

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



SUNDAY BULLETIN

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 16TH MARCH 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

It's usually just before Christmas that people say to priests: "Oh, this must be your busy time". In reality it is Lent leading into Holy Week and Easter that are the really busy time for priests. There is quite a lot going on during this time. Not only do we have three children's Prayer & Life Workshops going on, and one adult one in our parish, but there is the normal round of Masses, together with extra things for Lent like Stations of the Cross. Then we also have feast days, Confirmation, penitential services as well as quite a number of funerals. All of this means that there is a lot going on.

At the end of the month I will have the Moderator of our Society of St John Mary Vianney visiting, Fr Emeric Colas des Francs. Many of you will remember his last visit to us just

before COVID. It is a great encouragement to have Fr Emeric with me for just over a week. We will be going off to give a couple of days of prayer for priests elsewhere around the country as well as one here in North Staffs.

The preparations for Holy Week and Easter are under way. You will be pleased to hear that we have more converts this year than I can remember, who will be baptized or received at the Easter Vigil, together with candidates for Confirmation. It has been quite a task instructing them all and getting them ready to receive the Sacraments this Easter. There are also other enquirers who are coming regularly to hear about the Catholic Faith. This is a wonderful sign of renewal. Please let me know if you discover anyone who would like to consider

becoming a Catholic and starting catechesis.

This Jubilee Year has other events which I have to prepare for. In July we will have a Eucharistic Congress for the Deanery. I am taking responsibility for organising this, so please do lend a hand if you are willing and able to help in the preparations. Around the same time I will be organising our Valladolid Old Boys reunion for the Jubilee Year. This year it takes place in Valladolid, in the College itself.

So you see there are lots of things going on at the moment and through the rest of the year. I am pleased that my health and personal circumstances can now allow me to get back to doing all these things, as I like to be active. And I am grateful to have parishioners who are very supportive. Thank you so much.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Jan Sarkander 1576-1620

St Jan was a Polish-Czech priest. He had been married for a short time when his wife died. He then pursued a vocation to the priesthood. He was ordained at the age of 33 in the middle of the controversy with Protestants, and entered the fray to defend the Catholic Faith, along-

side his work as a Parish priest. He had to leave his home when it was invaded by Protestant armies, and sought sanctuary in Poland, taking the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Czestochowa. On his return was arrested on false accusations in order to silence him, he was then tortured for a month before being martyred.

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 15th			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
Monday 17th ST PATRICK			6.30pm	Holy Mass of Church's patron	Joan Doyle
Tuesday 18th Feria <i>Comm St Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	8.55pm 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention & Thanksgiving
Wednesday 19th ST JOSEPH		9.30am		Holy Mass of Church's patron	Bernadette McGough
Thursday 20th Lent Feria	11.30am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	Fr John Darley Special Intention
Friday 21st Lent Feria		12.30pm 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 Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Saturday 22nd Lent Feria			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Int Winnie & Vincent Farrell (65th Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday 23rd Third Sunday of Lent	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Int Joseph Fornaciari John Hodgkinson
Monday 24th Lent Feria					
Tuesday 25th ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	8.55am 9.15am	7.00pm	2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross CONFIRMATION MASS	Joan & Thomas Wareham For the Confirmandi
Wednesday 26th Lent Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Maria Salvo
Thursday 27th Lent Feria	11.30am 12noon	10.00am		Penitential Service Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	Int Tiago Scoda
Friday 28th Lent Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Thanksgiving
Saturday 29th Lent Feria			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Frank Smithson
Sunday 30th Fourth Sunday of Lent <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Jean Green & all mothers of the parish Winfred & Paddy Maughan

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

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.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at English Martyrs' on Monday, 14th April 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 also available—the reprint is slightly cheaper at £18.

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.

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

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

As well as the regular times of Confession (please see the box at the top of page 2), during Lent you are invited to two Penitential Services where there will be a variety of priests available to hear your confession.

Thursday 27th March 10am—We will have a Penitential Service for the children in our three primary schools and St Margaret Ward at St Joseph's church. Everyone is welcome to come, especially those who don't like to come out in the evening.

Friday 11th April 6pm—Together with our fellow 'cluster' parishes in the north end of North Staffs, we will have a Penitential Service at Sacred Heart Tunstall. There will be Mass followed by confessions.

Don't forget, the precepts of the Church remind Catholics of the obligation to confess sacramentally once a year during Lent or Eastertide (Easter duties).



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 during termtime. Everyone welcome!

Next Wednesday, 19th March, will be the last Welcome Space session. We will return in October. It has been a very successful initiative with up to 30 people attending some weeks. Thanks to all those who came and supported the venture. We have funding from the local authority to run it again next winter. Thanks from the team! And thanks to the team.

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 March from 1.30 to 3.30pm. Everyone welcome! £3 to attend.

HOLY WEEK RETREAT

Once again this year you are invited to come to a three-night retreat during the first part of Holy Week from Monday to Wednesday. We will follow the Lord's pathway of suffering and death through which he saved us.

The evenings of the retreat will take place at St Patrick's Packmoor, at the geographical centre of the parish. It means it's easier for more people to get to it.

The evenings will be shaped like this:

5.00pm Confessions

5.45pm Vespers

6.00pm Holy Mass

6.30pm Stations of the Cross

7.00pm Retreat talk

7.30pm Holy Hour, Compline & Benediction

N STAFFS EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

As an initiative for the Jubilee Year, we will be having a Deanery Eucharistic Congress, called "Come to his Eucharistic Heart". A Eucharistic Congress is a moment in the life of the Church of a particular area when we stop and turn our attention to the presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. It is not a conference but it includes a conference event. It will be taking place from Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th July, and will be based in Tunstall, at Sacred Heart Church and St Margaret Ward Academy, though it will really be taking place across the whole Deanery.

The programme will begin with a Deanery Jubilee Year Mass celebrated by His Grace, the Archbishop on Thursday 10th July at Sacred Heart Church, Tunstall at 7pm. This will be followed by the opening of the Congress with a talk, a Holy Hour, and all-night Eucharistic Adoration.

The Friday will be a programme for schools in which all the Catholic Schools of North Staffordshire are invited to participate. This will take place in each school with parts of the day shared through live streaming.

On Friday evening, we invite all parishioners to come for the opening of the conference part of the Congress. There will be Mass, a talk, and Holy Hour and once again all night Adoration. The Congress continues on Saturday with a full programme of talks, workshops and times of prayer, ending with Mass and a Procession of the Blessed Sacrament presided over by Bishop Timothy Menezes.

Please keep these dates free, and come and participate in the Eucharistic Congress, and pray for it now, that it will be a really great celebration for our Jubilee Year and will inspire Catholics in our Deanery.

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.



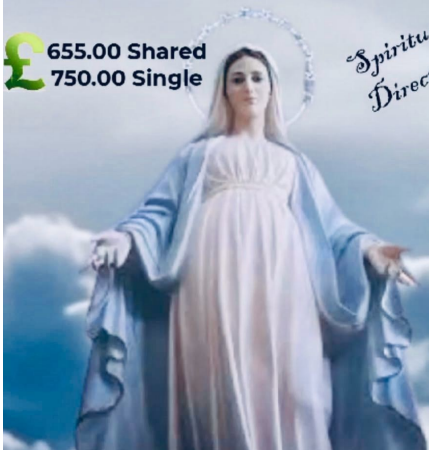
Organised by
"Club el Rosario 5:25"

MEDJUGORJE

Jubilee Pilgrimage

£655.00 Shared
£750.00 Single

Spiritual Direction



BA Direct Return Flights
Half Board/Accommodation
Local Guide

When?
4th - 11th June 2025

Reservations by
19th April 2025

Contact Nora
07951048968

Limited places!

New Collection Envelopes The start date for the new envelopes is the 6th April 2025 and are available to collect from church this weekend.

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 in the Parish office.

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 Rosie Oluchi Ogbunna, who will be baptized at St Joseph's on Saturday 22nd March.

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Shirley Gething. Funeral service at the Birches Crematorium, Northwich on 25th March.

Requiescat in Pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 16th March

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

Week beginning 23rd March

St Joseph's: Kevin Potts

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

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.