

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

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2018

## A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

I have been mentioning, from time to time over the summer, the Ember Days. These are days in the traditional Church calendar which mark the four seasons of the year, and which encourage us to turn to the Lord in every season in penance, prayer and thanksgiving. We are adapting the Ember week, each time it comes up, to provide us with a 'parish retreat' or special days set aside, when we are called to come together, for prayer. And so I invite each of you to come together on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week at St John's Kidsgrove, for this first set of Ember retreat days.

Each day there is the same programme: early morning Adoration and Mass, especially aimed at workers.

But don't feel you can't come because you're not going to work! We start at 6am with Adoration and then a simple Mass at 7am. At 9.30am on each day there will be another Mass, with homily. Finally in the evening, you are invited to come and gather in church from 6pm, when there will be silent Adoration, and for the 'retreat evening' from 7pm. These evenings will include a time of led meditation on the Gospel, as well as a time of prayer and praise of God.

Each day will have its own theme: Wednesday is our day of penance, Thursday our day of thanksgiving, and Friday our day of petition. The effectiveness of the days is backed up if you make them days of personal prayer too, and also to do some form of penance,

especially fasting. Fasting from food is great, but if you cannot manage that, then fasting from other enjoyments is also good.

These days promise to be a really good way of being renewed in God's grace individually and as a partnership of parishes. And so I ask you all to participate if you are able. I invite you to pray this Ember Prayer:

*Help me, Lord, to fan into a flame the gift which you gave me when I was baptised and confirmed. Take away my timidity in faith, for you gave me the Spirit of Power, the Spirit of Love and the Spirit of Self-Discipline. Bless our priests and ministers. Bless us, your servants, and all who are in need. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## 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

Rev Fr Julian C Green  
St Joseph's Presbytery  
715 High Street  
Goldenhill  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST6 5RD  
Tel: (01782) 782121  
Email: pp.partnershipparishes@gmail.com

### Priest in Residence

Rev Fr Paul Dean

### Deacon (retired)

Rev Dr David Child

### St Margaret Ward Chaplain

Jonny Leybourne

### Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding  
Tel: (01782) 782121  
Email: partnershipparishes@gmail.com  
Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Fri  
9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs  
9am to 1pm.

### Website

www.partnershipparishes.org

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

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### St Hildegard of Bingen 1098-1179

Hildegard was a German abbess and mystic. She became a nun at the age of 15, and experienced visions. Later in life these 26 prophetic visions were confirmed as genuine and written down. She was a poet and musician, and her collection of mystical songs is still sung today. She was

very knowledgeable and studied medicine, natural history, science, and languages. Even during her life miracles were attributed to her intercession, and after her death she was given veneration. However, she was not formally canonised until 2012, and declared a Doctor of the Church in 2013, one of only four women Doctors.

## MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

	<b>Biddulph</b>	<b>Goldenhill</b>	<b>Kidsgrove</b>	<b>Packmoor</b>	The <b>Sacrament of Forgiveness</b> (Confessions) <b>Kidsgrove</b> Sat 6pm <b>Biddulph</b> Sun 8.30am <b>Goldenhill</b> Sun 10.30am <b>Packmoor</b> Sun 6pm	
<b>Saturday 15th</b>			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Deceased of the Maughan Family
<b>Sunday 16th</b> <b>Twenty-Fourth</b> <b>Sunday of the Year</b>	9.00am  1.00pm	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Baptism Holy Mass	Bill Adams Barbara Fawkes  Kath Wakefield
<b>Monday 17th</b> St Robert Bellarmine		6.00pm	9.30am 10.00am		Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass	Holy Souls  Lynn Dobson (SVP)
<b>Tuesday 18th</b> Feria	9.15am	6.00pm	9.30am	2.15am	Holy Mass Morning Prayer Holy Rosary Holy Mass	Marie-José Gannon (SVP)  Winifred Maughan
<b>EMBER RETREAT DAYS AT ST JOHN'S</b>						
<b>Wednesday 19th</b> Feria			6.00am 7.00am 9.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm		Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Retreat Evening	People of the Parishes Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 20th</b> St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Companions			6.00am 7.00am 9.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm		Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Retreat Evening	Holy Souls Holy Souls
<b>Friday 21st</b> <b>St Matthew</b>			6.00am 7.00am 9.30am 6.00pm 7.00pm		Eucharistic Adoration Holy Mass Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration Retreat Evening	Holy Souls Int John Martin
<b>Saturday 22nd</b> Our Lady	9.15am		6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	Holy Souls Joan & Peter Jackson
<b>Sunday 23rd</b> <b>Twenty-Fifth</b> <b>Sunday of the Year</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Andrew Harker Lynn Dobson Special Int (VM)

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 tithe to God, and an incentive to almsgiving." (Fr Pius Parsch)*

AUTUMN CATECHESIS

Just after the Parish Mission, Fr Julian was visited by missionaries from the Neo-Catechumenate. This is a lay organisation within the Church, started in Madrid in 1964. The aim was to reach out to the many who had been baptised but did not have an adult understanding of the Faith. It has been tremendously successful in bringing the faith alive for people throughout the world, and has produced many vocations. Today there are 40,000 neo-catechumenal communities around the world, and about a million Catholic members.

As a result, Fr Julian has invited them to send members who are catechists to offer catechesis in our partnership of parishes. They will come and invite parishioners to the catechesis which will be on Mondays and Thursdays at 7pm beginning on 8th October and continue till the end of November. It is a great opportunity for us, and you are urged to sacrifice the time to come.

**Please pray** for the pilgrims from our parishes who are preparing to walk the English Camino to Santiago de Compostela from 20th to 27th October.

PARISH REGISTERS

**Baptism**

Welcome to the family of the Church to Harper Belle Frances Walmsley, who will be baptised at English Martyrs today.

**Deaths**

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Bridget (Bridie) Holland. Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul will be offered on Monday 24th September at St John's at 11.40am.

Please pray also for the soul of Beatrix Kasperowicz. Requiem Mass for the repose of her soul will be offered on Thursday 27th September at English Martyrs at 11.30am.

*Requiescant in pace*



The Friendship Club is our monthly meeting for older people. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 25th September, 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

**Parish Priest's Open House**

Fr Julian is available to be seen on most Sunday evenings from 6.30pm to 7.30pm in the Presbytery at Goldenhill. There is no need to reserve a time, just turn up. To check that Fr Julian is available on any particular Monday please call the parish office.

**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).

**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 14th September, at 3pm at Springbank. We welcome everyone to come and join us. It would be great to have some new people come along!

## FUNDRAISING

### Collections

**Biddulph/Packmoor** Gift Aid £411.57, Non Gift Aid £184.59, Total £596.29.

**Goldenhill** Gift Aid £222.00, Non Gift Aid £124.40, Total £346.40.

**Kidsgrove** Gift Aid £174.40, Non Gift Aid £103.50, Total £277.90.

**Comboni Mission Appeal** Thank you to all our parishioners who contributed to Fr Melaku's mission appeal collection last week for the Verona Fathers which raised £819.08 across our parishes.

**Second Collections: Next week**  
Fr Hudson's Care

**Goldenhill & Kidsgrove 200 Club Weekly Draw:** 1st Prize £20, No.125 J Cooper; 2nd Prize £10, No.156 J Convey; 3rd Prize £5, No.31 A Sproston. There are quite a few spare numbers at the moment. If anyone would like to subscribe, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

## DEANERY & BEYOND

**Prayer Vigil for the Care of Creation** CAFOD have organised a prayer vigil followed by the film

'Global Healing' on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 7pm at the Holy Trinity, Newcastle.

**Walsingham Feast Day Mass** The Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham is on Monday 24th September. The Walsingham Association invites you to their feast day Mass at St Joseph's Goldenhill. The celebrant and preacher will be Fr Julian Green, the new chaplain to the North Staffs branch of the Walsingham Association.

**North Staffs Carers Association Sponsored Walk** In aid of NSC for Dementia there will be a sponsored walk in Tunstall Park on Sunday 23rd September. Registration will be at 9.30am to start walking at 10.30am. To register please call 793100 or visit [www.carersfirst.com](http://www.carersfirst.com).

### How can we keep from singing?

There will be a concert of inspirational music at St Gregory's, Longton with Jo Boyce & Friends (formerly CJM Music) on Sunday 7th October at 6.30pm. Tickets in advance £6 (please call 01782 313796). £7 on the door.

**Family Prayer Campaign** The Legion of Mary are organising a Family Prayer Campaign in memory of Fr Paton. The launch event for the prayer campaign will be held at St Thom-

as More, Sheldon, Birmingham on Saturday 6th October at 2pm. Everyone is welcome!

**Celebration Day** The Archbishop invites you to a Celebration Day, celebrating our involvement in the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, the National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool, and the canonisations of Pope Paul VI and Oscar Romero. It is at St Thomas More Catholic School in Nuneaton on Sunday 14th October from 10am to 4pm. Free entry, but booking is essential. Book online at [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/diocesan-celebration-day](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/diocesan-celebration-day) or call 0121 230 6286.

**October Devotions** The devotions in honour of Our Lady of Walsingham for the month of the Rosary will take place at English Martyrs' Biddulph on Tuesday 30th October at 7.00pm.

### Sanctuary Lamps

*This week the lamps are dedicated for:*

St John's: Elsie Finn; Kath Wakefield; Richard Twomey RIP; In Thanksgiving (MW)

*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

### Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

## Preparing the Gospel

**KEY VERSE:** "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me" (v 37).

**TO KNOW:** This passage marks a turning point in Mark's gospel. Jesus had left Galilee where he was safe and took the first step towards Jerusalem and the Cross that awaited him there. For the second time, Jesus taught his followers about his coming passion and death, but they did not understand his words. When they arrived in Capernaum, Jesus asked his disciples what they had been arguing about on the way. They were embarrassed because they had been discussing what rank each would have in the kingdom. Jesus placed a small child in their midst and taught them an important lesson. Those who wished to be his disciples should not be concerned about ambition and prestige. God's kingdom would be attained through service to the poor and lowly. Anyone who served these little ones of simple faith were in reality serving Jesus and the Father who sent him.

**TO LOVE:** Do I strive to serve others or am I more interested in being self-serving?

**TO SERVE:** Lord Jesus, help me to recognize you in the weak and powerless people I meet.