

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

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2024

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Today, the Lord, in the Gospel, calls us to be aware of the signs of the times around us. Currently, one of the signs of the times is the constant war of attrition happening in Britain where the sanctity and dignity of human life is being whittled away. We have witnessed in the past fifty-six years moves to control fertility, the legalisation and growth of abortion, and the legalisation of research on human embryos. Now we see the attack on the other end of life—the end of life—where there are those who wish to see the legalisation of assisted suicide who are now upping their political pressure. For the past few months we have seen the Daily Express, echoing the words of Esther Rantzen, calling for the legalisation of the means to end life voluntarily.

Let us not be under any illusions. The legalisation of assisted suicide (rarely referred to as that, but rather as assisted dying) is popular. There is a clear majority of people in our country in favour of it. The stories of people who want to end their life because of heart-rending terminal disease are never-ending in the media. And many people are fearful of having to live through such a situation before death. However, we must be clear. If assisted dying is legalised, with all the checks and balances in the proposed law, it will be very little time before those checks and balances are compromised, then relaxed, and finally we will be in the situation of the low countries, where assisted dying has become the most common form of death. In those countries this has

brought about the growth in ‘professionals’ who have made killing people by lethal injection, at their own request, a normal every day reality. And in this situation, assisted dying goes from being an exception in cases of real pain to an expectation laid upon the terminally ill, so save themselves from pain, the state from the cost of treating them, and their families from the burden of looking after them.

It is a heartless society which expects its people to embrace death willingly, motivated by the fear of facing death alone, or being an unwanted burden. For this reason, we should recognise this sign of the times in which we live. We should embrace sickness and natural death as the God-given way, which proclaims the goodness and sanctity of God’s gift of life

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



**St Roque González y  
de Santa Cruz**  
1576–1628

One of the earliest Latin American saints beatified, Roque was born in Paraguay. He became a Jesuit and was ordained a priest. He was attracted to work with the indigenous people of the country, and was part of the movement to build Christian communes

for their welfare and religious instruction. He worked in one of these communes for 20 years before founding a new one in the depth of territory unknown to westerners. Here he and his two companions attracted the anger of a ‘medicine man’. He sent men to kill the Jesuits, which they did, and burnt down the wooden church.

### 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](mailto:fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk)

### Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding  
Tel: (01782) 782121  
[OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](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.ourladyofgraceparish.org](http://www.ourladyofgraceparish.org)  
The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity no. 234216

## LITURGY &amp; DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	<b>Biddulph</b>	<b>Goldenhill</b>	<b>Packmoor</b>	<b>Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions)</b> <b>St Joseph's</b> Sun before Mass; Friday evening at 5pm <b>English Martyrs'</b> Sun before Mass <b>St Patrick's</b> Sat before Mass <i>At other times on request</i>	
<b>Saturday 16th</b>			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Sarah Holmes & family
<b>Sunday 17th</b> <b>Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.10am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parish & November List Michael Joseph Dymnicki
<b>Monday 18th</b> Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	November List
<b>Tuesday 19th</b> Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	November List
<b>Wednesday 20th</b> Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	November List
<b>Thursday 21st</b> Presentation of Our Lady	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) Holy Mass	November List Mary Child
<b>Friday 22nd</b> St Cecilia		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	November List
<b>Saturday 23rd</b> Our Lady		8.30am	5.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	November List Lydia Davies
<b>Sunday 24th</b> <b>CHRIST THE KING</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Deceased of Schiavione family People of the Parish & November List
<b>Monday 25th</b> St Catherine of Alexandria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	November List
<b>Tuesday 26th</b> Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	November List
<b>Wednesday 27th</b> Feria				<i>Private Mass</i>	November List
<b>Thursday 28th</b> Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's School) Holy Mass	November List Jean Green
<b>Friday 29th</b> Feria		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	November List Maura Palmer
<b>Saturday 30th</b> <b>St Andrew</b>		8.30am	5.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	November List Int Brenda Crotty
<b>Sunday 1st</b> <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	9.00am	11.10am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Bill Adams Bailey & Plant families

**New Lectionaries** The new lectionaries are being blessed at Mass this Sunday and will begin to be used, on Sundays, from the First Sunday of Advent and, on weekdays, straightaway. Many thanks to those who donated the lectionaries to the parish.

**Training for Readers** The new lectionary provides an opportunity to update readers and to go through a few changes. Please would all current readers, and anyone who wishes to read in the future, come to a meeting at English Martyrs' on Thursday 28th November at 7pm or alternatively at St Joseph's Goldenhill on Friday 29th November at 6.30pm.

**Walk With Me** Please take with you the Walk With Me booklets and calendar for Advent. There are enough for one each, and also to take one for someone else who you would like to share one with.

**Raffle Tickets** We will be having the first Christmas fayre for our new united parish taking place on Saturday 7th December. Throughout November, we are selling raffle tickets at each Saturday and Sunday Mass to prepare for the fayre.

**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at St Joseph's on Monday, 2nd December (note change of Monday to first of the month) 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. The next meeting is on Saturday 30th November, 9am to 10.30am. There will be no meeting in December.

**Care Home Service** The next service at Lawton Rise Care Home will be on Wednesday 20th November starting at 11am. Everyone welcome to come and join the residents. Please meet outside in good time.

**Parish Forum** Thanks to everyone who came to the preparatory meeting of the Parish Forum two weeks ago. We have changed the date of the first meeting of the Forum, as a weekday evening was preferred to a Sunday afternoon as proposed. So the first

meeting will be on Monday 18th November at 7.30pm at St Patrick's. We have a basic constitution approved, and this will be uploaded to the parish web page, and available in church.

**Foodbank Appeal** It's coming up to Christmas and the Foodbank would like to collect Christmas related goodies to make up Festive bags that are extra to the normal allocation food parcels. We need to get items in during November so that we can make the bags up & start to give them out at the beginning of December. We used to make up a dozen hampers but had difficulty deciding who to give them to. We decided to give every visitor a bag of goodies instead. Items such as mince pies, puddings of different sizes, tins or cartons of ready made custard, trifle mixes, Chocolate biscuits & chocolate santas etc. Anything that would be considered a treat would be good. Please bring these items to church any time this month.

**Vocations Promotion Group** The North Staffs Vocations Promotions Group was established in 1989 and is the only such group in the Diocese which has been running continually since that time. We continue to support the work of the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese. Our main focus is to pray and encourage others to pray for Vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Every couple of months or so we try to organise a Holy Hour in our Deanery, we support the annual Mass for Vocations and try our best to provide other initiatives. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday November 19th, at St Teresa's Trent Vale, starting at 7.30pm. All welcome.

**All Parish Volunteers** The parish safeguarding reps are in the process of updating parish volunteer records to comply with new diocesan guidelines. To support this, please could we need all volunteers who have not already been asked to do so, to complete and return the volunteer registration forms which are available on the way into church. This form is for all volunteers: stewards, cleaners,

## HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Place meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon in the after school club at St Joseph's Catholic Academy on Mobberley Road. It is an opportunity for anyone from our community to come together for a refreshments and a chat.

The Welcome Space initiative is now up and running over the autumn and winter at English Martyrs' too. It is on Wednesdays, from 11am to 2pm, there will be tea and coffee, soup, sandwiches and dessert. 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 26th November from **1.30 to 3.30pm** (note change of time). Everyone welcome! £3 to attend.

flower arrangers, gardeners, etc. The diocese offers basic safeguarding training for all volunteers, which is available at this link: <https://training.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/> If you have any concerns, please contact the safeguarding representative for your church on the emails stated on the newsletter or in person at Mass.

**Assisted Dying Bill** Please take a copy of the leaflet regarding the Bill and either write a letter, or send the 'postcard' to your MP. Please remember to send it to the MP of the constituency in which you live. For Stoke North, Kidsgrove and Talke this is David Williams. For the Staffordshire Moorlands it is Karen Bradley. The address is simply 'House of Commons, Houses of Parliament, LONDON SW1A 0AA.

**Advent Penitential Service** The Penitential Service for our Parish together with Tunstall, Burslem and Norton will take place at St Joseph's Goldenhill on Friday 20th December. There will be a selection of priests available to hear confessions that night.

*The Parish of Our Lady of Grace,  
Kidsgrove, Biddulph and Goldenhill*

# Christmas Fayre Saturday 7th December 12noon - 3pm

**At St. Joseph's,  
Catholic Academy School,  
Mobberley Rd, Goldenhill, ST6 5RN**

**Free Admission,  
Many Quality Stalls,  
Santa, Choir, Raffle and  
Refreshments**

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Registered Charity No. 234216

## PARISH FORUM

On Monday evening, 18th November, we will be having the first meeting of the Our Lady of Grace Parish Forum. It is taking place at **St Joseph's Church Goldenhill** (not St Patrick's as stated previously) at 7.30pm. Every member of our Parish is welcome to come to the meeting. As well as individual members of the parish, we will have representation of all the groups from the Parish. They will be invited to give a brief account of how their groups are doing. There will be time to open up other matters under Any Other Business, but please notify Fr Julian of these matters in advance (fr.julian.green@racob.org.uk) or call the parish office.

The agenda is as follows:

- Minutes of the Planning Meeting & Matters arising
- The nomination of the Chair and Secretary
- Fr Julian's address
- Report of the Finance & Buildings committee
- Reports from Parish Groups represented
- Parish 'brochure'
- Ministry to the Sick and Housebound
- Building up our Community in Faith
- Fundraising and social events
- Any Other Business (notified in advance)
- Business suggestions for next meeting(s)
- Setting dates and venues for future meetings

## PARISH GIVING

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.



**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. 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.

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Death

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Patricia Sherratt. Funeral service will be at Carmountside Crematorium on Monday 18th November.

And also for the soul of Terence Robinson. Funeral service will be at Carmountside Crematorium on Friday 22nd November.

*Requiescant in Pace*

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

The Parish Office is open at the 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. There will be no Open House on Saturday 23rd November.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

**Week beginning 17th November**

St Joseph's: Christine Llewelyn

St Patrick's: John Martin

**Week beginning 24th November**

St Joseph's: Maureen & Michael Meaney

St Patrick's: Max Cooper

*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 church*