

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

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

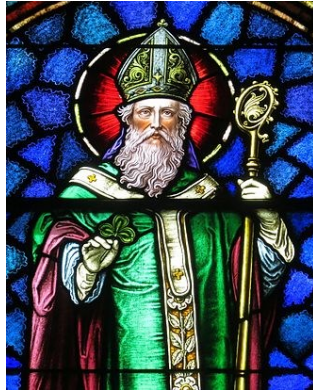
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

This Sunday we begin the last part of Lent, as we turn our attention to the Passion of the Lord. The time is traditionally called Passiontide. It maybe seems like a strange thing that we cover all the crosses and images in the church when we are focussing on the Cross. However, it is so that our attention is focussed within our selves rather than relying on outward images.

Because of how early in the year Easter is, we will also be celebrating two feast days this week. On Monday at St Patrick's Packmoor we keep the feast of St Patrick, transferred from Sunday. And then on Tuesday we keep the solemnity of St Joseph at Goldenhill. There will be a little celebration after each of these Masses, so I hope you will be able to come along.



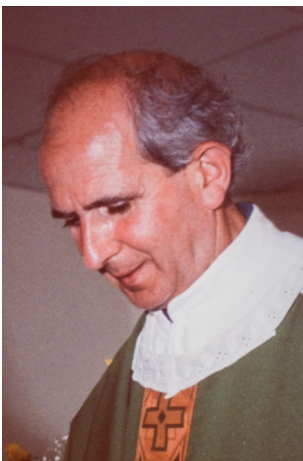
Over the next couple of weeks there are lots of opportunities to keep the Year of Prayer going. In Holy Week, from Sunday



to Wednesday evening, we are going to have a parish retreat. These evenings aren't too long, and I hope that as many of you as possible will come to St Patrick's. We have also just finished the series of Prayer and Life Workshops in our parish, and the participants had their final retreat day on Saturday. I hope that we will be able to have another set of workshops soon, and that more people will come and take part in them.

I hope that parishioners from across our whole parish will also come to Biddulph for the public Stations on Holy Thursday. This is a great way to take our faith on the street, and one which other people respond too. There will also be the possibility of having a meal together to celebrate the Passover before we begin the Triduum

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### Bl Giuseppe Puglisi 1937-1993

Born in Palermo in a rough neighbourhood, he went to seminary and was ordained priest. He fought the culture of crime. He was assigned to a town with a real problem with gang violence. He set to work to bring reconciliation by visiting the houses of parishioners and reading the

Bible to them. He organised community gatherings and the place was transformed in eight years. In 1990, Fr Pino, as he was known, was sent to his old neighbourhood rife with mafia activity. He publically opposed the mob and became a target. When mafiosi came to kill him, he said "I've been expecting you".

### 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, 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))

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 concerns.

### Parish Website

[www.partnershipparishes.org](http://www.partnershipparishes.org)

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

234216

## LITURGY &amp; DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	<b>Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions)</b> St Joseph's Sun before Mass; Friday 5pm to 5.30pm English Martyrs' Sun before Mass; Thurs on request after Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass	
<b>Saturday 16th</b>			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Maureen Boggins
<b>Sunday 17th</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Frank & Nancy Beveridge John & Elizabeth Adams
<b>Monday 18th</b> <b>ST PATRICK</b>	9.15am		6.30pm	End of Term Mass <b>Mass for St Patrick's Day</b>	Margaret Walley Winifred Maughan
<b>Tuesday 19th</b> <b>ST JOSEPH</b>		9.30am	2.15pm	<b>Mass for St Joseph's Day</b> Stations of the Cross	Bernard Cunningham
<b>Wednesday 20th</b> Lent Feria		9.30am		End of Term Mass at St John's school	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 21st</b> Lent Feria	11.30am			Stations of the Cross	
<b>Friday 22nd</b> Lent Feria		6.30pm		Stations of the Cross	
<b>HOLY WEEK</b>					
<b>Saturday 23rd</b> Lent Feria			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Palm Sunday	Tom Nixon
<b>Sunday 24th</b> <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	9.00am	11.00am	7.00pm	Blessing of Palms & Holy Mass Blessing of Palms & Holy Mass Holy Week Retreat Day 1	John Hodgkinson Thomas & Joan Wareham
<b>Monday 25th</b> Holy Monday			6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Holy Week Retreat Day 2	Mary Jervis
<b>Tuesday 26th</b> Holy Tuesday			6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Holy Week Retreat Day 3	Anne Goodman
<b>Wednesday 27th</b> Spy Wednesday		1.30pm	6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	Funeral Service Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Holy Week Retreat Day 4	Susan Nixon RIP Jean Green
<b>Thursday 28th</b> <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b>	11.30am 7.30pm 10.00pm			Public Stations of the Cross <b>Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> Gethsemane Holy Hour	People of the Parish
<b>Friday 29th</b> <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>	6.00pm	12noon 3.00pm		Family Stations of the Cross <b>Liturgy of the Passion</b> Liturgy of the Passion	
<b>Saturday 30th</b> <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>		7.30pm		<b>Easter Vigil Mass</b>	Frank Smithson
<b>Sunday 31st</b> <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	9.00am	11.00am		<b>Holy Mass</b> <b>Holy Mass</b>	Bernard & Amanda Dale Winifred Maughan



**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** The new Ladies group from across our new Parish will meet next at English Martyrs' on Monday 8th April at 7pm, and thereafter on the **second** Monday of the month (to avoid Bank Holidays!). All ladies very welcome for prayer and fellowship.

**Lenten Alms** Thank you for the Lenten alms given on the last two weeks: St Chad's Cathedral £194; Number 11: £559. We will be supporting the following charities on the other weeks:

17th March Aid to the Church in Need (Gaza Christians)  
24th March Holy Places

**Easter Offering** Please remember to take an Easter offering envelope to be able to give the traditional offering to the Parish Priest at Easter

**Lent Food Drive** Once again we have done very well with our appeal for dried and tinned foods for Lent. Please keep bringing a few items each week for the Food Bank.

**Choir for Holy Week** There will be no choir practice this Wednesday. The last one will be on Wednesday of Holy Week at St Joseph's at 6.30pm.

**St Patrick's Day** You are invited to come and celebrate the Feast of St Patrick at St Patrick's church on Monday 18th March. The feast is transferred as it occurs on a Sunday in Lent. There will be Mass at 6.30pm followed by a bring and share buffet in the church porch. Everyone is welcome.

**St Joseph's Day** You are invited to come and join in the celebration of St Joseph's Day at St Joseph's church on



PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS  
A New Evangelization

**Retreat:**

**A Path of Pain and Love**

by Fr Ignacio Larrañaga O.F.M CAP

**Place: St Patrick's Catholic Church**

95 Mellor St, Packmoor, Stoke-on-Trent  
ST7 4SN

**Palm Sunday to Spy Wednesday**

24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

Tuesday 19th March. There will be Mass with the school children from St Joseph's Academy at 9.30am followed by tea, coffee and refreshments in church. This will replace the 'Welcoming Space' in school on that day.

**Collection Envelopes** If you haven't yet collected your envelopes, or if you would like some: they are available at church this week.

**Parish Bank Account** The old St Joseph's church bank account has now been renamed "Our Lady of Grace Parish". If you make payments by cheque to the parish for any of the churches, please put "Our Lady of Grace Parish" as the payee. Little by little we will be moving everything over to this one bank account. After Easter we will be having a drive on Gift Aid, and will be asking all present Gift Aiders whose standing orders go to St John's or English Martyrs' to make a new mandate to the new parish account.

**Deanery Mass for the Year of Prayer** You are invited to a Mass for the Year of Prayer at St George & St Martin, Birches Head on Tuesday 19th March at 7pm. Celebrant: Fr Adrian McNamara, the Parish Priest and Vice Dean of North Staffs.

**Easter Monday Mass** The traditional Men's Mass for Easter Monday in honour of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated at Sacred Heart, Hanley on Monday 1st April at 10am. The celebrant is Canon Paul McNally, Episcopal Vicar for Staffordshire and the Black Country. There will be light refreshments afterwards. All men especially welcome.

## OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Come and join us at **Lawton Rise Goldenhill** on Wednesday 20th March at 11am for our next care home service. Please come and join us and help the singing. Meet outside before the service to gain access.

## HOSPITALITY



Why not come and join us for a cuppa, a bite to eat and a chat with others?

The Warm Space at English Martyrs' is back on Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm. Come and get refreshments or lunch and meet with others. This week Tuesday 20th March is the last week it will be on.

The Welcoming Space at St Joseph's Goldenhill is on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon. It's on holiday now until Tuesday 9th April. Drop into St Joseph's Academy and meet with friends and have some light refreshments.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, takes place at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday 26th March from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome! Cost is £3.

## PUBLIC STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to come together in Biddulph for a public praying of the Stations of the Cross on Maundy Thursday, 28th March, at 11.30am.

We begin, and finish, on the steps of the Town Hall, and make a loop along the High Street.

Let's take our faith in the Crucified Lord out on the streets and witness to him! Parishioners from our whole parish, and other Christians from other churches are all being invited.

You are also invited to come and share lunch together in Wetherspoons pub after the end of the Stations.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDI!



St Joseph's: On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6.30pm, Ava, Joseph, Sam, Leighton and Christopher were very excited to be Confirmed by Canon Paul McNally. Our families and our sponsors were with us to support us and help us at this special occasion. We were reassured to meet Canon Paul when he came to visit us at school in the morning and felt excited and not nervous. It was good to discuss the fruits and the gifts of the Holy Spirit with Canon Paul.

The evening was exciting. We were proud to say our baptismal promises out loud for ourselves so that we can be independent of our parents. When we received the Holy Spirit in Confirmation, we felt faith

filled and peaceful. We know that the Holy Spirit will help us in our lives. We would like to say thank you to Canon Paul (and the Archbishop for asking him to Confirm us), Fr Julian and Mr Hewitt for preparing us for Confirmation and our families for supporting us at Confirmation and every day.

St John's: Isaac wrote: "The night started by singing a hymn, then Canon Paul McNally read the Gospel. After the Gospel, we were all confirmed and I felt that God has accepted me in to heaven already. Then St. John the Evangelist school children read the bidding prayers. We then all received Holy Communion and after that the final hymn. At the end of Mass, the children had pictures with their Sponsors, Canon Paul and Fr Julian. India wrote: "Then it was time to be confirmed. It was magical. Isaac went first followed by Alex and Chantelle. Soon it was me. I knelt down in front of Canon Paul McNally. He said some words and I answered Amen. Then he said "Peace be with you." I replied "And with your Spirit." He then anointed me with the Oil of Chrism. Later on, St. John's read the bidding prayers. "

Our Lady of Grace: Our Confirmation in English Martyrs' church was on Tuesday evening. Charlie wrote: "When I arrived to church, I was feeling a bit nervous and scared but when the service finished, I felt relieved and felt a sudden feeling of hope and light in me. I also felt appreciative because most of my family and friends were there to celebrate with me. When I went up to the front of Church with Cannon Paul, I felt extremely grateful to have my sponsor with me supporting me throughout this. Dario wrote: "When I was at Church, I was feeling scared and nervous but when it finished, I felt glad that God was with me. I am thankful for my family and friends for helping me through this journey of faith." Olivia wrote: "Before my Confirmation, I felt nervous but having my family there made me feel more at ease, as I knew how much they were supporting me. I knew my sponsor would be a good example for me



## PARISH REGISTERS

### Confirmations

Congratulations to the young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Joseph's church on Monday 11th March: Chantelle Benez, Ethan Buttery, Joseph Esposito, Devon Gwilt, Harry Hickin, India Hurst, Ava Kearney, Leighton Kelsall, Isaac Lancett, Christopher Maughan, Bridget McGinley, Alexandra Renaudin & Sam Szczepanski.

And to those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at English Martyrs' church on Tuesday 12th March: Olivia Adams, Stanley Clack, Aiden Dodds, Dario Gattuso, Ella-Louise Kinder-Rigby, Reuben Moran, Ava Morris, Emily Roden-McCloskey & Charlie Simcock.

### Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of soul of Susan Nixon. Funeral

service at St Joseph's on Wednesday 27th March at 1.30pm followed by burial at Tunstall cemetery.

And also for the soul of June Mary McNicholas. Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Friday 5th April at 1pm followed by burial at Tunstall cemetery.

### Requiescant in Pace

#### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

##### *Week beginning 17th March*

English Martyrs': Maria Williams & Hogan family; St Joseph's: Michael & Maureen Meaney and family; St Patrick's: John Martin

##### *Week beginning 24th March*

English Martyrs': Helena, Cyril & Mary; St Joseph's: Jean Green; St Patrick's: Jean Harding

*If you would like to dedicate a lamp in one of our churches for any intention, please place donation (min £5) in an envelope*

### Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is closed from Wednesday to Friday in Holy Week, and on Easter Monday. It is open at the other times advertised on the front of the bulletin.

**Open House** is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. The next Open House is on Monday 15th April at 6.30pm.

**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. For Haywood Hospital please contact Fr George at Sacred Heart, Tunstall. If in doubt contact the ward staff.