

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

# SUNDAY BULLETIN

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2023

## A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

This week, I am sharing with you the way in which the Deanery visitation is going to be implemented in our parishes. Since the publication of the report, which was made available to you at the end of July, I have looked at the recommendations made for our parishes, and made a proposal to the Archbishop of the way forward. He has approved of this, and so I am now letting you know what will be happening.

The report recommended that the three parishes be amalgamated as one single parish. As you will already realise, the process for this to happen has already begun, as I put this forward for consultation with you two weeks ago. The Archbishop is very keen that this should go ahead, and that it should be done without delay.

At the final meeting for the Deanery Visitation it was announced that two of our four churches would be closing: St John's and St Patrick's. I am sad to say that I do think that St John's Kidsgrove has to close. The fact is that the Saturday evening congregation has dwindled after COVID. The school is now vacant, as is the presbytery. The church and grounds are beginning to deteriorate. In spite of the willingness of parishioners, there are not the adequate resources to maintain the site. The first stage in closure is the stopping of the celebration of Mass. And so, sadly, the last Saturday evening Mass at St John's will be on 28th October. If parishioners wish, there can be a final thanksgiving Mass on that date, or on another date.

The situation of St Patrick's is somewhat different. It is more manageable as a site, and is well maintained. And so, with the agreement of the Archbishop, I have decided to postpone the closure of St Patrick's to be reviewed in a year's time. With the loss not only of Kidsgrove but other Saturday evening Masses in the area, from 5th November, the Sunday evening Mass will cease, and Mass at Packmoor will be on Saturday evening, at the new time of 5.30pm.

There is no change to the provision at St Joseph's and English Martyrs'.

I hope this lends some clarity, and I hope that, following these changes, we will be able to come together as one parish, with a renewed sense of purpose and a common vision.

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



### St Remigius (Remy) 437-533

St Remigius was the Bishop of Rheims in France, and is renowned for his wisdom, learning and miracles attributed to his intercession. He is also well known for the length of his time as bishop, achieving seventy years. He had become a hermit and his piety and learning became well

known an early age, and at the age of 22 (too young to be a priest never mind a bishop) he was chosen to be the Bishop of Rheims, and was ordained priest and bishop. He spread the Gospel to the Frankish people, and was fierce in opposing the Arian heresy. God gave him the particular gift of miracles which aided him in his ministry.

## 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  
715 High Street  
Stoke-on-Trent ST6 5RD  
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fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk

## 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](mailto:sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk)) **Goldenhill:** Jo Kirkham ([sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk)) **Kidsgrove:** Denise Hewitt ([sg.stjite.kidsgrove@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjite.kidsgrove@rcaob.org.uk)) Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

## Parish Website

[www.partnershipparishes.org](http://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	
<b>Saturday 30th</b>			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Thanksgiving (Clergy & religious)
<b>Sunday 1st</b> <b>Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Margaret Walley Int Suzanne & Frank Meakin (50th Wedding) People of the Parishes
<b>Monday 2nd</b> Guardian Angels		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Catherine Latham
<b>Tuesday 3rd</b> Feria	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention
<b>Wednesday 4th</b> St Francis of Assisi		<b>9.30am</b>			Holy Mass	Pat Holmes & family
<b>Thursday 5th</b> St Faustina Kowalska	12noon	6.00pm	9.30am		Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Private Intention Dec of Child family
<b>Friday 6th</b> St Bruno		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Tom Bailey
<b>Saturday 7th</b> Our Lady of the Rosary			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Winifred Maughan
<b>Sunday 8th</b> <b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Cullen Irene Aylward People of the Parishes
<b>Monday 9th</b> <b>St John Henry Newman</b>		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 10th</b> Feria	9.15am			2.15pm	Holy Mass for Vocations Holy Rosary	Margaret Walley
<b>Wednesday 11th</b> St John XXIII						
<b>Thursday 12th</b> Feria	12noon	9.30am 6.00pm			Holy Mass (in school) Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Private Intention Special Intention
<b>Friday 13th</b> St Edward the Confessor		6.00pm			Holy Mass	Bernard Cunningham
<b>Saturday 14th</b> Our Lady			6.30pm		Holy Mass of Sunday	Winefride & Leonard Atherton
<b>Sunday 15th</b> <b>Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		6.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Child Geoff Lovatt People of the Parishes

**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 also have a Mass to pray for more vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life on Tuesday 10th October at English Martyrs' at 9.15am. We will also 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!

**Adult Enquirers** We will soon be beginning, once again, our preparation sessions for adults wishing to explore becoming Catholics. If you are interested please contact Fr Julian or send an email to the parish office to register your interest.

**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:  
 7th/8th—Joyful mysteries  
 14th/15th—Luminous mysteries  
 21st/22nd—Sorrowful mysteries  
 28th/29th—Glorious mysteries

**Talk on St Teresa of Calcutta** Fr Michael Miners continues his series on the spirituality of great women saints and mystics with a talk on St Teresa of Calcutta on Tuesday 3rd October at 7pm in St Wulstan's School, Wolstanton.

**CAFOD Fast Day** The harvest family fast day for CAFOD is on Friday 6th October. Please remember to make it a day of prayer and fasting for the developing world, and the particular projects supported by CAFOD. You can give up a meal on that day and give the money saved to CAFOD. If you cannot fast, you can give up some pleasurable pastime or luxury. The collection will be on 7th/8th October.

**Day Pilgrimage** The Area Pastoral Council are organising a Day Pilgrimage to the Church of St Anne and Bl Dominic Barberi in Sutton St Helens, together with a visit to Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday 14th October. The coach leaves Holy Trinity, Newcastle at 8.45am and the cost is £15. Please bring a packed lunch. Bookings by 4th October. To book a place please contact the Parish Office.


**CONSULTATION ON PARISH MERGER**

As you will have seen in the report on the Visitation of the North Staffs Deanery, it has been proposed that our three parishes of English Martyrs', St Joseph's and St John's should merge to become one single parish. This would mean that the present 'Our Lady of Grace Partnership of Parishes' would become 'Our Lady of Grace Parish'. This process in Canon Law requires that the people of the parishes be consulted.

It is important to note that this process of merging the parishes is a discrete process from that of closing any of the churches. For details of what it entails, please see the last bulletin, for 17th September.

If you have any comments on the proposed merger, please let Fr Julian have these before Friday 6th October 2023. You can write by email to [fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk) or write a letter and send it to the presbytery, or hand it directly to Fr Julian after Mass. It is hoped the merger will happen before Christmas.


**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. Everyone is welcome.

**PRAYER & LIFE WORKSHOP FOR MEN!**



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 men from our parishes and from the North Staffs Deanery. It will be on Saturdays beginning on 4th November with an introductory session. It will take place at St Joseph's Church, Goldenhill from 9.30 to 11.30am. Come for tea, coffee and a bacon butty at 9am.

**Organ Recital** St Wulstan's Wolstanton invite you to an Organ Recital at St Wulstan's to be given by David Saint, the Director of Music at St Chad's Cathedral. The Recital is on Tuesday 31st October at 7pm.

**Filipino Community Mass** The next Filipino community Mass will take place at Holy Trinity, Newcastle on Sunday 5th November at 3pm. (Correction to previous date).

**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 [maryroshirley@gmail.com](mailto:maryroshirley@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](http://www.tinyurl.com/zxbbynwu)

# BLESSING OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL, KIDSGROVE

On Tuesday 26th September, His Grace Archbishop Bernard Longley came to visit St John the Evangelist's school, Gloucester Road, Kidsgrove. After years of waiting, finally the school is now open on one site. There is a brand new building for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, and the existing building for KS2 has been remodelled and renewed. The Archbishop came to bless the school and celebrate Mass.



**Mrs Helen Rigby, Principal, writes:** We were delighted to welcome Archbishop Bernard to celebrate Mass and officially open our new school building. It was a wonderful morning and we were overjoyed to welcome so many visitors from past pupils, previous school staff, parish-

ioners, Collegiate principals and staff, Governors, Directors and parents.

The Mass was a joyous occasion and the children thoroughly enjoyed taking part through their responses, reading and heartfelt singing. They were able to talk to the Archbishop about our Patron, St John the Evangelist, and why he is an important Saint for us to follow.

The Archbishop took the time to speak to the children and bless each classroom. He also spoke to past pupils, who are now at St. Margaret Ward and Mrs McGough and Mrs Bailey about their input in our new prayer garden. He blessed the garden, the cross created by St. Margaret Ward and the late Bishop McGough's crucifix that was donated to the school from the McGough family.

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the school in the new building and to everyone who was able to support us on Tuesday. Please join us when we have Mass on a Thursday morning, we would love for you to continue to celebrate Mass with us.



**Children from Year 6 write:** On Tuesday 26th September at 11am, Archbishop Bernard celebrated Mass at St John the Evangelist Catholic Academy, helped by Fr Julian and Fr

Dominic, the Archbishop's secretary. We had visitors including, Joan Whalley former MP, Jonathan Gullis MP, Mr McKenna, the Principal of St Margaret Ward, Mrs Williams who is our Chair of Governors, Dr Meller who is the Chair of our Directors and Mr Beardmore who is the Newman Catholic Collegiate CSEL.

The Mass was about St John the Evangelist, our Patron Saint, and how he should guide us on our educational journey in our new school building. Former teachers visited, which was great to see, and lots of parishioners and parents came to support us too. We had children reading including, Harry, Megan, Alfie, Isaac and Chloe all from Year 6. Lola, Sienna, Scarlett and Danutra went forward with the offertory. Tom (Year 5) was an altar server at the Mass. Some of our old pupils came back from St. Margaret Ward too and accompanied Mrs Amison with the music.



We sang 'Be thou my vision', 'There is someone', 'Firmly I believe', 'His goodness never fails' and 'Star of the sea'. Mrs Amison taught us, and our favourite hymn was Firmly I believe (with words written by St John Henry Newman). As Head Boy and Head Girl, we greeted the guests when they arrived, along with our Deputies and House Captains. We listened carefully in Mass and the homily was about St John at the tomb of Jesus with Simon Peter.

Archbishop Bernard blessed the new school and blessed all the classrooms and all the children and staff in the classes through prayer and holy water. The Archbishop was really compassionate for the whole time he was there. We worked really hard on the singing, responses, reading and display work to show how proud we are of our new school. The guests were really respectful and we were respectful to them. One of the children responded so well to the Archbishop's question that some teachers even cried! "We should be best friends with others, like St John was to Jesus." said Chantelle at the Mass.

By Isaac Lancett (Head boy), Chloe Whitehead (Head girl), Kalina Kociolkowska (House Captain) and Alexandra Renaudin

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

Congratulations and welcome to the family of the Church to Bobby James Shirley who is being baptised at St John'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. 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. If you want to be sure that the Open House is happening on a particular Monday, please call the parish office.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

#### Week beginning 1st Oct:

St John's: Howle family  
St Joseph's: Winifred Maughan and family  
St Patrick's: Peter & Sandra Morris

#### Week beginning 8th Oct:

St John's: Crotty family  
St Joseph's: John & Mary Leese  
St Patrick's: Peter & Sandra Morris  
*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.*