

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



PARISH BULLETIN

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 18TH MAY 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

I guess that not many of you had heard of Cardinal Robert Prevost before last Thursday. I had, but did not really know much about him. He seems to have had a pathway to the Papacy unlike most. He has lived most of his life as a missionary and in pastoral life as a priest and bishop in Peru, and only recently came to Rome to be one of the Pope's helpers in the Curia, and had only been a cardinal for 18 months.



Pope Leo XIV

The first few days of his Pontificate have brought great appreciation from everyone. He seems to be a bit like the previous three Popes in different ways. He is an Augustinian, and I was taught theology by Augustinians. His way of

thought seems very similar to Pope Benedict XVI. His simple approach to people seems very like Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis. It will be good to see how his pontificate develops, but the signs are good. Of

course, this is the honeymoon period, and he will have his problems. But let us all join in real prayer for the Pope and real joy in his election.

For priests the biggest challenge is to remember to put the correct name in the Eucharistic Prayer. I was pleased to be able to celebrate Mass last Sunday in Our Lady of the Angels church in Cala Millor in Mallorca. I was pleased to be able to help the parish priest out, even if I was on holiday. It is a good reminder to make Mass part of our holiday, or when we are on a visit or trip somewhere. These days, it's easy, with the internet, to look up Mass times and locations. It's good to see how Catholic (universal) the Church is!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Pope St John I
470-526

John was elected Pope while still a deacon. He became Pope in a time when the Roman Empire had split. The Byzantine emperor had become a heretic (Arian) but he was then succeeded by a new Emperor. The Roman Emperor sent John on a mission to ensure that the her-

etics were treated fairly in Byzantium fearing repercussions on the Catholics. He was successful in his mission. However, the Roman Emperor became suspicious of Pope John fearing that he would side with his rival. He had him imprisoned in Ravenna, and John died shortly afterwards, due to the bad treatment he received.

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

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) At each church Saturday/Sunday Confessions are available at each church 20 minutes before Mass. St Joseph's Friday 5pm (when there is a 6pm Mass)	
Saturday 17th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Sunday 18th Fifth Sunday of Easter	9.00am	11.00am	3.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Healing Service	Timothy Child Peter Harding
Monday 19th Feria of Easter		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
Tuesday 20th St Bernadine of Siena	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Dec of Child family
Wednesday 21st St Christopher Magallanes & Companions	11.30am	5.45pm 6.00pm		Requiem Mass <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Eddie Taylor RIP Michael & Maureen Meaney & family
Thursday 22nd St Rita of Cascia		12noon		Holy Mass	Int Sheila Plant
Friday 23rd Feria of Easter		11.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Leavers' Mass (SMW) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parish Family Tree Healing (BW)
Saturday 24th Feria of Easter			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 25th Sixth Sunday of Easter	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Int Eugene & Jackie Menzies (50th Wedding) Stan Grandfield
Monday 26th St Philip Neri					
Tuesday 27th St Augustine of Canterbury			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 28th Feria of Easter <i>Vigil of Ascension</i>	3.30pm		6.30pm	Requiem Mass Vigil Mass of Ascension	Jean Close RIP Timothy Child
Thursday 29th THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD	9.15am	6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass	John Biggane Bishop David McGough
Friday 30th DEDICATION OF CON- SECATED CHURCHES	12noon	9.15am 9.30am		<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Nuptial Mass	People of the Parish Hugo Lopes & Sarah Zoppi
Saturday 31st Visitation of Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Tony Jervis
Sunday 1st Seventh Sunday of Easter	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Bailey & McQuade families Paul McGough

Healing Service Our Healing Service with Anointing of the Sick, Prayer for the Sick and Eucharistic Healing procession takes place at St Patrick's Packmoor on Sunday 18th May (the Sunday following the feast of Our Lady of Fatima) at 3.30pm.

Parish Forum The Parish Forum meeting, which was due to take place in April, will now take place on Wednesday 11th June at 7pm at English Martyrs'. Hopefully all parish groups will be represented and other individual parishioners will be able to come too.

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 24th May, 9am to 10.30am.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at English Martyrs' on Monday 9th June 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.

PARISH SUMMER FAYRE

Our Parish summer Fayre takes place on Saturday 14th June at Biddulph Town Hall from 10am to 12noon.

We are looking for volunteers to help with stalls and refreshments. Please see one of the members of the Ladies group or Fr Julian if you want to offer help.

We also need items to be brought to church for sale or raffle at the Fayre. Over the next few weeks we are asking for you to bring:

25th May—Bric a brac and soft toys

1st June—Homemade crafts

Please bring along cakes and home baking on the day

Just bring advanced donations along to any of our churches on each Sunday and hand to the stewards.

Hospital If you or someone you know needs a priest in hospital, you need to contact the chaplaincy yourself. For Royal Stoke call 01782 676400. It is important to specify you want the Catholic chaplain (Fr Matthew). If you need a Chaplain at the Haywood, please contact Fr George at Tunstall. For other hospitals, care homes or hospices, please ask the staff. If you have any difficulties, contact the Parish Office.

HOSPITALITY

St Joseph's Welcoming Place is on holiday for the next two weeks. We meet on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon at St Joseph's Academy. 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 27th May from 1.30 to 3.30pm. Everyone welcome! £3 to attend.

PENTECOST NOVENA

The Pentecost Novena was instituted to be prayed in every parish by Pope Leo XIII in 1897. At the beginning of the Pontificate of the new Pope, Leo XIV, we can pray for the Pope and for all the Church the Novena prayers from Friday after Ascension to the Vigil of Pentecost.

Our Father... Hail Mary...

Glory be... (seven times for the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit)

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, you promised to send the Holy Spirit to your apostles and disciples. Grant that the same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of your grace and love. Grant us the Spirit of fear of the Lord that we may be filled with loving reverence toward you; the Spirit of piety that we might find peace and fulfilment in the service of God while serving others; the Spirit of fortitude that we may bear our cross with you and, with courage overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation; the Spirit of knowledge that we may know you and know ourselves and grow in holiness; the Spirit of understanding to enlighten our minds with the light of your truth; the Spirit of counsel that we may choose the surest way of doing your will, seeking first the kingdom. Grant us the Spirit of wisdom that we may aspire to the things that last forever. Teach us to be your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with your Spirit. Amen.

Act of Consecration to the Holy Spirit

On my knees I before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses I offer myself, soul and body to You, Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the brightness of Your purity, the unerring keenness of Your justice, and the might of Your love. You are the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness to grace and I pray with all my heart to be kept from the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light, and listen to Your voice, and follow Your gracious inspirations. I cling to You and give myself to You and ask You, by Your compassion to watch over me in my weakness. Holding the pierced Feet of Jesus and looking at His Five Wounds, and trusting in His Precious Blood and adoring His opened Side and stricken Heart, I implore You, Adorable Spirit, Helper of my infirmity, to keep me in Your grace that I may never sin against You. Give me grace O Holy Spirit, Spirit of the Father and the Son to say to You always and everywhere, "Speak Lord for Your servant listens." Amen.

Pope St John XXIII's Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit, renew your wonders in this our day, as by a new Pentecost. Grant to your Church that, being of one mind and steadfast in prayer, with Mary the Mother of Jesus, and following the lead of Blessed Peter, it may advance the reign of Our Divine Saviour, the reign of truth and justice, the reign of love and peace. Amen.

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

ARCHBISHOP LONGLEY'S MESSAGE

I welcome the wonderful news of the election of Cardinal Robert Prevost as our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he prepared to give us his first blessing as Pope in St Peter's Square he also gave us a message of joyful encouragement, calling us to be bridge-builders who are the light of Christ in the world. As the first Pope from the United States of America he also remembered the people of Chiclayo in Peru where he had served as bishop until 2023.

I have just spent the last few days at Buckfast Abbey with all the Bishops of England and Wales as we prayed for the Cardinals in Conclave and as we waited to hear whom the Holy Spirit would identify as the Successor of Peter. It will be a great joy to serve the Church's mission inspired by the guidance of Pope Leo. All the lay faithful, the Religious and clergy of our Archdiocese are praying for our new Holy Father that he may serve the Church for many years and be richly blessed in his apostolate.

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Edward Peter (Eddie) Taylor. Requiem Mass at English Martyrs' on Wednesday 21st May at 11.30am, followed by committal at Macclesfield crematorium.

And also for Jean Close. A Requiem Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul at English Martyrs' on Wednesday 28th May at 3.30pm. The funeral service will take place at Bradwell Crematorium on Thursday 29th May at 12noon.

And also for the Peter McIntyre. Fu-

neral service at Bradwell crematorium on Tuesday 20th May.

Requiescant in Pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 18th May

St Joseph's: Michael & Maureen Meaney

St Patrick's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

English Martyrs': Lorraine Brooks

Week beginning 25th May

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

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

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGES

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

Our Lady of Lourdes, Hednesford For those who can't make it to Lourdes, you are invited to come to the Diocesan shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, on Sunday 6th July, from 1pm to 5.30pm. Celebrant: Bishop Timothy Menzies

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 the Open House on Saturday 24th and 31st May.