

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



SUNDAY BULLETIN

PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



The most solemn and sacred week of the Church's year begins today. It is a time to place our faith at the top of our list of priorities. I often observe the way in which members of other religions and religious groups give huge effort and time to the practice of their faith, and to the works associated with them. We have the immense privilege of the fullness of the truth and the most privileged way of worshipping God, as he established and as he desires. And yet, we can be half-hearted in our practice even in the holy season of

Lent and even in a Jubilee Year. And so, I am asking all of you to come and take part in the liturgies, devotions and times of prayer

that are available to you in our parish this year. Even if you are not accustomed to come to the great liturgies of the Easter Triduum, come this year!

I have observed a real downturn in the number of people coming specifically to the liturgy on Good Friday. This used to be a day when Church was packed, but not so any longer. We have adapted ourselves to the way of the world around us. Although it is a Bank Holiday, it is like any other day to most people. Let's make a stand for our Crucified Lord this Good Friday and make

coming to Church a priority. There is the traditional 3pm liturgy at St Joseph's but also at 6pm at English Martyrs'. There is a family friendly Stations at 12noon at St Joseph's too.

We should also make the Easter Vigil a priority. This year we will be welcoming new people into the Church, and celebrating the sacraments of initiation. Let's welcome them by accompanying them! The Vigil Mass is quite different from Easter Sunday Mass. So, why not come along to both and really exalt the Risen Christ by our participation.

I invite you to come also to the retreat evenings at St Patrick's Monday to Wednesday to prepare for the solemn days of the Triduum. I feel that this Holy Week is going to be a great time of grace for our parish. Be part of it!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Pope St Martin I (d. 655)

St Martin was a Basilian monk and abbot, and had a history of great service to the Church. He had represented to Pope in Dalmatia, alleviating the distress of people there who had been persecuted. He was legate to Constantinople when that city dominated the Roman Empire. He

was elected Pope in 649 and served for six years. He was very decisive in his Papacy. He opposed the heresy, supported by the Emperor, of Christ only have one divine will, and no human will. He was arrested and banished first to Greece and then to Crimea. He acquiesced to being deprived of the Papacy and died in exile.

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
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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

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) At each church this Sunday Before and after Sunday Mass Other times through the week as advertised below No Confessions on Easter Sunday before and after Mass <i>At other times on request</i>	
Saturday 12th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 13th PALM SUNDAY	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Sharon Wallace Catherine & John Reynolds
Monday 14th Monday of Holy Week			5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	Confessions Vespers Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Talk & Holy Hour	Stan Grandfield
Tuesday 15th Tuesday of Holy Week	9.15am		5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	Holy Mass Confessions Vespers Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Talk & Holy Hour	Mary Child Int Sheila Plant
Wednesday 16th Wednesday of Holy Week <i>Spy Wednesday</i>			5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm	Confessions Vespers Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Talk & Holy Hour	Int Gaby Child
Thursday 17th MAUNDY THURSDAY	11.30am 7.30pm 10.00pm			Stations of the Cross Mass of the Lord's Supper <i>Watching at the Altar of Repose</i> Holy Hour	In Biddulph Town Centre John, Mary & Lynne Hunter <i>until midnight—including...</i>
Friday 18th GOOD FRIDAY <i>Day of Fasting & Abstinence</i>	5.00pm 6.00pm	12noon 2.00pm 3.00pm	10.30am	Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross Confessions Liturgy of the Passion Confessions Liturgy of the Passion	
Saturday 19th HOLY SATURDAY		8.30pm	11.00am 12noon	Confessions Seven Sorrows of Our Lady The Easter Vigil Mass	People of the Parish
Sunday 20th EASTER SUNDAY	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Marie Reilly Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Easter Monday 21st			10.00am	Holy Mass	Mary Smith
Easter Tuesday 22nd					
Easter Wednesday 23rd					
Easter Thursday 24th					
Easter Friday 25th		10.00am		Holy Mass	Winifred Moxon née Snee
Easter Saturday 26th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Joan & Peter Jackson
Sunday 27th Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday	9.00am	11.00am 3.00pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass Divine Mercy Holy Hour	Jack Shufflebotham Helen Hewitt

Lenten Alms Collections Thanks to everyone for their generous Lenten alms given to each of our weekly Collections on the Sundays of Lent:

Foodbank £576

CAFOD £820

Our Lady of Walsingham £449

Aid to the Church in Need £560

Number 11 charity £567

That is a total of £2,972 given, with this week's Holy Places collection still to go. The generosity of our parishioners is always amazing. Thank you all!

Easter Offering The collection at all Easter Masses is the Easter Offering for the Parish Priest. The only exception is money given in envelopes for the normal parish income and, of course, standing orders and card receipts specifically for the parish. Please take an Easter offering envelope or you can give using the card reader option 'Easter Offering'.

Easter Choir The last rehearsal for our Holy Week choir is on Wednesday this week at 6.30pm at St Joseph's.

Easter Monday Men's Mass The traditional Mass for Men on Easter Monday will be at Holy Trinity Church, Newcastle at 10am, celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes.

Men's Prayer Circle The Circle is for men who have done the Prayer & Life Workshop or who are interested in fraternal meeting of a spiritual nature. The next meeting is on Saturday 26th April, 9am to 10.30am.

Parish Forum The next meeting of the Parish Forum will be on Monday

28th April at 7pm, and will take place at English Martyrs' Church. It will be great to see as many parishioners as wish to attend together with representatives of parish groups. The agenda will follow shortly.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at St Joseph's on Monday, 12th May at 7pm. All ladies welcome, especially new members!

Care Home Service The next service at Lawton Rise Care Home will be on Wednesday 21st May starting at 11am. Everyone welcome to come and join the residents. Please meet outside in good time.

Books Sunday missals are available from Fr Julian priced £20. ESV Catholic Bibles are also available—the reprint is slightly cheaper at £18.

Assisted Dying Bill If you missed it last week, please take a copy of the Archbishop's pastoral letter and the postcard to register your opposition.

OUTDOOR STATIONS OF THE CROSS



As has become traditional, we are going to pray the Stations of the Cross up and down Bid-

dulph High Street on Maundy Thursday, at lunchtime. We begin at 11.30am outside Biddulph Town Hall. It will be great to see as many parishioners as possible. Bring along others to take part too!

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Place is on holiday for the next two weeks. When we return after the holidays, we will have one meeting at St Joseph's church on 6th May, because of roof repairs to our usual meeting place. We then return to St Joseph's Academy on Tuesday 13th May. We meet on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon. Everyone welcome!

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space is now on holiday until the autumn.

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 29th April 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

ENGLISH MARTYRS' SOLEMNITY

The celebration of the Solemnity of the English Martyrs' this year will take place on Monday 5th May.

Mass at English Martyrs' Church will be at 9.15am followed by breakfast oatcakes!

Everyone welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY WITNESS

We want to invite you to come and join the churches of the town as we sing, read scripture and pray around Biddulph.

11:00-11:40 @ MEETING POINT 1
 MEET AT TOWN HALL STEPS

11:45-11:25 @ MEETING POINT 2
 MEET AT AREA OPPOSITE BIDDULPH METHODIST CHURCH

11:30-11:40 @ MEETING POINT 3
 MEET IN FRONT OF THE HEALTH CENTRE



DEANERY & BEYOND

Come to His Eucharistic Heart is the name of our Deanery Eucharistic Congress taking place from 10th to 12th July. 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.

WeBelieve Festival 25th-28th July is a festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope, with parishes and families in mind. Four days of music, keynote talks, conversation & worship, in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's College, Oscott, Sutton Coldfield. Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray, Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, Fr Toby Lees & many more. Pilgrim attendees can choose to come for the whole weekend (camping, staying locally or coming from home) at an adult Early Bird rate of £70, or for a day for £40. Early Bird Tickets available now online on the website www.webeliefestival.com

Talk on Evangelii Gaudium Phil Mayland will speak about Evangelii Gaudium at St Wulstan's School Hall in Wolstanton on Monday 28th April at 7pm. Organised by the Area Pastoral Council.

Oscott College News Why not sign up for the Seminary newsletter at www.oscott.org? April's newsletter includes an update from the Rector, some answers to frequently asked questions about discernment, a report on some of the 'Hidden Treasures' in Oscott's museum, and details of how to book a college tour. It takes less than a minute to sign up, and those who do will receive a monthly newsletter, as well as early access to the annual 'Oscotian Magazine' and events hosted at the college.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Ethan Mason, Alex Hackney and Arthur Eduao Ferreira, who are to be baptized, confirmed and to receive First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

Reception into the Church

Welcome into full Communion with the Catholic Church to Jack Adams and Sarah Marchesi Zoppi, who will be received, confirmed and receive First Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil.

Confirmation

In addition to those being baptized or received into the Church, congratulations to Hugo Lopes, Tiago Scoda Botelho and Samara Pereira Ferreira who are to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil.

Death

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Margaret Crompton. Funeral arrangements later.

And for Sheila Clark. Her funeral will no longer take place at St Joseph's.

Requiescant in Pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 13th April

St Joseph's: John & Mary Leese

St Patrick's: Int Mary Welsh

English Martyrs': Jean & Don Green, Mandy Buxton & Lorraine Brooks

Week beginning 20th April

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

St Patrick's: Deceased of Green & Hewitt families

English Martyrs': John, Mary & Lynne Hunter

You can dedicate a sanctuary lamp for a week for a minimum donation of £5

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGES

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage is from Saturday 24th to Friday 30th May. For information and bookings, go to the Diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage

Medjugorje There is a pilgrimage going from 4th to 11th June. Flights from London on BA. Half board accommodation and full programme with spiritual direction. Cost is £655 shared or £750 single room. For more information and booking contact Nora on 07951048968

Walsingham There are still a few places left for the N Staffs Walsingham Association pilgrimage to the national shrine of Our Lady, Saturday 23rd to Monday 25th August. Get in touch with Mary by email maryroseshirley@gmail.com

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.

Parish Office & Parish Priest's Open House

The Parish Office is open at the normal times of opening (see front page) with the exception of Bank Holidays. 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 19th April.