

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



## SUNDAY BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

After our two great celebrations for Candlemas and our Patroness, Our Lady of Grace, we return this week to the Sundays of Ordinary Time, as we await the beginning of Lent. This week I am going to be away for a post-Christmas/pre-Lent break. It is also half term in our schools.

I am sure you have been following the updates on the closure of St John's church. Today is my last update. On Friday of this last week, the whole process came to an end as the Church, Presbytery and School at The Avenue were finally sold to the Coptic Orthodox Church. The sale was completed at lunchtime, and I went to hand over all the keys to Fr Bishoy. He is very keen that the history of St John's is not forgotten, and wants to welcome parishioners any time that you wish to

visit the Church for any reason. It would be good to have an opportunity for us to go and attend their celebration of the liturgy together one Saturday morning.

It is still sad for many of our parishioners that St John's had to close but I hope that you, like me, take consolation in the fact that it is still a church dedicated to the Christian worship of God, and that it is being looked after as such.

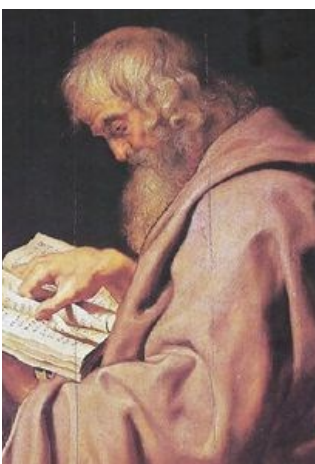
As we continue our celebration of the Jubilee Year, it would be good, also, to plan to visit one of the pilgrimage churches in our Diocese, each of which has a Holy Door. The Jubilee pilgrimage churches in Birmingham Archdiocese are: St Chad's Cathedral; St Anne's church, Caversham; Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford; St Michael's church, Penn,



Wolverhampton; Shrine of Our Lady of Evesham; Harvington Hall; the College at Littlemore, Oxford.

As we prepare for Lent in this Jubilee Year, let us prepare ourselves with the intention to make this a great Lent! It is good to be thinking already of what we can do to make this Lent a time of renewal for our lives, through prayer, charity and penitence. Remember Ash Wednesday is very soon: 5th March.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### St Alexis Falconieri 1200-1310

Alexis, a wealthy Florentine, was the founder of the Servite Order. In 1233, on the Feast of the Assumption, together with his companions, he experienced a vision of Our Lady. This is what inspired them to found the new Order founded on a life of prayer. All of his compan-

ions were ordained priests, but Alexis refused, deeming himself unworthy. He helped to build their church near to Florence, and was the administrator of the Order. When the Order was officially approved by the Pope Alexis was the only founder still alive. He lived to the age of 110, and died at Monte Scenario.

### 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	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 15th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 16th Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mr Wootton Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Monday 17th Feria					
Tuesday 18th Feria			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 19th Feria					
Thursday 20th Feria					
Friday 21st St Peter Damian					
Saturday 22nd St Peter's Chair			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Denis & Bridget Culhane
Sunday 23rd Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Joe & Helena Flatley Geoff Lovatt
Monday 24th Feria		11.00am		Requiem Mass	Kathleen Melvin RIP
Tuesday 25th Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	Lauds Holy Mass Holy Rosary	John, Julia and Bernard Biggane & friends
Wednesday 26th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		Vespers Holy Mass	Philip Blood
Thursday 27th Feria	12noon	9.30am		Liturgy of the Word (St John's School) Holy Mass	Dec of Child family
Friday 28th Feria		8.15am 11.00am		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) Requiem Mass	People of the Parish Margaret Walker RIP
Saturday 1st St David			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Sarah & Arthur Holmes & family
Sunday 2nd Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Karol Grolik, Barbara & George Connell Simon Doherty & members of the Maughan family

**Collection for Lourdes fund**

Thanks to all our parishioners for their generosity in giving to the St Margaret Ward Lourdes fund. The sixth formers raised £858 towards their pilgrimage last weekend.

**Church Cleaning at St Joseph's**

There is a working party arranged to clean at St Joseph's church this Tuesday, 18th February, starting at 9.30am. Absolutely everyone welcome!

**Mass Intentions** Everyone wants Saturday and Sunday Masses for their intentions! Currently Masses for Saturday and Sunday are booked up as follows: St Patrick's up to 31st May; English Martyrs' up to 6th April; St Joseph's up to 18th May. But, there are lots of weekday Masses available. So, please take this into consideration when requesting Masses on specific dates. Thank you!

**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at St Joseph's on Monday, 10th March 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 19th March starting at 11am. Everyone welcome to come and join the residents. Please meet outside in good time.

**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.

**Talk on St Margaret Clitherow**

There will be a talk on this wonderful English martyr saint on Thursday 20th February by Sr Avril Foster OP at St Dominic's Social Centre, Stone, at 7pm. Everyone welcome. Donations are invited.

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

**Recruitment** The Archdiocese is recruiting for the following four positions: Operations Director, IT Manager, Finance Manager and Gift Aid Officer. Full details and closing dates for applications can be found at [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs). If you think you have the skills, please do apply.

**Mass for Marriage** Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2025? Are you engaged to be married this year? If so, then you are invited to come to the annual Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage at St Chad's Cathedral. It takes place on Saturday 3rd May at 12noon, and the Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Richard Walker. Mass is followed by light refreshments. If you wish to attend you must book by Sunday 13th April. More information <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Event/thanksgiving-mass-for-marriage-2025-at-st-chads-cathedral>

**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. There is no meeting this week as it is half term. Back again the week after!

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!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5th March	Ash Wednesday
12th March	6.30pm First Confessions—St Joseph's
17th March	6.30pm St Patrick's Day Mass & Bring & Share Buffet—St Patrick's
19th March	9.30am St Joseph's Day Mass followed by Refreshments—St Joseph's
25th March	7.00pm Confirmation Mass—St Joseph's
27th March	10am Schools Penitential Service—St Joseph's
17th April	7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper—English Martyrs'
18th April	Good Friday
19th April	8.30pm Easter Vigil—St Joseph's
20th April	Easter Sunday
28th April	7.00pm Parish Pastoral Forum—English Martyrs'
4th May	3.30pm May Procession—St Patrick's
5th May	9.15am Mass for the Solemnity of the English Martyrs followed by Oatcake breakfast—English Martyrs'
18th May	Healing Service—St Patrick's
14th June	10am to 2pm Summer fayre—Biddulph Town Hall

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 Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the  
Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

*Franciscus*



## PARISH REGISTERS

### Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Kathleen Melvin. Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Monday 24th February at 11am, followed by interment at Tunstall Cemetery.

And also for the soul of Margaret Walker. Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Friday 28th February at 11am, followed by committal at Bradwell.

**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). 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.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

**Week beginning 16th February**

English Martyrs:

St Joseph's: Blood & Welch families

St Patrick's:

**Week beginning 23rd February**

English Martyrs:

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's: John Martin

*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*