

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



## SUNDAY BULLETIN

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 2ND FEBRUARY 2025

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

A very Happy Feast of Candlemas! Today is traditionally the last day of Christmas, as we celebrate Jesus presented in the Temple. For most people Christmas is already a distant memory. Today's feast brings to mind the meaning of Christmas and Epiphany, as we celebrate Jesus who is the Light of the World entering the sanctuary of the Temple. It is this Temple that—in the words of Jesus' own prophecy—would be torn down to be replaced by the New Temple which is his body.

The light entering the dark of the Temple makes us think of light entering the temple of our bodies, of our lives. The light of



Christ enters within us when we are enlightened by faith. During this year of Jubilee, we should make every effort to allow the light of Christ to enter our lives in a new and fresh way. We can do this very simply by applying ourselves once again to prayer and the reading of Scripture. We can take up the

catechism and be surprised by the depth and beauty of the Faith. In our parish we have the opportunity to hear the basic Gospel message by taking the Alpha course (a new Alpha is starting soon). We can also apply ourselves to learning to read the Bible, and to pray in new and varied ways, and live more like

Christ through the Prayer & Life Workshops. Again, there will be a new series of workshops running in the parish soon. The invitation of the Jubilee Year is the invitation of faith.

You can find the brief minutes from our recent Parish Pastoral Forum at St Joseph's. The full version will be on the website soon

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### St Joan de Lestonnac 1556-1640

Joan was from Bordeaux, and married at 17, having four children. Her husband died when she was 41. When the children were adults, Joan entered the Cistercian monastery in Toulouse, but left because of poor health. She felt called to found a new Order and was joined by sev-

eral young women. They ministered to victims of the plague which was raging at the time. She was also determined to counter the heresies of Calvin, which were gaining traction in the area. The Order she founded was recognised by the Archbishop, and Joan became first superior. Healings are attributed to her intercession.

### 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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[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	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>	
<b>Saturday 1st</b>			5.30pm	Holy Mass of the Feast	Veronica Williams
<b>Sunday 2nd</b> <b>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Digger & Alan Hopkins Connor Young
<b>Monday 3rd</b> St Werburgh		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass <i>followed by the blessing of throats of St Blaise</i>	Donald Green
<b>Tuesday 4th</b> Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Kate & Andy McCarthy
<b>Wednesday 5th</b> St Agatha					
<b>Thursday 6th</b> St Paul Miki & Comps					
<b>Friday 7th</b> Feria <i>First Friday</i>		8.15am 3.00pm 4.30pm 5.30pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Eucharistic Adoration begins</i> <i>Confessions</i> <i>Devotions &amp; Benediction</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parish  Paddy Maughan
<b>Saturday 8th</b> Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of the Solemnity	Vincent Davis
<b>Sunday 9th</b> <b>SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF GRACE, PARISH PATRONESS</b>	9.00am	11.00am	3.00pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass  Healing Service	Mary Jervis John & Mary Moran & Dec of Moran family
<b>Monday 10th</b> St Scholastica		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Maureen & Michael Meaney & family
<b>Tuesday 11th</b> Our Lady of Lourdes	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Michael Cullen, family & friends
<b>Wednesday 12th</b> Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass <i>Votive St Joseph</i>	Denis Bailey Lovatt
<b>Thursday 13th</b> Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's School) Holy Mass	People of the Parish Thanksgiving
<b>Friday 14th</b> <b>St Cyril &amp; St Methodius</b>		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Betty Leahy
<b>Saturday 15th</b> Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
<b>Sunday 16th</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mr Wootton Winifred & Paddy Maughan

**Mary's Meals** We have received a letter of thanks from the charity for our excellent Christmas crib offering appeal. Thank you once again.

**Solemnity of Our Lady of Grace** We will be celebrating the Solemn Feast of Our Lady of Grace, our parish patroness, on Sunday 9th February. All the Masses will be of Our Lady. The morning Masses will also be family Masses, to which all families in the school are invited.

**Healing Service** Our next healing service, with the administration of the Sacrament of the Sick to those who qualify, and intercession for healing and Eucharistic healing for all. It will take place on Sunday 9th February, the Sunday before the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, which is world day of prayer for the sick, at St Patrick's church, at 3pm. It would be marvellous if those who cannot normally attend Mass were able to come. Anyone willing to offer lifts to church for the elderly, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at English Martyrs' on Monday, 10th February 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 1st March, 9am to 10.30am.

**Care Home Service** The next service at Lawton Rise Care Home will be on Wednesday 15th February starting at 11am. Everyone welcome to come and join the residents. Please meet outside in good time.

**Red Mission Boxes** Now is the time to bring all your mission boxes to church so that they can be emptied. Please help our volunteers by bringing them to the church at which they were issued. Thank you!

**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 can 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.

**Confirmation** The Parish's Confirmation Mass takes place on Tuesday 25th March at 7pm, and will be celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes. If anyone has not yet received Confirmation (including children over 10 years old not in one of our Catholic schools), and would like to do so, please contact Fr Julian as soon as possible.

**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 as soon as possible.

**Missals** It is now possible to pre-order Weekday and Daily Missals with the new translation of the readings. The Weekday Missal contains the readings for Monday to Saturday. They will cost £55. The Daily Missal contains all the readings for every day, including Sundays, and will cost £70. If you wish to order a copy, please let Fr Julian know, or contact the parish office. The books will be available late April/early May. Sunday missals are available from Fr Julian priced £20. ESV Catholic Bibles are on order, and will be here soon.

**First Fridays** You are invited to participate in our Parish preparation for Consecration to the Sacred Heart by completing the First Friday Devotion for nine months programme is:  
3pm Eucharistic Adoration in silence  
4.30pm Confessions  
5.25pm First Friday Devotions, Vespers and Benediction  
6.00pm Holy Mass

**Filipino Community** There will be a Mass for the Filipino community in North Staffs on Sunday 2nd March at 3pm.

## 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. We are back up and running now the New Year is here. Come and drop in!

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. We are back up and running every Wednesday. Everyone welcome!

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th February from 1.30 to 3.30pm. Everyone welcome! £3 to attend.



PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS

A New Evangelization

There is the opportunity for everyone to experience the Prayer & Life Workshops in our parish during the Jubilee Year. The PLW is a help for everyone who wants to learn to pray, or pray better, and to have their lives transformed to become more like Jesus Christ. The Opening meeting of the Prayer & Life Workshops will take place on Tuesday 25th February at St Joseph's in the meeting room at 6.45pm. The workshops continue with a weekly two hour meeting for 15 weeks, ending with a day retreat. It sounds like a lot, but it is a great opportunity. If you want to know more about PLW then please see Fiona Keane, or ask Fr Julian to point you in the right direction!

# PARISH PASTORAL FORUM

*These are just the summary minutes for the meeting on 20th January*

## 1. Minutes of Previous Planning Meeting

Minutes were distributed and agreed.

Training for readers on the new lectionary has taken place.

## 2. Election of Officers

**Vice Chair:** Andy Connell

**Secretary:** Theresa Madden

## 3. Fr Julian's Address

Emphasised inclusivity – no elections for committee roles to ensure participation is open to all. Recognised the need for greater representation across age groups and ethnic diversity, particularly in Goldenhill. The Parish's primary purpose is spiritual growth, aiming to build a vibrant faith community. Encouraging evangelisation – currently, 10 individuals are receiving instruction in the faith, including young men, which is a positive development. Support from Parishioners is essential for those undergoing faith formation and beyond.

## 4. Safeguarding

An action plan has been developed to ensure safeguarding measures are in place. **Key actions:** Ensuring all those working with children and vulnerable adults have a DBS check. Volunteers to complete volunteer information forms. A DBS database has been created. A safeguarding risk assessment template will be provided for all Parish groups. Monthly safeguarding meetings to be held, with a lead and deputy appointed. The Parish has been noted as an example of good practice at a BDES meeting.

## 5. Reports from Parish Groups represented

### Foodbank

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.

Aldi pick-ups take place six days a week and are distributed to other charities. Before Christmas: 25 vouchers were given out, feeding 75 people. The average number supported is around 8.

### Alpha Course

A new Alpha course is set to launch. Dates and details to follow.

### Warm and Welcoming Spaces

Held at English Martyrs and St Joseph's. Attendance has been affected by bad weather. Funding sources: English Martyrs – funded by the local Town Council. St Joseph's – funded by volunteers and attendees.

### Fr Hudson's Group

Membership: 38 members, 3 leaders, 5 volunteers.

Meets monthly, with a £3 contribution requested. Various activities take place, including an annual summer trip.

### Prayer and Life Workshop

A parish PLW will launch soon. Currently training new guides.

### Rosary Group

Efforts are underway to establish a Rosary group at Biddulph.

## 6. Parish Brochure

A Parish brochure is needed to highlight all activities within the Parish. Possible involvement of younger Parishioners in designing the brochure was suggested. Elena Johnson has agreed to take on the role of managing social media for the Parish.

## 7. Ministry to the Sick and Housebound

There is a need to identify and reach out to Parishioners who are unable to attend Mass. Volunteers appointed to establish a list of those needing visits, phone calls and Holy Communion: Gill

Hodgkinson (Kidsgrove); Gill Hussey (Packmoor); Pat Potts (Goldenhill); Biddulph – TBC

## 8. Building up our Community in Faith

A discussion about how to encourage more people to gather and pray. It was suggested hosting prayer meetings in homes would be a good way to increase participation. SPUC meetings currently take place in Hanley there is encouragement for more Parishioners to join.

## 9. Fundraising and Social Events

A new group will focus on planning key social and fundraising events. The Ladies Group volunteered to take the lead, with the condition that they seek additional help as needed.

A discussion on improving Parish communication took place with a suggestion to distribute information via email through the Parish Office, ensuring compliance with GDPR.

Parish Census planned for Spring 2025, which will allow email contact lists to be updated.

## 11. Date of Next Meeting

**Monday, 28th April 2025 at English Martyrs, 7:00 pm.**

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Jidenna Jason Alexander, Munachimso Michelle Alexander and Kamsiyonna Kendra Alexander baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 26th January.

And also to Savannah Bridget Ann Doherty who is being baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 2nd February.

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

The Parish Office is open again at the normal times of opening (see front page). It is recommended to phone before coming in person.

**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. There will be no Open House on Saturday 15th February.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

#### Week beginning 2nd February

English Martyrs: Mary Jervis

St Joseph's: Clare Leech & family

St Patrick's: Donald & Jean Green

#### Week beginning 9th February

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs: Mary Jervis

*If you wish to dedicate one of the lamps for a particular intention, the minimum donation is £5. Place in an envelope and hand to a steward or place in the collection. Write intention on the envelope*