

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

We all start Lent with the best of intentions: with the idea of praying more, being more generous to others, and giving up some of the things that aren't really necessary in our lives. How is that going for you this Lent? It can be like a New Year's resolution that gets broken and then forgotten. Or we can make allowances and exceptions to what we have promised so that it never really gets done. It is time now, in the middle of Lent, to renew our resolution and to do those things which we need to do to be renewed in our relationship with God, with other people and balance our relationship with 'stuff'!

In Lent, we are called back to the grace of baptism. At the moment we left the font at our own baptism, we were as pure as it is possible to be. The sancti-

fying grace we received totally cleansed us of all sin. It doesn't take long for the cleanliness from sin to get dirtied. This is why we have Sacramental Confession to renew the state of grace within us. Now is the time to return to the Sacrament of Reconciliation! The Church asks us all to make our Confession at least once a year—though this is real minimum. If only we realised how much good for our soul is found in absolution. And yet so many Catholics never go to Confession at all. Why is this? I think there is a growing presumption that God doesn't really mind our sins, which we think of as little. We should realise that all sin injures our relationship with God, and all sin is like poison to our soul.

Over the coming weeks of Lent, there will be extra

times of availability of Confession. Please note these times on page 2 of the bulletin. We will also be having a joint parishes Penitential Service at Burslem in a couple of weeks time. Plan now to be able to get to Confession before Easter, so that we can all celebrate the Feast with hearts made pure and consciences cleansed.

Next Sunday we keep Laetare Sunday, or Mothering Sunday as we know it in England. Let's remember to pray for mothers and grandmothers—those still alive, and those who have departed this life. I will be thinking particularly of my own mother, as it will be the first Mothering Sunday without her with us. It would be great to see families coming together to Mass on Mothering Sunday and praying for a blessing on family life.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Maria de Mattias
1805-1866

Maria grew up very protected in a wealthy family. Her father took responsibility to teach her catechism and the Scriptures. As a teenager, she found herself in spiritual darkness. However, after invoking the help of Our Lady, Maria found a mystical insight into the love of

the crucified Jesus. Here she found the true source of change for society. Attending a mission preached by St Gaspar de Bufalo, and she was moved to seek the help of a spiritual director. Together they founded the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She always spoke about divine realities as someone who had seen them.

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 & Packmoor: Julie Shufflebotham & Lorraine Connell

(sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk)

Goldenhill: Jo Kirkham
(sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@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.partnershipparishes.org

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

234216

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) 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	
Saturday 2nd			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Tony Smith
Sunday 3rd Third Sunday of Lent	9.00am			Holy Mass	Karol Grolik, George & Barbara Connell
		11.00am		Holy Mass	Betty Smithson
Monday 4th Lent Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Jean Harding (Month's mind)
Tuesday 5th Lent Feria	8.30am 9.15am			<i>Adoration & Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Mary Jervis
			2.15pm	Stations of the Cross	
Wednesday 6th Lent Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Philip Jones
Thursday 7th Lent Feria	11.30am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) Stations of the Cross	People of the Parishes
		6.00pm		Holy Mass Heart to Heart	Jean Green
Friday 8th Lent Feria <i>Comm St John of God</i>		5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Mary McHale
Saturday 9th Lent Feria			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 10th Fourth Sunday of Lent	9.00am			Holy Mass	Eric Ball
		11.00am		Holy Mass	Patricia Convey
Monday 11th Lent Feria		6.30pm		Confirmation Mass	<i>Private Intention</i>
Tuesday 12th Lent Feria	6.30pm		2.15pm	Stations of the Cross Confirmation Mass	<i>Private Intention</i>
Wednesday 13th Lent Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Mary Jervis
Thursday 14th Lent Feria	11.30am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's School) Stations of the Cross	People of the Parishes
				Holy Mass	Kath & David Pooley
Friday 15th Lent Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Jean Green
Saturday 16th Lent Feria			4.45pm 5.30pm	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass of Sunday	Maureen Boggins
Sunday 17th Fifth Sunday of Lent	9.00am			Holy Mass	Frank & Nancy Beveridge
		11.00am		Holy Mass	John & Elizabeth Adams

Our Lady of Grace Ladies The first meeting of our new ladies group was a great success with women from across our church communities coming together for prayer and a social time together. The meetings are going to be monthly. The next one will be on Monday 4th March at St Joseph's Goldenhill (enter through the church's side door) at 7pm. All ladies welcome!

Lenten Alms As in previous years, we will have Lenten alms collections throughout the season of Lent, at the end of each Sunday Mass. Thanks for the Lenten alms given so far: LEpra £184 and CAFOD £544. We will be supporting the following charities on the other weeks:

3rd March Poor Parishes Fund

10th March Number 11

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

24th March Holy Places

Lent Food Drive Because of increased demand, the Food Bank are in desperate need of the usual tinned food and dry goods. Please try to remember to bring two items to Mass each Sunday for the Food Bank. We did really well for the first week of Lent bringing in over 100 kilos of food. Keep it up!

Choir for Holy Week Each year we bring together a choir from all our churches to lead the singing at the great Holy Week liturgies. If you would like to take part, please come to the practices at St Joseph's on Wednesdays 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. A plenary indulgence can be gained through participating in the Mass, together with Sacramental Confession (within two weeks), Holy Communion and praying for the Pope's intentions.

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 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 New collection envelopes will be available to collect from church next week. Numbered envelopes are for parishioners who gift aid their donation and will have names on. If your box of envelopes is not at the church where you normally attend Mass please contact the parish office. There are unnumbered envelopes for parishioners who do not gift aid their donation.

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.

Mass requests and sanctuary lamps If you wish to request a Mass for a particular intention, and you have a particular date in mind, please ensure you get your request in a few months in advance. The Saturday evening and Sunday Masses are very popular for Mass intention requests and are often booked up a number of weeks in advance. Please also note that we are down to very few remaining sanctuary lamp dedications. Please also consider dedicating a sanctuary lamp for the intentions of loved ones. The minimum donation for a Mass is £10 and £5 for a sanctuary lamp.

North Staffs Vocations Mass The annual Mass to pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life will take place at St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Trent Vale, on Tuesday 12th March at 6pm. The celebrant

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

Our next Care Home service will be at **Maple Tree Court, Gloucester Road** on Monday 11th March from 2.30pm to 3pm. Please come along and join with the residents. If you are coming please arrive at about 2.20pm.

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.

The Welcoming Space 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.

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!

will be the new Parish Priest, Fr Simon Hall. The Mass is supported by the sponsoring school, St Joseph's College. All are invited to the Mass.

Pause for Prayer Fr Toby Duckworth has prepared weekly videos during Lent to help us to focus on the Year of Prayer. You can watch the latest video, which is on the Our Father, featuring Fr Marco Egawhary and Rev Robert Mountford, who will speak on the Our Father in the Mass, and the Our Father as a prayer of unity. See the video at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/News/pause-for-prayer-monthly-reflections-launched

PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER



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

24th to 27th March

Time: 7pm to 8:30pm

JOINT PARISHES PENITENTIAL SERVICE

As we did in Advent, we are having a joint Penitential Service with the other parishes in the north of the North Staffs Deanery during Lent.

You are invited to come to our Penitential Service at St Joseph's Burslem on Thursday 14th March at 6.30pm.

There will be priests available for individual confessions.

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 too.

You are also invited to come and share lunch together in The Bradley Green (Wetherspoons pub) after the end of the Stations.

Here is a list of the liturgies and devotions that you are invited to take part in during Holy Week this year.

Saturday 23rd March

5.30pm Mass of Palm Sunday with Blessing of Palms at St Patrick's

Palm Sunday 24th March

9am Mass with Blessing of Palms at English Martyrs'

11am Mass with Blessing of Palms and procession at St Joseph's

7pm First Evening of Holy Week retreat at St Patrick's

Monday 25th March

6pm Mass and Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's followed by

7pm Second Evening of Holy Week retreat at St Patrick's

Tuesday 26th March

6pm Mass and Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's

7pm Third Evening of Holy Week retreat at St Patrick's

Wednesday 27th March

6pm Mass and Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's

7pm Fourth & final Evening of Holy Week retreat at St Patrick's

Maundy Thursday 28th March

11.30am Public Stations on the Cross in Biddulph Town Centre

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at English Martyrs' & watching at the Altar of Repose

10pm Gethsemane Holy Hour

Good Friday 29th March

12noon Stations of the Cross for families at St Joseph's

3pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion at St Joseph's

6pm Liturgy of the Passion at English Martyrs'

Holy Saturday 30th March

7.30pm Easter Vigil Mass at St Joseph's

Easter Sunday 31st March

9am Holy Mass at English Martyrs'

11am Holy Mass at St Joseph's

Please note there is no Mass for Easter Sunday at St Patrick's this year.

Please look on the next bulletin for full details of times for Confession, and other times of prayer.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Aurora Eardley Cantor, who is to be baptised at St Joseph's on Sunday.

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the times advertised on the front of the bulletin. Please call before visiting.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. There will be Open House on Monday 4th March at 6.30pm but not on 11th March.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 3rd March

St Joseph's: Betty Smithson

Week beginning 10th March

St Joseph's: Jean Green

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.