

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



SUNDAY BULLETIN

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 2ND MARCH 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Birmingham and its Bishop became the spiritual heirs of St Chad. Chad was chosen to be Bishop of Mercia, the ancient kingdom of central England, having been deposed as Bishop of York, due to anomalies in his ordination as a Bishop. He stood down willingly with tremendous humility, willing to return to his monastery. This humility was recognised by Archbishop Theodore of Canterbury, who had him appointed Bishop in the newly evangelized central kingdom of England.

Today is St Chad's Day, the great Bishop of Mercia and patron saint of our Archdiocese. It was St Chad who established his See in Lichfield in the 7th century. With the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in 1850, the Diocese of

St Chad is a great example of humility, but also of apostolic zeal and fervent prayer. He preferred to visit his Diocese on foot, going from village to village, but was persuaded to ride a horse to preserve his strength. We should ask St Chad for the gift of such humility and zeal for our

bishops and priests today, as well as for all Catholics in our Archdiocese, for without these gifts our mission will not succeed.

This week we begin our annual time of renewal of grace: Lent. On Wednesday you are invited to come and receive the blessed ashes as the outward sign of your willingness of heart to repent and be converted. Lent is a time for those preparing for baptism, asking that their hearts be freed from sin and be prepared for Christ. For those who are baptized, it is the time for asking for the graces of our baptism to be renewed in us. It is the time when we should be returning to the Lord through Confession of our sins, through renewed reading the Gospel and prayer, and through penitential practices. Let us pray for a good Lent!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Teresa Verzeri 1801-1852

From an early age Ignazia Verzeri wanted to serve God. Coming from a very Catholic family, the parents wanted to support the vocations of their children. Her education was placed under the care of Mgr Benaglio and she studied with Benedictine nuns. In 1831, she founded the

Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a congregation which would focus on girls and their education. On her profession, she took the name Teresa Eustochio. She worked hard to establish orphanages for girls as well as providing support for the aged and the sick. Her congregation grew in all continents after her death.

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
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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

	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 1st			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
Monday 3rd Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass Eucharistic Adoration	Stan Grandfield
Tuesday 4th Feria	8.55pm 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention (KT)
Wednesday 5th ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Day of Fasting & Abstinence</i>	9.15am	11.00am 2.15pm 6.30pm		Holy Mass (Ashes) Liturgy of the Word (Ashes) Liturgy of the Word (Ashes) Holy Mass (Ashes)	People of the Parish Paddy Maughan
Thursday 6th Lent Feria	11.30am 12noon			Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	Betty Smithson
Friday 7th Lent Feria <i>First Friday</i>		3.00pm 4.30pm 5.30pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration begins</i> <i>Confessions</i> <i>Vespers & First Friday Devotions</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Stephen Holmes & family
Saturday 8th Lent Feria			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Dec of Harding & Coates families
Sunday 9th First Sunday of Lent	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Maureen Roach, David & Kathleen Bosnan Patricia Convey
Monday 10th Lent Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Valerie Jones
Tuesday 11th Lent Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Int Gabrielle Child
Wednesday 12th Lent Feria		11.45am 5.45pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		Funeral Service <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass First Reconciliation Liturgy	John Patrick Mansell RIP Special Intention (MH)
Thursday 13th Lent Feria	11.30am 12noon	9.30am		Mass (St Joseph's School) Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	People of the Parish Mary Child
Friday 14th Lent Feria <i>Family Fast Day</i>		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	People of the Parish Bridget & Denis Culhane
Saturday 15th Lent Feria			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 16th Second Sunday of Lent	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Frank Hughes Julius & Iris Kaminskas

Ash Wednesday This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, and is a day of fasting and abstinence. Fasting means eating no more than one full meal and is obligatory for all Catholics aged 18 to 59. Abstinence means eating no meat, and is binding on all Catholics aged over 14, with no upper limit. Ashes will be given at all Masses and Liturgies of the Word on that day (see opposite).

Lenten Alms As we do every year, we will have a nominated charity for Lenten Alms each Sunday of Lent:

1st Sunday: Food Bank

2nd Sunday: CAFOD

3rd Sunday: Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham

4th Sunday: Aid to Church in Need

5th Sunday: Number 11

Palm Sunday: Holy Places

Easter Choir As every year, we invite singers to come together for our Holy Week liturgies. Practice this Wednesday and each Wednesday after the evening Mass.

First Friday This Friday is a First Friday and so we have our special spiritual programme at St Joseph's as part of our preparation for Consecration to the Sacred Heart in this Jubilee Year.

World Day of Prayer Better known as Women's World Day of prayer, takes place on Friday 7th March. There will be a service led by women from around the churches of Biddulph at Biddulph Methodist Church, Station Road, at 1.30pm on that day. All are welcome to attend.

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!

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.

Men's Prayer Circle The Circle is for men who have done the Prayer & Life Workshop. The next meeting is on Saturday 29th March, 9am to 10.30am.

First Holy Communion The First Holy Communion programme is beginning now, 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.

Books Sunday missals are available from Fr Julian priced £20. ESV Catholic Bibles are sold out and on order.

Deanery Vocations Mass There will be a Mass on the Feast of St Joseph, Wednesday 19th March, at Holy Trinity Church, Newcastle, at 6.30pm to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The celebrant will be Fr John Waters, Curate at Holy Trinity, and chaplain at St John Fisher School. Everyone welcome. Singers are invited to join the joint parishes choir for this Mass.

PATRONAL FEAST DAYS

Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the feast days of the patrons of our churches.

St Patrick's Day

Come and join our celebration of St Patrick's Day on Monday 17th March at St Patrick's Church, Packmoor.

Mass is at 6.30pm followed by a bring and share buffet.

St Joseph's Day

Come and join our school and parish community for the celebration of Mass for St Joseph's Day on Wednesday 19th March at St Joseph's Church, Goldenhill. The Mass is at 9.30am followed by refreshments for all. Please bring cakes, biscuits, and other items for light refreshments.



LENTEN STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent our weekly Stations of the Cross will be:

At St Joseph's on Friday at 6.30pm after evening Mass

At English Martyrs' on Thursday at 11.30am before Mass

At St Patrick's on Tuesday at 2.15pm

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.

The Welcome Space initiative is now up and running at English Martyrs' too. It is on Wednesdays, from 11am to 2pm, there will be tea and coffee, soup, sandwiches and dessert. Everyone welcome!

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kildgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on Tuesday 25th March 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 first full session of the Prayer & Life Workshops will take place on Tuesday 4th March 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 for the Jubilee Year.

LENT IN THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Every year, the Holy Father issues a message for Lent. Here are some highlights from this year's message of Pope Francis:

This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to *journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

First of all, *to journey*. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land [...] A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity?

Second, *to journey together*. The Church is called to walk together [...] Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience. This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance.

Third, let us journey together *in hope*, for we have been given a promise. *May the hope that does not disappoint*, the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey.

+++FRANCIS PP

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.



New Collection Envelopes The start date for the new envelopes is the 6th April 2025 and will be available to collect from church on 15th/16th March.

For **gift aid donors** the boxes will be numbered and will have your name printed on the box. Due to the uptake in standing orders, we have been able to greatly reduce the order so numbers have changed this year. Please make sure you take the box with your name printed on and it is really important that you destroy any unused envelopes dated prior to the 6th April 2025. If your circumstances have changed and you are no longer a tax payer please contact Teresa before 14th March 2025.

There will be un-numbered envelopes available for **non gift aid donors** who prefer not to place their donation loose.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Savannah Bridget Ann Doherty who will be baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 9th March.

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of John Patrick Mansell. Funeral service will be at St Joseph's on Wednesday 12th March at 11.45am followed by committal at Burslem

cemetery.

Requiescat in Pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 2nd March

St Joseph's: Betty Smithson

Week beginning 9th March

St Joseph'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

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 March.