

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

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

I am away this weekend, as I am in Valladolid in Spain at the English College, where I did my training for the priesthood. Saturday is the Feast of Our Lady Vulnerata, the Patroness of the Seminary, being the name of an image of Our Lady which is 'wounded' - hacked about and dragged through the streets of Seville—by English Protestant sailors in the late sixteenth century. The image was brought to the English College so that the seminarians could make acts of reparation for the offence given to Our Lady, and for the way in which England and Wales had turned their backs on the Faith of our Fathers. As the Honorary Secretary of the Old Boys' Association, I will be representing the alumni of the College at the Feast Day.

We are getting very close

to the beginning of the Jubilee Year. It is almost upon us! The Holy Father will open the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve marking the beginning of the Jubilee which extends to Epiphany 2026.

During this Jubilee Year, we should make every effort to place Jesus Christ at the centre of our lives. That begins with the life of the Church itself. I have already invited you to prepare to make a consecration—both personal and of the Parish—to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Feast Day in June. Please consider starting to make the nine first Fridays—it's never too late! You can start on the first Friday of January.

Another initiative which I have had the inspiration for, and which has been accepted by the Archbish-

op, Auxiliary Bishop, the Dean and the local clergy, is to have a Eucharistic Congress for North Staffs. I am hoping that other deaneries in Staffordshire will join us too. It will be taking place from Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th July. A Eucharistic Congress is a moment in the life of the Church when we stop in order to deepen our knowledge and faith in Jesus, present in the Eucharist, and to celebrate and adore. I will give you more details about it in January. There will be an Opening Mass celebrated by the Archbishop, a day for schools, and a day for parishioners ending with Mass and a Eucharistic Procession. It will take place at Sacred Heart Tunstall, and St Margaret Ward. It will take quite some work, and so I shall look to parishioners to help and support!

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### St Maria di Rosa 1813-1855

Daughter of a wealthy industrialist and convent-educated, Maria became manager in a cotton spinning mill at 19. She noticed the poor state of many of the female workers and became determined to help them. For the next 10 years, she remained at home getting involved in

social work. In response to a cholera epidemic, Maria began gathering a group of women who were to care for the sick and poor. These she called the Handmaids of Charity, eventually becoming a religious order. She once said "I suffer from seeing suffering", and this motivated her throughout the rest of her short life.

### 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 Archdiocesan 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

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	<b>Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions)</b> St Joseph's Sun before Mass; Friday evening at 5pm English Martyrs' Sun before Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass <i>At other times on request</i>	
<b>Saturday 14th</b>			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Dec of Moran & Norton families
<b>Sunday 15th</b> <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <i>(Gaudete Sunday)</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Barbara & George Connell & Karol Grolik Robert Johnson
<b>Monday 16th</b> Feria of Advent					
<b>Tuesday 17th</b> Feria of Advent <i>O Sapientia</i>	8.55am 9.15am			<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Mary & Mick Clifford
<b>Wednesday 18th</b> Feria of Advent <i>O Adonai</i>		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Special Intention (MH)
<b>Thursday 19th</b> Feria of Advent <i>O Radix Jesse</i>	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (In Church) Holy Mass	Fr Anthony Davies Dec of Child family
<b>Friday 20th</b> Feria of Advent <i>O Clavis David</i>		9.30am 5.45pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		Holy Mass (St John's School) <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass <b>Penitential Service &amp; Advent Holy Hour</b>	People of the Parish Joe Malkin
<b>Saturday 21st</b> Feria of Advent <i>O Oriens</i>		7.15am	5.30pm	<b>Rorate Mass</b> Holy Mass of Sunday	Kate & Des MacNamara John Martin
<b>Sunday 22nd</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <i>O Rex Gentium</i>	9.00am 4.00pm	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass <b>Carol Service</b>	Mary Jervis, Helena & Cyril Jeffries Stan Grandfield
<b>Monday 23rd</b> Feria of Advent <i>O Emmanuel</i>		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Special Intention (MH)
<b>Tuesday 24th</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	6.30pm	4.30pm		<b>Vigil Mass of Christmas</b> <b>Night Mass of Christmas</b>	Frank & Betty Smithson Stan Grandfield
<b>Wednesday 25th</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> <i>Holy Day of Obligation</i>		12.00am 11.00am	9.00am	<b>Midnight Mass</b> <b>Dawn Mass of Christmas</b> <b>Day Mass of Christmas</b>	People of the Parish Connor Young Winifred Maughan
<b>Thursday 26th</b> <b>St Stephen, Martyr</b>		11.30am		<b>Servers' Mass</b>	Karol Grolik, George & Barbara Connell
<b>Friday 27th</b> <b>St John the Evangelist</b>	10.00am			Holy Mass	Maria Williams & Hogan family
<b>Saturday 28th</b> Holy Innocents		10.00am	5.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Bill & Mary Whitehouse
<b>Sunday 29th</b> <b>Feast of the Holy Family</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Flatley Joan Sadler

**Thank you to everyone** who helped to put on our Parish Christmas Fayre. Lots of work of preparation went in, especially by our ladies' group. Thanks also to St Joseph's Academy for supporting and hosting the event. In spite of terrible weather it was a good turnout, and we raised £1800 for parish funds. Thanks to all!

**Compassion Kitchen** Thanks to everyone for their generosity in supporting the sisters in Hanley who run the Compassion Kitchen. We raised £600 for their work with the homeless, which we have sent on to the sisters. They are very happy and grateful for our help.

**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at St Joseph's on Monday, 13th January at 7pm. All ladies welcome, especially new members!

**Foodbank** Thanks to everyone for the Christmas goodies given during November. We have been able to make up 40 bags of Christmas treats for families in need. Thanks also for all the support during the past year.

**Men's Prayer Circle** The Circle is for men who have done the Prayer & Life Workshop. The next meeting is on Saturday 4th January, 9am to 10.30am.

**Care Home Service** The next service at Lawton Rise Care Home will be on Wednesday 18th December starting at 11am. Everyone welcome to come and join the residents. Please meet outside in good time.

**Parish Forum** The postponed first meeting of the new Parish Forum will now take place on Monday 20th January at 7pm at St Joseph's. Please make a note of the date. All parish groups are invited to send a representative and all members of the parish are invited to attend.

**Safeguarding & Health & Safety** Please ensure that children remain safe at all times around our churches. Would all parents and guardians observe the following norms. 1. Children should be accompanied at all times around the church property. They should be accompanied if they

go to the toilet (this is especially true at English Martyrs' and St Patrick's where the toilets are at the back of church, and not observable from the body of the church. 2. Please also ensure that children do not run around in church at any time, either during Mass or afterwards. There are a lot of things they can collide with, such as votive candle stands, hot radiators, pews... 3. Please ensure that children are properly supervised lighting votive candles. Everyone should use the tapers provided and not light one candle from another. Do not reach across lighted candles to place a candle on the stand. Remember that most coats etc are made of highly flammable materials.

**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.

**Rorate Mass** It is traditional in some countries of Europe to have a Rorate Mass on Saturdays in Advent. It is a Mass of Our Lady, celebrated by candlelight before sunrise, to end as the sun rises. It shows how Our Lady is the herald of the new dawn of our salvation. We will celebrate a Rorate Mass on Saturday 21st December at 7.15am at St Joseph's followed by breakfast. A great way to honour Our Lady of Grace!

**Carol Service** Please invite all family and friends to our Parish carol service which will take place at English Martyrs' on Sunday 22nd December at 4pm. We will have refreshments with mince pies after the service.

**Servers' Mass** Please would all servers' make every effort to attend the Servers' Mass on St Stephen's Day, 26th December, at 11.30am at St Joseph's. If you usually serve at English Martyrs' or St Patrick's, please bring your cassock and cotta. New servers will be admitted to the Guild of St Stephen, and we will award silver medals to those who qualify.

## 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. This week the meeting is at Middleport Pottery, then we are on holiday until Tuesday 14th January.

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. It is on Christmas holiday now, but returns on 8th January. Everyone welcome!

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The club does not meet in December so the next meeting is on Tuesday 28th January from 1.30 to 3.30pm. Everyone welcome! £3 to attend.

## CHRISTMAS WITH OUR LADY OF GRACE

### Friday 20th December

6.00pm Penitential Mass & Service at St Joseph's

### Saturday 21st December

7.15am Rorate Mass at St Joseph's

### Sunday 22nd December

4pm Carol Service at English Martyrs'

### Christmas Eve

4.30pm Vigil Mass at St Joseph's

6.30pm Night Mass at English Martyrs'

### Christmas Day

12midnight Midnight Mass at St Joseph's

9.00am Dawn Mass at St Patrick's

11.00am Day Mass at St Joseph's

### St Stephen's Day

11.30am Servers' Mass at St Joseph's

## MARY'S MEALS "BIG FAMILY CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL 2024

Once again this year, for the thirteenth year running, we are making our Christmas Crib offering appeal for Mary's Meals. As you are probably already aware, Mary's Meals offers children in the developing world a daily meal on school days, in school, to ensure that they not only receive nourishing food, but also an education. It is raising the level of development in all the places where it is set up. It uses locally grown food, and local volunteers to make it a community project which is sustainable. But it uses funds which we supply. The initiative and charity are inspired by the love and prayers of Our Lady of Medjugorje, who is patroness of the charity. Mary's Meals is now providing daily food for 2.5 million children each day.

We ask our parishioners and visitors to consider supporting the Appeal by providing Mary's meals for a child during the coming year. Because of matched funding your donation of £19.15 (let's call it £20) will feed two children for the coming year! If you are an income tax payer, please also fill in the Gift Aid form, to increase your donation by 25 per cent. God reward your generosity!



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.



The North Staffs Walsingham Association

## Walsingham Pilgrimage 2025

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> – Mon 25<sup>th</sup> August  
Bank Holiday weekend

*This is a great opportunity for you, your family and friends to make a special Jubilee Year pilgrimage to Walsingham in the footsteps of kings, saints, and holy people of times gone by to deepen your faith and reliance on our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**The pilgrimage includes** coach travel, 2 nights' dinner, bed & breakfast in Elmham House and one packed lunch.

A programme of liturgical, devotional and social activities will make a special weekend in Walsingham.

**The cost for adults** will not exceed £227 (standard room) or £265 (ensuite room).

**Special offer for pilgrims under 16:** travel, food and accommodation will all be half price!

For more information/ booking details, contact Mary Shirley asap:

07910 605984 or [maryroseshirley@gmail.com](mailto:maryroseshirley@gmail.com)

**Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025** The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be from Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. If you would like to get more information or to register your interest in taking part, please go to this page on the Diocesan website: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

**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

### Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Tobechukwu and Sommachukwu Emeka Nnajiolor, who were baptized at St Joseph's on 8th December.

### Death

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Stephen Evans. Funeral Service at St Joseph's on Wednesday 18th December at 2.00pm. Private committal. *Requiescat in Pace*

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

The Parish Office is open throughout this week but closed during the Christmas period.

**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 28th December.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

*Week beginning 15th December*

St Joseph's: Joe & Jane McGough  
English Martyrs': John, Mary & Lynne Hunter

St Patrick's: Morvyth Escombe

*Week beginning 22nd December*

St Joseph's: Smithson family  
English Martyrs': Mary Jervis  
St Patrick's: John Martin

*If you wish to dedicate one of the lamps for a particular intention, the minimum donation is £5*