

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF GRACE KIDSGROVE, BIDDULPH & GOLDENHILL

PARISH BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 1ST FEBRUARY 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Our parish of Our Lady of Grace, made up of the former three parishes, has had its second birthday during the last month. This week we will be celebrating the feast day of our patroness, Our Lady of Grace. The feast day is 7th February, but we celebrate it on the following Sunday, so that we can celebrate Mary the Mother of Grace in each of our churches. So, next Sunday, we will celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lady of Grace. On that day, we will be inviting all the families from the schools to come to Mass too, so that they can be part of the celebration.

This celebration comes at the end of the same week as the beautiful feast day of Candlemas, the Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple. This feast used to be the end of Christmas-tide, and is certainly the



last feast day connected with our Christmas celebration. From this point onwards our focus is on Easter, and preparing for that, as we will begin Lent in just a couple of week's time. Maybe, even if you don't normally come to a weekday Mass, you could make it to Monday evening's celebration of Candlemas.

As we come to the end of the extended season of Christmas, I look back on our celebrations with gratitude. Our celebration of

Christmas began with the Christmas Masses. I know there is one parishioner who feels particularly blessed that he came to the first Vigil Mass at St Joseph's. From that event, Michael Maughan has set about fundraising among our parishioners so that we can have a defibrillator in church, and he has done really well with that fundraising. It shows the generosity of our parishioners. If we put this side by side with the £1000 raised for the Compassion Kitchen Christmas lunch, and the £5600 raised for Mary's Meals through the crib appeal, and the huge amount of warm clothing and bedding donated for the homeless last week, I wanted to commend your all for this generosity to those in need. Thank you for your compassion and care.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl Andrea Carlo Ferrari 1850-1921

Bl Andrea Carlo was the Cardinal Archbishop of Milan. He was ordained priest aged 23, and was very gifted academically. He was eventually raised to be Bishop, first of Guastalla then of Como, before being appointed Archbishop of Milan and Cardinal. He was a great supporter of Pope

Leo XIII's teaching on social justice. He took responsibility for improving catechesis, the teaching of the faith, in Milan, promoting the catechism of Pope Pius X. He participated in three conclaves and in the International Eucharistic Congress in Westminster in 1908. His funeral was celebrated by the future Pope John XXIII

CHURCHES

Biddulph English Martyrs' Church, Church Road, Biddulph, ST8 6NE

Goldenhill St Joseph's Church, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 5RD

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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Parish Secretary

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

Safeguarding

The Parish of Our Lady of Grace operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are:

Biddulph: Julie Shufflebotham
(sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk)

Goldenhill: Jo Kirkham
(sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk)

Packmoor: Lorraine Connell
(sg.stpatricks.packmoor@rcaob.org.uk)

Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.

Parish Website

www.ourladyofgraceparish.org
The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity no. 234216

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday Readings Year A Weekday Readings Year II	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) At each church Saturday/Sunday Confessions are available at each church 20 minutes before Mass. St Joseph's Friday 5pm (when there is a 6pm Mass)	
Saturday 31st			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Int Julia Keane
Sunday 1st Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Connor Young Jason Ferris
Monday 2nd Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Helen Hewitt & Bob Bennison
Tuesday 3rd St Werburgh	8.55am 9.15am 4.00pm		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary Mass in slow motion	Donald Green Special Intention
Wednesday 4th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Int Lucy Aulton
Thursday 5th St Agatha	11.00am 12noon	9.30am 1.15pm		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass Funeral Service	Fr Jacob Lewis Holy Souls Diane Campbell RIP
Friday 6th St Paul Miki & Companions <i>First Friday</i>		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Fr Sandy Brown Teresa & Mark Foden
Saturday 7th Our Lady		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	Bernadette McGough Arthur Holmes & family
Sunday 8th OUR LADY OF GRACE	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parish Phil Weston & Joe Malkin
Monday 9th Feria		9.30am		Holy Mass	Matthew Gibson
Tuesday 10th St Scholastica	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Sharon Acton
Wednesday 11th Our Lady of Lourdes	7.00pm	5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention (LM)
Thursday 12th Feria	11.00am 12noon	9.30am		Liturgy of the Word (St Johns) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Friday 13th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Bridget Culhane
Saturday 14th St Cyril & St Methodius		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish John Martin
Sunday 15th Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Lisa Menzies Teresa & Mark Foden

Defibrillator Michael Maughan has now completed his sponsored 15 mile run to raise money for an internal defibrillator. We have experienced two people having cardiac arrests in St Joseph's church in under two years. If you have promised to sponsor Michael, please let him have your donation as soon as possible.

Eucharistic Adoration This year we are focussing on prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Could you spare some time to come and pray before Our Lord's Eucharistic Presence? It is transforming for anyone's spiritual life as well as the life of a parish. Look for the times of Adoration on the bulletin each week.

Parish Social Committee In reality, there isn't a fixed Social committee in our parish. Rather, we invite everyone who is interested to come along and join our meetings. We are meeting on Monday 2nd February at 7.30pm in the meeting room at St Joseph's. On the agenda will be the social events we have already discussed, but also Fr Julian's Pearl Anniversary celebration (having missed out on a proper parish celebration of his Silver Jubilee because of COVID). If you are willing to help organise our programme of events, please come along to this meeting.

Explained Mass The members of staff of our primary schools are coming to a 'Mass in slow motion' on Tuesday 3rd February at 4pm at English Martyrs'. This is a Mass with explanation of what is happening in the Mass. It is open for anyone to come.

Healing Service We usually have a Sunday afternoon healing service around the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. However, this year it will be a little later, and we shall have the service on Sunday 1st March at 3.30pm at St Patrick's Packmoor. Anyone who has a diagnosed illness or is burdened by older age can be anointed at this service. As a change to the usual format, we will have a Stations of the Cross for healing.

Vocations Mass Our Deanery Mass for Vocations is being hosted by our

parish this year, at St Joseph's on the feast of our Diocesan Patron, St Chad, 2nd March at 6.30pm. The children from our schools are animating the Mass, and children from across the Deanery will be participating. Please come and join us for this Mass.

Red Mission Boxes Please bring your red boxes in to be counted to church during February. Just a note of thanks to those from Biddulph who contributed £1650 through the mission boxes during the last year. We will publish the amounts from the other churches shortly.

Monthly Care Home Service The next monthly service will be after the New Year and will be on Wednesday 18th February at 11am. Once again we invite parishioners to come along.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at on Monday 9th February at 7pm at St English Martyrs' Biddulph.

PLW Prayer Circle Our prayer circle will next meet on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm at St Joseph's.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 14th February, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.



PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

A New Evangelization

Prayer & Life Workshops are up and running again locally. Please join very soon if you wish to participate. This 15 week programme of learning to pray and spiritual renewal is a wonderful way to reassess life in the light of Christ. The following PLWs are taking place soon: **St Wulstan's Wolstanton** on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm; **Sacred Heart Hanley** on Saturday mornings 10am to 12noon; and at **Our Lady & St Werburgh's Clayton** on Thursday mornings 10.15am to 12.15pm. All the Workshops have started but it's not too late to begin.

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Space meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon at St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club building). Light refreshments are served and new people are always welcome.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space is open on Wednesdays. It takes place from 11am to 2pm in the meeting room at church. Open for refreshments and lunch. Why not come along?

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 24th February from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entry £3.

Oscott College Guided tours of the seminary have resumed for the new term. 11th February 2026 18th February 2026 4th March 2026 11th March 2026 22nd April 2026 29th April 2026 6th May 2026 20th May 2026 Tickets can be booked at <https://www.oscott.org/events> Cost, inclusive of tea and cake: £17.50 Please be aware that the public areas for visits are all on the ground floor and are all accessible to those with mobility issues. There will also be an organ recital on 8 February at 3pm. Booking can be done online at or pay in person on the door.



If you do not have a standing order in place, it is by far the best way of being able

to give to the parish, as it attracts the lowest bank charges for the parish. You can set it up by contacting your bank or in online banking. The details of the parish bank account are as follows: Account Name: Our Lady of Grace Parish Account Sort Code: 010138 Account Number: 75282135

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

The World Day of Prayer for the Sick is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, 11th February. Pope Leo has written a message to all the sick based on the Parable of the Good Samaritan. His message ends with these words:

Dear brothers and sisters, "the true remedy for humanity's wounds is a style of life based on fraternal love, which has its root in love of God." I genuinely hope that our Christian lifestyle will always reflect this fraternal, "Samaritan" spirit – one that is welcoming, courageous, committed and supportive, rooted in our union with God and our faith in Jesus Christ. Enkindled by this divine love, we will surely be able to give of ourselves for the good of all who suffer, especially our brothers and sisters who are sick, elderly or afflicted.

Let us raise our prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, asking her to assist all who suffer and are in need of compassion, consolation and a listening ear. Let us seek her intercession with this ancient prayer, that has been invoked in families for those living with illness and pain:

Sweet Mother, do not part from me.

Turn not your eyes away from me.

Walk with me at every moment
and never leave me alone.

You who always protect me as a true Mother,
obtain for me the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing to all who are sick, to their families and to those who care for them – healthcare workers and pastoral workers alike – and in a special way to all participating in this World Day of the Sick. **Leo PP XIV**

PARISH REGISTERS

Reception into full Communion

Welcome to the family of the Catholic Church to Judith Boulton and Stacey Boulton who will be received into full communion with the Church and confirmed at St Joseph's on 2nd February.

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Diane Campbell. Funeral service at St Joseph's on Thursday 5th February at 1.15pm, followed by burial at Tunstall cemetery.

And also for Cynthia Butcher. Funeral service to take place at Bradwell Crematorium on Friday 6th February at 1.20pm.

And also for the soul of Martin Owen. Funeral service to take place at Bradwell Crematorium on Wednesday 11th February at 10am.

And also for the soul of Elsie Heath. Requiem Mass at English Martyrs' on Monday 16th February at 10am, followed by committal at Carmountside Crematorium at 11.30am.

Requiescant in Pace

Hospital ministry 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 (Fr Matthew). If you need a Chaplain at the Haywood, please contact Fr George at Tunstall. For other hospitals, care homes or hospices, please ask the staff. If you have any difficulties, contact the Parish Office.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 1st February

St Joseph's: Pat Dodd Birthday (JC)

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs': Connor Young

Week beginning 8th February

St Joseph's: Donald Green

St Patrick's: Ken Bolton

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

You can dedicate a sanctuary lamp for a week for a minimum donation of £7. Place in an envelope with the intention written on, and preferred church & date.



The North Staffs Walsingham Association

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2026

Sat 29th – Mon 31st August

Bank Holiday weekend

*An opportunity for you, your family and your friends to
make a pilgrimage to Walsingham in the footsteps of
Christian kings, saints, and many holy people, to deepen
your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary.*

Includes coach travel; two nights' dinner, bed & breakfast in Elmham House; Sunday packed lunch; a programme of liturgical, devotional and social activities in Walsingham.

Adult prices: £213 (Standard pilgrim room)

£253 (Ensuite pilgrim room – limited availability)

Pilgrims U16: Half price – must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact Mary Shirley for extra information/ bookings:

07910 605984 or maryroseshirley@gmail.com

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the normal times of opening (see front page). It is recommended to phone before coming in person.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other pastoral reason. It takes place on Saturday mornings from 11am to 12noon. There will be no Open House on 7th February. The next is on 14th February.

Mass Intentions & Offerings

We get a lot of requests for Masses to be celebrated for people's intentions in our parish. Please realise that Masses, especially for Sundays, get booked up well in advance. If you want a specific date, please request the Mass three months in advance. Please expect that any general requests for Sunday Masses will join a queue and can sometimes take a number of weeks before they are allocated. Mass bookings are strictly on a first come, first served basis.