. Jesus quoted the prophet Isaiah who faced hypocrisy in his own day. Jesus said that external acts should reflect the moral intent of God's Law and not be mere pious observances. It was not food or objects that defiled a person. It was the sinful motives of the heart that led to immoral acts.

TO LOVE: What is my attitude toward people whose religious observances are different to mine?

TO SERVE: Holy Spirit, help me to examine my motives for the things I do.

KEY VERSE: "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak" (v.37).

TO KNOW: Jesus put his hands in the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle, which was thought to have curative powers. Then he groaned "Be opened" (Aramaic, "Ephphatha"). Jesus looked to heaven, the divine source of his healing power, and with a word and touch, the man's hearing and speech were restored. He thus fulfilled the Messianic promise that "the deaf shall hear" and "the mute will sing" This miracle for a Gentile was a sign that Jesus had come to bring salvation to all peoples.

TO LOVE: Do I fail to listen to the proclamation of the Gospel?

TO SERVE: Lord Jesus, open my ears to your word and loosen my tongue to praise you.