

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

SUNDAY BULLETIN

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Today is the Nativity, or Birthday, of Our Blessed Lady. We don't celebrate the Mass today, as the Sunday takes precedence, but we can still keep it as a day in which we honour Our Lady and celebrate her birth. Back in July, we celebrated the feast of St Joachim and St Anne, and kept the day of prayer for grandparents. We all know, however, that all grandparents start out as parents. It is the love that St Joachim and St Anne had

for their daughter Mary that 'formed' her in love, so that she could become the Blessed Mother of our Saviour.

Today is also the weekend of the new school term, and of our new 'pastoral' year. It is a time for starting everything up again after the summer break. You will see that, over the summer, I have been planning a couple of things: the spiritual plan for the Jubilee Year and the formation of our new Parish Forum.

You will hear more about these over the coming weeks. I really hope that you will all take part in the spiritual preparation for the Holy Year. I also hope that all the parish groups and ministries will start thinking about who will represent them in the new parish forum.

This year I will also be celebrating more Masses at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy. As well as the 'year group' Masses I've celebrated last year, I will be celebrating a bi-weekly early morning voluntary Mass in school.

And so it is good to be back from holiday and ready to get things up and running again. I hope that you too are enthusiastic to make Our Lady of Grace parish a community responding to the call of God to be the Church in our corner of North Staffs.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Lidwina 1380-1433

St Lidwina was a Dutch lay woman who belonged to a large poor family, made up mostly of boys. She made a vow of virginity in her teens. After a skating injury she became bedridden and suffered greatly. Helped by a priest, she was reconciled with her disability through meditation on

the Passion and became a 'victim soul' offering herself, through her frequent Communion, for the good of souls. As her infirmity grew, so did her mysticism and she had many strange experiences. Many came to her for healing and advice. When she died, her body became beautiful and became a popular intercessor for souls.

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 Parish of Our Lady of Grace 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)

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.partnershipparishes.org
The Parish is 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 English Martyrs' Sun before Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass <i>At other times on request</i>	
Saturday 7th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Denis & Bridget Culhane
Sunday 8th Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	O'Sullivan family Tom Bailey
Monday 9th St Peter Claver		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
Tuesday 10th Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Mary Jervis
Wednesday 11th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Graham Charles Keates
Thursday 12th Most Holy Name of Mary	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (School) Holy Mass	People of the Parish Mary Child
Friday 13th St John Chrysostom		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Peter Harding
Saturday 14th Exaltation of the Cross			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Kath & Brian Wakefield
Sunday 15th Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>Evangelii Gaudium Sunday</i>	9.00am 4.30pm	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass Eucharistic Holy Hour	Bill Adams Thanksgiving (Yolanda & Roy Barley 25th Wedding)
Monday 16th Ss Cornelius & Cyprian		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Dec of Maughan family
Tuesday 17th St Hildegard of Bingen	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Thanksgiving
Wednesday 18th Feria					
Thursday 19th Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (School) Holy Mass	Jean Green Mary Child
Friday 20th The Korean Martyrs		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Andrea Killeen
Saturday 21st St Matthew			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 22nd Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Dec of Child family Veronica Williams

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday is the name given to the Sunday each year when the Holy Father calls on us to be reminded of the Mission of the whole Church to make disciples of all nations. It is named after the document of Pope St Paul VI on evangelization from 1975. On this weekend, this year, there is a **National Eucharistic Congress** taking place at Oscott College. This is an event with limited participation. Our Parish participation will be through the normal Friday Holy Hour at St Joseph's on Friday evening, and also an additional Holy Hour at English Martyrs' on Sunday afternoon at 4.30pm.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at St Joseph's on Monday, 9th September at St Joseph's Church at 7pm. All ladies welcome!

Men's Prayer Circle The Circle is for men who have done the Prayer & Life Workshop. After a couple of cancelled meetings, it's time to get back up and running. The next meeting is on Saturday 5th October, 9am.

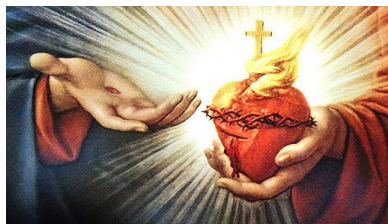
Vatican II Talk The next in the series of talks on the major documents of Vatican II, in preparation for the Jubilee Year, is going to be given by Fr Julian Green on the Constitution on the Church "Lumen Gentium". It takes place on Friday 13th September at 7pm at Our Lady & St Benedict's Church in Abbey Hulton. The talk is preceded by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6pm. Tea & coffee will be provided.

Our Lady of Walsingham Feast This year we will be celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham on 24th September as a full liturgical Feast day. The North Staffs Walsingham Association would like to invite you to come and celebrate the Feast Day. There will be Mass celebrated by the Association's chaplain, Fr Julian Green, at Sacred Heart, Tunstall, on Tuesday 24th September at 7pm. It is a good opportunity to find out more about the Association.



The **Alpha Course** is a basic course in Christianity, aimed at new enquirers, people with questions, as well as people who see themselves as Christian already. We are offering it this autumn as a 'twilight' session. They will be taking place at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy on Thursdays from 4pm to 5.30pm, from 26th September to 5th December (except half term). We begin always with afternoon tea. This course is being put on by our parishioners, and the invitation is to everyone in our schools and parishes.

JUBILEE YEAR CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS



The Year 2025 is the Great Year of Jubilee in the Church. These Jubilee Years happen every 25 years in commemoration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. This year we are keeping a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year.

The essence of the Jubilee is returning to Jesus Christ. Every one of us is called to return to Jesus in faith, and in consecration of our lives. It is a call for those who are firm in faith, as well as for those who are lax, or neglectful, or who have turned their back on Christ and his Church.

As Catholics, we return to Christ through penitence and prayer, through the Sacraments and a life of charity, shaped by the image of Christ being formed within us.

The image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the greatest icon of his love and mercy, and of our consecration to Him in faith. The visions and promises made to St Margaret Mary are given again to us in our age.


Many will be aware of the practice of the nine First Fridays. This is a way of renewing the practice of a well-prepared for Holy Communion, through Confession of our sins, and a way of preparing to consecrate ourselves to Jesus.

Fr Julian is calling on everyone in Our Lady of Grace parish to join in celebrating the nine First Fridays, beginning in October and ending in June 2025 during the Jubilee Year. There will then be a novena of the Sacred Heart preparing for the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart on Friday 27th June when everyone is invited to consecrate themselves and our parish to Jesus' Sacred Heart.

OUTREACH TO CARE HOMES

There is just one Care Home prayer service arranged for this month. It will be at Lawton Rise on Wednesday 18th September starting at 11am. Please come along and arrive a little early for a prompt start.

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Place is up and running again this week. It is an opportunity for anyone from our community to come together for a refreshments and a chat. We meet on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon in the after school club at St Joseph's Catholic Academy on Mobberley Road. Everyone welcome!

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 24th September from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome! £3 to attend.

Mass of preparation for the Jubilee The Area Pastoral Council has organised a Mass to prepare for the Jubilee Year at Our Lady & St Werburgh's, Clayton on Tuesday 24th September at 7.15pm

Pro-Life Group A new pro-life group is being established based at St Mary's Parish in Crewe. They are inviting anyone who wants to be part of the group to come to a meeting on Wednesday 11th September, 7 to 8pm at St Mary's Presbytery. For more information, please contact Louise Kirk on 07969 680519

Mum's Retreat Morning St Teresa's Parish, Trent Vale, invite all mums to a retreat morning at St Teresa's Church on Saturday 12th October, 9.30am to 11.30am. Babies in arms welcome. Toys will be made available. Please contact Esther (estherjfcorrigan@gmail.com or 07875 601619) for more information.

PARISH DIARY

Here are some dates for the Diary for the rest of the year:

4th October First Friday Devotion at St Joseph's 5pm

6th October Healing Service at St Patrick's 4.30pm

7th October Parish Forum Planning meeting at St Patrick's 7.30pm

1st November All Saints' Day (Holy Day) First Friday Devotion at St Joseph's

17th November First Meeting of Our Lady of Grace Parish Forum at St Patrick's 4.30pm

6th December First Friday Devotion at St Joseph's at 5pm

7th December Parish Fayre at St Joseph's Academy Goldenhill

20th December Advent Penitential Service (Venue & Time TBA)

22nd December Christmas Carol Service at English Martyrs' 4.30pm

24th December Christmas Eve Masses for Christmas 4.30pm St Joseph's; 7.00pm English Martyrs'

25th December Christmas Day Masses 9am St Patrick's; 11am St Joseph's

This list is just an indication of the things that will be happening. More details nearer the time for each event and additional events will be organised too. Details and dates may also change.

PARISH FORUM

During the next couple of months, the Synod of Bishops will be meeting to continue their discussions about the future direction of the Catholic Church throughout the world. You'll remember your contribution to this, with the meetings which happened a couple of years ago. In a letter to the Archdiocese earlier this year, His Grace the Archbishop asked that every parish should have a 'Parish Council' so that the collegial approach should be at the heart of our parishes too.

This autumn we are going to go ahead and bring together a parish forum. It will not be a 'Council' with elected members, in the way these things worked in the past. The idea is not to become a democracy: a parish is always led by a priest. But, a priest needs support, help and the benefit of different views. And so the forum is to help us to work together to discover what God desires for us.

There will be planning meeting in early October to formulate what the forum should do, how often it should meet, and all the nitty-gritty. Then the first meeting will be on Sunday 17th November in the afternoon. Although parish groups will be represented, everyone is welcome to come to all or any of its meetings.

PARISH GIVING

Thank you to everyone who responded positively to our appeal in the spring to move Standing Orders over to the new Parish Bank Account. Thanks especially to those who accepted the invitation to look again at the amount they give. There were some who were very generous in the revised amounts they now give.

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. 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

If you pay personal Income Tax, you can also Gift Aid your donations. Please contact Teresa in the Parish Office. You can also make a donation on your smartphone using this QR



code. This can also be done on the parish website.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Katana Winifred Evans, who is being baptised at St Joseph's next Sunday.

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Fr Peter Blundell (former Parish Priest of St John's, Kidsgrove 1986-1988).

And also for the soul of Bernadette Mary McGough. Requiem Mass will be on Friday 25th October at St Joseph's followed by committal at Tunstall cemetery.

And also for the soul of Stephen

Boulton. Funeral service on Thursday 3rd October at Bradwell Crematorium.

Please also pray for the soul of Ron Whalley, husband of the late Margaret Whalley.

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.

Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. It now takes place on Saturday mornings from 11am to 12noon.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 8th September

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

St Joseph's: John Martin

St Patrick's: Pat Killeen & family

Week beginning 15th September

English Martyrs': Vera's birthday

St Joseph's: Robert Johnson

St Patrick's: John Martin

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

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.