

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

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

PENTECOST SUNDAY

SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2024

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

A Happy Feast of Pentecost to you all. It is quite a month for feast days, as well as being the month of Our Lady. It's hard to keep up with it all!

On the first weekend of May we had two consecutive days of celebrations. On Saturday 4th May, we celebrated the Solemnity of the English Martyrs at Biddulph. It's a shame a few more people didn't come to enjoy the celebration of Mass, and a lovely buffet lunch. Still, it was more food for those of us who were there! And then, on Sunday 5th May, we held our first May Procession since 2019. It was a beautiful afternoon. We were very blessed with great weather, and a full church. People came together from the parish and the schools, as well as from the local Walsingham Association to honour Our



Blessed Lady in her month. After children from the school crowned the statue of Our Lady of Grace, we went in procession around the garden at St Patrick's, while praying the Holy Rosary, and ended with solemn Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The food that was brought to share was so plentiful, and the weather so pleasant, that we had people sitting in the garden into the evening. I hope this becomes a fixture, once again, in our Parish diary.

It struck me, at the Procession, that St Patrick's church is somewhere around the geographical centre of our new parish. It is also notable that the image of Our Lady in the garden grotto is not Our Lady of Lourdes, like at most grottoes, but Our Lady of Grace. It seems to me so providential that, back in the Marian Year, called by Pope Pius XII, in 1954, the parishioners at St Patrick's decided to put a statue of Our Lady of Grace there. I think that we should look on that shrine as our parish shrine of Our Lady of Grace. This makes it all the more important that we maintain the weekly Rosary devotions there, which take place on Tuesday afternoons. It would be wonderful if even more people from across the Parish could take part!

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### Bl John Duns Scotus 1266-1308

John was a Scottish Franciscan friar and priest. He became a great scholar of philosophy and theology, studying in Oxford and Paris. He was responsible for explaining the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception so that it did not take Mary outside of salvation through Christ, which had

been the main objection of theologians. Rather, he explained, Mary received the grace from and in advance of Christ's saving death and resurrection. So, theology was able to catch up with popular devotion. Before a debate, John knelt before and image of Our Lady and prayed: "Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin".

### 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  
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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:** Julie Shufflebotham  
([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))

**Packmoor:** Lorraine Connell  
([sg.stpatricks.packmoor@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stpatricks.packmoor@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	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) St Joseph's Sun before Mass; Friday 5.30 to 5.45pm English Martyrs' Sun before Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass	
<b>Saturday 18th</b>			5.30pm	Vigil Mass of the Feast	Winifred Maughan
<b>Sunday 19th PENTECOST SUNDAY</b>	9.00am	11.00am 3.30pm	5.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Pentecost Holy Hour Reception into Church	Maria Williams Winefride & Leonard Atherton  Mary (Moya) Smith RIP
<b>Monday 20th</b> Mary, Mother of the Church		5.45pm 6.00pm	10.30am	Requiem Mass <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Mary (Moya) Smith RIP  Frank Welsh
<b>Tuesday 21st</b> Feria ( <i>Votive Mass Holy Spirit</i> )	9.15am		2.15pm	Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Margaret, Jimmy & Tony Casey
<b>Wednesday 22nd</b> St Rita of Cascia		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Jean Harding
<b>Thursday 23rd</b> Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's School) Holy Mass	People of the Parishes Eileen Marrow
<b>Friday 24th</b> Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Int Nora Jones (Birthday)
<b>Saturday 25th</b> St Bede the Venerable			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration &amp; Rosary</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Thomas & Lilian Doyle
<b>Sunday 26th</b> The Most Holy Trinity	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Julia Biggane Helen Hewitt
<b>Monday 27th St Augustine of Canterbury</b>					
<b>Tuesday 28th</b> Feria			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
<b>Wednesday 29th</b> DEDICATION OF CON- SECATED CHURCHES		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	World Peace
<b>Thursday 30th</b> Feria					
<b>Friday 31st</b> Visitation of Our Lady					
<b>Saturday 1st</b> St Justin, Martyr			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Tony Jervis
<b>Sunday 2nd</b> CORPUS CHRISTI	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass <i>followed by a brief</i> <i>Eucharistic devotion &amp; Benediction</i>	McQuade family People of the Parishes

**Pentecost Holy Hour** Pentecost Sunday is the feast day for the Prayer & Life Workshop guides. Our parish prayer guides would like to invite you to a Holy Hour of prayer today at 3.30pm. During the Holy Hour, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, we will use a couple of the ways of praying that we use in the workshops. Everyone welcome.

**Rosary** Next week is the last Sunday of May, and so we will pray the Glorious Mysteries 20 minutes before Mass.

**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** Our Ladies' group for all the women of the parish meets again on Monday 10th June at 7pm at English Martyrs' Biddulph. New ladies always welcome!

**Men's Prayer Circle** The Men's Prayer Circle met for the first time this week. It is for men who have done the Prayer & Life Workshop. The next meeting is on Saturday 15th June at 9am.

**First Holy Communion** Please pray for the children preparing for First Holy Communion. We will be giving First Holy Communion at Mass on Sunday 9th June at 11am at St Joseph's (St John's children); on Sunday 23rd June at 9am at English Martyrs' (Our Lady of Grace children); and on Sunday 30th June at 11am at St Joseph's (St Joseph's children).

**Servers at Mass** From this Sunday, Fr Julian has decided to allow girls as well as boys to serve on the altar. If any girls wish to serve, they need to see Fr Julian. If we have a number of girls wanting to serve, we will have to have a staggered start, so that they can be trained adequately.

**New Deanery Website** The North Staffs Deanery has a new website: [northstaffordshire-catholicdeanery.org.uk/](http://northstaffordshire-catholicdeanery.org.uk/) You can find Mass times and links to parish websites and bulletins there, as well as information about Deanery events.

**Parish Representatives** Thanks to David Bailey and Lorraine Connell for agreeing to be the two represent-

atives for our Parish on the Area Pastoral Council. They will keep us in touch with events the APC are planning, and be able to feed information about our Parish to the APC in turn.

**Evening of Prayer for Vocations** You are invited to an evening of prayer and reflection to pray for vocations. It will be at St Thomas of Canterbury, Tean, on Tuesday 21st May at 7pm, led by Fr John Waters, Curate at Holy Trinity, Newcastle.

**St Margaret Ward Academy** Fr Julian will be celebrating the Mass for leavers this Friday, 24th May at 11.40am. This is for all students who are currently taking GCSE and A-level and other exams. Please keep the young people in your prayers. Also, Archbishop Bernard Longley is coming to celebrate the Mass of St Margaret Ward on Thursday 4th July at 11.30am

**Mass for the Year of Prayer** The Deanery Pastoral Council are organising a Mass for the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Holy Year on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Friday 7th June, at St Teresa's Trent Vale, at 7pm. All welcome.

**Biddulph Prayer Breakfast** Biddulph Churches Together (Christians Together is ST8) is joining forces with the Biddulph Town Council to put on a community Prayer Breakfast. It will be taking place at Biddulph Town Hall on Thursday 27th June from 7am to 9am. Cooked breakfast will be served, followed by a talk and a time of prayer for the town. Tickets (free of charge) will be available nearer the time. But please save the date!

**Open Café** As usual, this year, there will be the Open Café organised by the churches in Biddulph, as part of the Biddulph Festival. There will be coffee, tea and cake on each of the Saturdays of July, from 10am to 12noon at Biddulph Town Hall. Everyone is welcome!

**OLG Parish BBQ** We are going to hold our parish BBQ at St Joseph's Presbytery on Sunday 21st July, starting at 12.30pm. Please keep the

## OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Come and join us at one of our Care Home short services:

**At Maple Tree Court Kidsgrove** on Monday 10th June at 2.30pm. Please come and join us but please arrive at 2.20pm, meeting in reception, for a prompt start.

**At Lawton Rise Goldenhill** on Wednesday 19th June at 11am. 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 Welcoming Place at St Joseph's Goldenhill is on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon. Drop into St Joseph's Academy and meet with friends and have some light refreshments. Please note we won't be meeting on Tuesday 27th May, as it's half term.

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 28th May from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome!

date free, so we can have a time of enjoying each other's company, and a sausage and a burger too.

**Be Ready, With Zeal** You're invited to the Birmingham Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference, which takes place this year from Monday 12th to Friday 16th August at the Royal Court Hotel, Coventry. Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton, is the keynote speaker, with other speakers, times of praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, workshops as well as the daily celebration of Mass. For more information go to [www.bccrc.org.uk](http://www.bccrc.org.uk)

## OUR LADY OF GRACE PART 3



*In previous Parish Bulletins, we have learned about the history of the devotion to Our Lady of Grace. We have discovered the devotion to Our Lady of Ipswich whose image is now at Nettuno in Italy, and other images and devotions. Today we come to the best known image of Our Lady of Grace: the image from the Miraculous Medal. This is the image of Our Lady we see in each of our churches.*

It was almost midnight when St. Catherine Labouré was awakened by a soft voice, whispering, "Sister, sister, sister." Mysterious events led her to the chapel where the Blessed Mother appeared and sat down near the altar. St. Catherine knelt at her feet, rested her hands in Mary's lap, looked into her eyes, and had a heart-to-heart conversation with her. Later, St. Catherine would refer to that night as "the sweetest moment of my life."

Four months later, in November of 1830, Mary again appeared to St. Catherine at the Rue de Bac Chapel. This time, our Blessed Mother was standing on a globe, with dazzling rays of light streaming from her outstretched hands. Framing the apparition was an inscription: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." When Mary spoke to St. Catherine, she said "Have a medal struck upon this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck. Those who repeat this prayer with devotion will be, in a special manner, under the protection of the Mother of God. Graces will be abundantly bestowed

upon those who have confidence."

With approval of the Catholic Church, the first medals were made in 1832 and distributed in Paris. Only ten of the original medals are known to exist, and one of them is housed at the Miraculous Medal Shrine.

Almost immediately, the blessings that Mary promised showered down on those who wore her medal, and soon all of France was clamouring for what the people referred to as the "Miraculous Medal." Use of the Medal spread from country to country, and, at the time of St. Catherine's death in 1876, more than a billion medals had been made. Today, the Medal is still drawing down from God blessings for body and soul.

## PARISH GIVING

If you have a Standing Order for St John's or English Martyrs' we need you to make a new Standing Order. There is an envelope for you. Please follow the instructions to set up the new Standing Order with your bank, and don't forget to cancel the present one!

Could you revise your giving to be even more generous? You can contact your bank directly to increase the amount of your standing order, if you give in that way. You can also give through the card reader in church. Envelopes are also available to those who prefer to give in cash.

If you give by cash please consider a Standing Order.

If you pay income tax then you can Gift Aid. To Gift Aid your donations you need a Standing Order or numbered envelopes. If you no longer pay income tax, please contact Teresa in the parish office to stop your Gift Aid. You can still give by Standing Order—no need to cancel it!

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Lilly May Olivia Frost, who is being baptised, confirmed and will receive First Holy Communion at St Joseph's on Sunday 19th May.

And also to Chase James Kyler Fearn and Axel Jack Sammy Fearn who will be baptised at St Joseph's on Sunday 26th May.

### Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Mary (Moya) Smith. Requiem Mass at St Patrick's on Monday 20th May at 10.30am followed by committal at Audley cemetery. Reception on Sunday 19th at 5pm.

And for the soul of Peter Maksymiw. Funeral service at Bradwell crematorium on Thursday 23rd May at 3.20pm.

And for the soul of Stan Grandfield. Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Tuesday 4th June at 11.15am, followed by committal at Bradwell crematorium. Reception into Church on Monday 3rd June at 5.30pm.

And for the soul of Joan Sadler. Funeral arrangements later.

### Requiescant in Pace

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

The Parish Office is open at the other times advertised on the front of the bulletin. Please ring before dropping in to check the secretary is in.

**Open House** is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. There is no Open House on 27th May as it is a Bank Holiday.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

#### *Week beginning 19th May*

English Martyrs': Una Burke  
St Joseph's: Lorraine Brooks  
St Patrick's: John Martin

#### *Week beginning 26th May*

English Martyrs':

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's: Martin family

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

**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.