

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



SUNDAY BULLETIN

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY

SUNDAY 5TH JANUARY 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



A Happy New Year to all our parishioners! And a Happy Epiphany too!

We are now in the Jubilee Year, and we pray that it will be a great source of grace for the whole Church. May it also be a great grace for our parish!

The Jubilee Year is a time to return to God. That is the whole meaning of the year. It is a time to seek the grace of forgiveness and reconciliation. It is a time to be renewed in prayer. It is a time to seek

to renew the mission of the Church, and to pray for greater zeal for our work of evangelization. It is a time to seek justice and to do the works of charity. It is a time of putting Jesus back at the centre.

The Wise Men came to seek out a new-born King and to bring him gifts which showed their belief in who and what he was. On seeing him in the arms of his Blessed Mother, they bowed down in adoration. The Jubilee Year, for us,

should be a time to bring new adoration and worship to Christ.

During this year there will be initiatives to help to bring us closer to the Lord. But it has to start with a basic desire on our part, simply to be more Christian! And that means constancy in daily prayer, frequent reception of the Sacraments, and placing Jesus at the top of our list of priorities.

I would like to repeat the thanks I made to everyone at the Christmas Masses for the support I have received over the past year. It was a difficult year, and one of adjustment. It is great to have a parish family like ours to help and support. I would like to thank you also for the generosity in the Christmas offering, which helps my personal finances! God bless you all this New Year.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Charles of Sezze 1613-1670

Charles is an Italian saint was born into a poor family and became a shepherd. He wanted to be a priest but could barely read or write. And so he was accepted as a lay Franciscan brother and was dedicated to doing the menial tasks, such as cooking, gardening and as a porter. He would

also go out begging on the streets. He never sought his own advancement. He had a mystical experience in 1648 when a ray of light from the host at Mass pierced his side and left a visible wound. He had other visions. People came to him for spiritual advice, including Pope Clement IX whom he visited on his deathbed.

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 Archdiocesan 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.ourladyofgraceparish.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; Friday evening at 5pm English Martyrs' Sun before Mass St Patrick's Sat before Mass <i>At other times on request</i>	
Saturday 4th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of the Solemnity	Lydia Davies
Sunday 5th THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	John, Mary & Lynne Hunter Michael Maughan
Monday 6th Feria of Christmas		9.15am 9.30am		Lauds Holy Mass	Paddy Maughan
Tuesday 7th St Raymond of Penyafort			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 8th Feria of Christmas					
Thursday 9th Feria of Christmas					
Friday 10th Feria of Christmas		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parish Ken Holmes & family
Saturday 11th Feria of Christmas			5.30pm	Holy Mass of the Feast	Arthur & Sarah Holmes & family
Sunday 12th Baptism of the Lord	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Bridge, Jack & Paddy Cronin Paul David Dymnicki
Monday 13th St Hilary of Poitiers		5.45pm 6.00pm		Vespers Holy Mass	Helen Hewitt
Tuesday 14th Feria (Ordinary Time week 1)	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	Lauds Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Paddy & John Clifford
Wednesday 15th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		Vespers Holy Mass <i>Votive of St Joseph</i>	Joan Sadler
Thursday 16th Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's) Holy Mass	People of the Parish Eileen Marrow
Friday 17th St Antony, Abbot		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Thanksgiving (MB)
Saturday 18th Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 19th Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Jervis Jim & Margaret Fallon

Epiphany Proclamation of the Moveable Feasts for 2025: Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour. On the fifth day of March will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season. On the twentieth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the twentieth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. On the eighth day of June, the feast of Pentecost. On the twenty-second day of the same month, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. On the thirtieth day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Thank you to everyone who prepared the churches for Christmas and who participated in the liturgy. Our celebrations were beautiful and were well attended. Thanks particularly to C McGough & Sons for the generous donation of flowers at St Joseph's. The Christmas cribs will be taken down after Mass next Sunday, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

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 1st February, 9am to 10.30am.

Care Home Service The next service at Lawton Rise Care Home will be on Wednesday 15th January 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. The Agenda for the meeting will be available next Sunday in church and online.

CAFOD—Introducing Jubilee CAFOD are organising an online meeting to introduce the theme of the Jubilee Year. Speakers will be Fr Jan Nowotnik of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, Christine Allen the CAFOD director, and Kayode Akintola CAFOD's head of African programmes. It takes place on Saturday 18th January, 10.30am to 12noon. More information and registration is on cafod.org.uk/pray/jubilee-2025

The Meaning of the Jubilee There will be a talk by David McLoughlin on the meaning of the Jubilee Year, organised by the Area Pastoral Council, at St Wulstan's School Hall, Wolstanton, on Thursday 23rd January at 7pm.

Solemnity of Our Lady of Grace Our Parish's Patronal Feast Day in honour of Our Lady of Grace falls on 7th February each year. So that we can all join in the celebration, we keep the feast on the nearest Sunday. This year it will be on Sunday 9th February. The Masses at English Martyrs' and St Joseph's will be family Masses at which the children and parents from our schools will be encouraged to attend, and participate in.

First Holy Communion The First Holy Communion programme will begin after the February half term, for those children in Year 4 and above who have already completed preparation for and have made their First Confession. If your children are not in a Catholic School, and you want them to receive First Holy Communion then please see Fr Julian at the weekly Open House.

Word on Fire Join Bishop Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland, Dr Holly Ordway and more in February 2025 at Word on Fire's Evangelisation & Culture Conference in London. The Bible is the heart of evangelisation. As St Jerome observed long ago, "*Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.*" At this conference, we will uncover the spiritual and theological meaning of the Bible from a genuinely Catholic approach, reading it within the context of the great and beautiful chorus of voices from across the centuries of the Church's tradition. It takes place at the Excel London in London's Royal Docks from 21st to 22nd February. For more information and **b o o k i n g g o t o** events.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event

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.

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.

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. 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!

Our giving campaign for Mary's Meals ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 12th January.

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.



Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. Often we come across people who are discouraged, pessimistic and cynical about the future, as if nothing could possibly bring them happiness. For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope. (Pope Francis)

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the souls of Peter O'Leary. Funeral took place on Friday 3rd January at Bradwell Crematorium.

And for the soul of David Shaw. Funeral service on Monday 13th January at Bradwell Crematorium.

Requiescant in Pace

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open again at the normal times of opening (see front page).

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

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 5th January

St Joseph's: Jean & Don Green

St Patrick's: Deceased members of Harding & Coates families

Week beginning 12th January

St Joseph's: John Martin

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



The North Staffs Walsingham Association

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2025

Sat 23rd – Mon 25th 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

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2025 The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be from Saturday 24th May to Friday 30th 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.