

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

PARISH BULLETIN

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Today is Home Mission Sunday, which is a reminder that the mission of the Church isn't just to go to far off countries, but to our own country, our own people, and very often our own family and friends. And by 'Church' I don't just mean those who are consecrated by ordination as priests or deacons, or religious. It is the task of every Catholic to be a missionary. Over the centuries, this has been carried out by Catholic parents handing the Faith on to their children. Today, in many ways, that has broken down. Parents no longer believe or practise the Faith. I have even seen some parents who have been brought back to the Faith by their children. What was normal before has changed. As Pope Francis said, we are living not in an age of change but a



change of age, where many of the ways we previously had of bringing the Faith to others are no longer adequate. In this we all have to 'up our game'.

The change of methods of bringing the Gospel alive, and the different ways in which people view the Church, does not mean that the Faith has changed. Some people say that the Church has to change its message to fit in with the modern world. However,

the eternal truths of the Gospel and the Catholic Faith do not change. It is the world which needs to change to accept Jesus Christ and his Gospel.

What is our task, each of us, in this mission? We need to turn up the temperature of our own Faith. If we are lax in our attendance at Sunday Mass, then we need to sort that out. For those who are faithful in this, then regular confession is the thing to add. In addition, weekday Masses, Bible reading, getting involved in a parish group... There are so many things that we can do to increase our living of the Faith, which will make it more contagious for others. In this week when we celebrate Our Lady of Walsingham, patroness of England, we ask her to pray for the conversion of our nation and for our parish.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St John Charles Cornay 1809-1837

St John Charles as a French missionary saint. After theology studies in Poitiers, he went to Paris to join the seminary of the Foreign Missions. His stay in Paris was short, as he was ordained deacon and sent to go to Sichuan in China, though he never arrived there and was ordained

priest in Tonkin, Vietnam. His missionary work there was hard, and he had terrible illness which weakened him. He was arrested and put in a wooden collar in a cage and was tortured. He was sentenced to death through slicing. In turn, Cornay was the inspiration for St Théophane Vénard, who is also one of the martyrs of Vietnam.

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
Tel: (01782) 782121
fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
Tel: (01782) 782121
OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk
Office Hours: Mon, Tues 9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs 9am to 1pm. **No office hours on Fri.**

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 20 minutes before each Saturday evening/Sunday Mass. St Joseph's: Friday 5pm	
Saturday 19th Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Thomas, Lilian & Joan Doyle
Sunday 20th Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Eileen & Reg Williamson & Marie Claire Kasperowicz Julius & Iris Kaminskis
Monday 21st St Matthew					
Tuesday 22nd Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention
Wednesday 23rd St Pio of Pietrelcina	7.00pm	5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Thursday 24th Our Lady of Walsingham	11.15am 12noon			<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Dec of Child family
Friday 25th Feria		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Fr Brian Wall Stan Grandfield
Saturday 26th Our Lady		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Denis & Bridget Culhane
Sunday 27th Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Schiavione family Thanksgiving (Wedding Anniversary Yolanda & Roy)
Monday 28th St Lawrence Ruiz & Comps	11.15am	5.45pm 6.00pm		Funeral Service <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Bernard McNulty RIP Paul Goodstadt
Tuesday 29th St Michael, St Gabriel & St Raphael. Archangels	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention
Wednesday 30th St Jerome	7.00pm	5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Denise Fingleton
Thursday 1st St Therese of Lisieux	11.15am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Fr Joseph Narikuhzi Dec of Child family
Friday 2nd Guardian Angels <i>First Friday</i>		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Holy Souls
Saturday 3rd Our Lady	8.15am		5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Elsie Parr
Sunday 4th Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Int Kath & Ken Owen (60th Wedding Anniversary) Bailey & Plan family

An Invitation to young adults

Young Adults aged 18 to 30 are invited to come to meet at St Joseph's Presbytery on Sunday 27th September at 5pm. The idea is to have a pilot meeting to start a group for young adults in the parish, to do some Bible study, learn more about the Catholic Faith, and to experience fellowship together. If you want to know more ask Carina (mcarinaaug@gmail.com) or Fr Julian.

Chinese Buffet Evening Following the success of last year's Chinese buffet evening, you are invited to our next parish social event at Buffet Fever in Tunstall on Thursday 1st October at 6.30pm start. Ticket price is £16 per person (children under 15 £10). Bar available for drinks (not included in the price) and there will be a raffle with a chance to win a cash prize. Tickets on sale after Mass.

Healing Service Everyone is invited to come and pray for the sick, and for those who are sick to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, at our next healing service. It will take place on Sunday 4th October at St Patrick's church at 3.30pm. Please see Fr Julian if you wish to be anointed (usual conditions apply).

Becoming a Catholic If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, please see Fr Julian as soon as possible. Maybe, if you have been attending Mass for a long time, and are not yet a Catholic, this is the year to come in and be able to share in Full Communion with us!

First Sacraments meeting For children who are baptized and in Year 3 or above, and have not yet made their First Confession, there will be a meeting for parents and children after the Mass on Wednesday 14th October at St Joseph's church. The preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin after the October half term. This is a necessary step for all children (Y4 and above) who wish to receive First Holy Communion or (Y6 and above) Confirmation later in the year. There will be meetings to begin the preparation for those Sacraments later in

the school year. Please keep an eye on the bulletin for those meetings.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies' Group are meeting at on Monday 12th October at 7pm at English Martyrs' Church. Fr Julian will speak about, and lead the Rosary. All ladies are welcome to come.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of the PLW men's prayer circle is on Saturday 17th October at 9am in the presbytery.

Food Bank The sponsored walk for the Food Bank has raised £1657 so far. If you have sponsored someone, please make your payment as soon as possible.

Churches Together The local churches are present each year for the switching on of the Christmas lights in Biddulph which takes place on the last weekend of November. We are hoping to give out to children knitted angels. But we need knitters to knit them! We have the pattern. If you can help, please ask Jackie Menzies for the pattern.

Our Lady of Walsingham The North Staffs Walsingham Association invite you to come and celebrate the feast day of the patroness of England on Thursday 24th September at St Wulstan's Church, Wolstanton at 6.30pm. The celebrant is Fr Julian, who is chaplain of the Association. Refreshments afterwards. Whether you have been on pilgrimage to Walsingham or not, and a member of the Association or not, everyone is welcome.

St Dominic's Reunion Did you attend St Dominic's High School for girls? We are having a school reunion on Saturday 26th September from 1pm to 3pm at Holy Trinity Community Centre, Newcastle. All year groups are welcome. Please bring your food and bakes for a shared lunch buffet. For more information contact chrissey.booth@outlook.com

Adoremus Liverpool 2026 To coincide with the National Eucharistic Congress event, the Archdiocese of Liverpool are offering a Eucharistic day at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathe-

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcome Space is our open house group for people to come and have a cuppa and a chat!

At St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club) on Mobberley Road, 10am to 12noon.

Our Welcome Space at English Martyrs' will begin again from Wednesday 7th October. Come and join us on Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm for light refreshments or lunch (soup, sandwiches, dessert). And of course, good company.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is on 29th September from 2pm to 4pm. £3 entry.

dral on Saturday 10th October from 9am to 6pm. Throughout the day, there will be Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, confessions, times of prayer together and workshops on lots of interesting themes. This is a great opportunity to take part in a day focussed on our Catholic faith in the presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. For more information and bookings go to <https://archdioceseofliverpool.churchsuite.com/events/liycvzsu>



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

HOME MISSION SUNDAY

Today is Home Mission Sunday. For a time it was renamed *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday, meaning 'Joy of the Gospel' Sunday, after the Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis of the same name. It has now reverted to its original name, which makes it less of a mouthful, and makes a clear balance with Foreign Missions Sunday, which is next month on 18th October.

Bishop Philip Egan, the Bishop responsible for Home Missions in England & Wales has issued a message for this Sunday:

"Saint John Paul II once said, the greatest poverty of all was to lack God," said Bishop Egan. "As a bishop, it distresses me hugely that so many people today don't seem to know God. They don't know the God who made them. They don't seem to be friends with him. They're unchurched, adrift, without faith, without the hope of heaven.

"*Home Mission Sunday* reminds us of something Pope Leo said in his recent encyclical [*Magnifica humanitas*](#) that the desire for God is hardwired into every human heart. So on *Home Mission Sunday*, let's pray for the mission of the church in our land and for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit that many more people may find their way to salvation in Jesus Christ and his church."

The Mission Directorate of the Bishops' Conference is engaged in supporting catechesis and evangelization, Scripture study, ministry to married people and families, promoting vocations, promoting the liturgical life of the Church, working with other Christians and people of faith, supporting chaplaincies in Universities and Prisons, and youth mission. There is a second collection for this work.

ADOREMUS 2026

Two years ago, the Bishops of England & Wales organised a National Eucharistic Congress, which was based in Liverpool. Rather than a general invitation, this was limited to delegates from deaneries. In order to make a similar event available to the masses, last year we organised, in our North Staffs Deanery, a Jubilee Eucharistic Congress which was excellent and was really well attended by people from our own area. This year the Bishops are organising another Eucharistic Congress which will also be for delegates sent from Deaneries across England and Wales, this time in London. As the organiser of our Deanery Congress, and with a history of being (at one time) the National Delegate for the International Eucharistic Congress, Fr Julian is attending the National Congress, together with three parishioners from our parish as the Deanery delegates. This will take place on Saturday 10th October, with Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, followed by a talk by Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP, and then a Eucharistic Procession from Southwark Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral, with Solemn Benediction there.

For those who wish to take part in a Eucharistic Day, not too far away in Liverpool, at Christ the King Metropolitan Cathedral, there is a day which is open to all. You can find details on page 3 for those who wish to go and take part in that event.

As parishes, we are invited to hold a Eucharistic event to take place at the same time, and in communion with the rest of the country. And so, you are all invited to come to the Friday evening Mass on 9th October at 6pm followed by a Holy Hour of led prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at 7.30pm. Come let us adore HIM!

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Simon Noel Doherty, who will be baptized at St Joseph's today.

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Bernard McNulty. Funeral service will take place at English Martyrs' on Monday 28th September at 11.15am followed by committal at Bradwell crematorium.

Requiescat in pace

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the normal times of opening (see front page). **Please note that Teresa, the Parish Secretary, no longer works on Fridays.** It is recom-

mended to phone before coming in person.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen about baptisms, weddings, or for any other pastoral reason. The next Open House will be on Saturday 26th September and again on Saturday 3rd October. No Open House on 10th October.

Mass Intentions & Offerings

Please realise that Masses 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. Weekdays are much easier to allocate, and there are plenty of dates available. Mass bookings are strictly on a first come, first served basis.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 20th September

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan and family

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs: Intentions of Josephine Etuokwu

Week beginning 27th September

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's: Mary Jervis

English Martyrs:

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. 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.