

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



SUNDAY BULLETIN

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2024

NOTICES

Thank you for your support for the Parish over Christmas. We had a good attendance at all of our Masses and Services. Thanks also for your generosity in the Christmas offering. Fr Julian would like to reiterate the thanks he gave to all parishioners for the support they have given to him throughout 2024. Fr Julian wishes all parishioners a Happy New Year.

New Year The best way to start the New Year is by consecrating it to the Lord by coming to Holy Mass. We have Mass at both English Martyrs' (10am) and St Joseph's (11.30am) on New Year's Day.

Christmas Crib Appeal Once again this year, we are appealing for support for Mary's Meals, who provide nutritious meals for children in schools in the developing world. To support a child with a daily meal during the year ahead, it only costs £20. We are asking parishioners to be generous enough each to support one child. Donations in cash at the crib or by card on the card reader. If you can Gift Aid please fill in one of the forms by the crib.

First Friday This is a reminder that this Friday is a first Friday and our usual time of Adoration and Confessions, together with Sacred Heart devotions and Mass will be taking place at St Joseph's. See the Mass timetable for details of the timings.

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.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at English Martyrs' (note corrected venue) on Monday, 13th January at 7pm. All ladies welcome, especially new members!

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

Lamp Dedications The sanctuary lamps in our churches are dedicated as follows: **Week beginning 29th December** St Joseph's: Holy Souls (BC);

St Patrick's: Jean Green. If you would like to dedicate a lamp for any intention please place the donation (minimum £5) in an envelope with the intention and preferred church written on the envelope.

Parish Office & Open House The Open House session, if you wish to see Fr Julian personally, is on Saturday from 11am to 12noon. If you need the Parish Secretary, then please phone the Presbytery during the advertised office hours. The parish office resumes from 2nd January.

Hospitality The English Martyrs' Welcome Space resumes on Wednesday 8th January from 11am to 2pm, for refreshments and lunch. Do just come along. St Joseph's Welcome Space resumes the following week on Tuesday 14th January, 10am to 12noon at St Joseph's Academy.

Congratulations to our altar servers newly admitted to the Guild of Altar Servers: Ann, Maria and Chantelle. And also to those who have completed ten years of serving and have received the silver medal: Ron Castillo, Mihai Moldovan, and Noah Amison.

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
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

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 Fri 4.30pm to 5.20pm; Sun 10.30am English Martyrs' Sun 8.30am St Patrick's Sat 5pm on request	
Saturday 28th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of the Feast	Bill & Mary Whitehouse
Sunday 29th Feast of the Holy Family	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Flatley Joan Sadler
Monday 30th Christmas Octave		9.45am 10.00am		Lauds Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
Tuesday 31st Christmas Octave	9.45am 10.00am			Lauds Holy Mass	Simon Harrison
Wednesday 1st MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	9.45am 10.00am	11.30am		Lauds Holy Mass Holy Mass	Jean Green Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Thursday 2nd St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen	9.00am 9.15am			Lauds Holy Mass	Thanksgiving
Friday 3rd Holy Name of Jesus First Friday		3.00pm 4.30pm 5.30pm 6.00pm		Eucharistic Adoration begins Confessions Vespers & First Friday Devotions Holy Mass	Dec of Plant & Bailey families
Saturday 4th Vigil of the Epiphany			5.30pm	Vigil Mass of the Solemnity	Lydia Davies
Sunday 5th EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	John, Mary & Lynne Hunter Michael Maughan



Pope Francis has declared that the year 2025 will be a Holy Year of Jubilee for the Catholic Church – an event that takes place once every 25 years. The Jubilee began on Tuesday evening, Christmas Eve, with the Opening of the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica by Pope Francis. The year continues until 6th January 2026.

The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope", an invitation to showcase the hope of our Christian faith to people right across the world at a time when there is so much suffering from the impact of war, poverty, climate change, and the lasting effects of the COVID pandemic.

The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with those in darkness.

The concept of Jubilee is one rooted in the earliest days of Judeo-Christian tradition.

In the Book of Leviticus, we read that the people of Israel celebrated this tradition every 50 years. Its purpose was to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. It involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

Today, the Catholic Church celebrates this tradition once every 25 years as a year of grace, offering the faithful the opportunity to renew faith through prayer, pilgrimage, acts of charity, and by asking for a plenary indulgence – a special grace that strengthens our wounded souls in the fight against sin.

In our parish there will be various initiatives, as well as on a Deanery and Diocesan level. Please look out for these in our Parish Bulletin