

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



PARISH BULLETIN

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

It's over two months since I last wrote a full four-page bulletin, before the summer really began. It's been quite an eventful summer! Firstly, there was the Valladolid Old Boys' event in Valladolid. That was a great event appreciated by the bishops and priests who studied at Valladolid.

Then, shortly after that, there was the Deanery Eucharistic Congress. Quite a lot of parishioners came to that three-day event, whether to the Opening Mass, the Reconciliation and Healing evening, to the conference day, or to the Eucharistic Procession and final Mass. It was a tremendous celebration of faith for the Deanery during this Jubilee Year, and many have expressed their appreciation.

During August I have been on the Society of St John Mary Vianney annual sum-

mer conference in Ars, and on retreat in Walsingham. The summer ended with the North Staffs Walsingham Association pilgrimage, where we had a very devotional, busy and hot Bank Holiday weekend.

Over the summer, I was considering how things have gone over the past year. There was a lot of work and activity during the last year including some new projects. One of those was the Parish Pastoral forum. We have had three meetings, but it seems to me that this does not work well in the form it has taken. The last meeting was more involved with social and fundraising than pastoral initiatives. And so I've decided to reshape our parish committees and meetings.

We already have a parish finance and buildings committee which works well

and will continue. The parish pastoral forum will become a new Social Committee, which will aim at bringing the parish together socially, and also fundraising. The Ladies group has done this over the past year, but will hand over this responsibility to the Social Committee. This will free the ladies to have a variety of meetings. And finally, there will be a pastoral Council to look specifically at helping me with the pastoral projects and initiatives. This will have members chosen by me from among those who are already involved in pastoral work and outreach. You'll hear more about this in the near future. I hope all this makes sense and allows people to contribute according to their strengths. There will also be an Annual General Meeting in spring each year.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Marko Krizin
1588-1619

St Marko was originally from Croatia, but went to study first in Austria and then in Rome. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Zagreb. He became the Rector of the seminary there after ordination, and a Cathedral Canon. In 1619, Marko was sent to Hungary, at the

same time as the Calvinist Prince of Transylvania was leading an assault against the Catholics ruling Hungary. Marko was arrested together with two other priests. The Calvinists had agreed to execute all priests. Marko refused to give up the Catholic faith and so was tortured and beheaded, together with his two companions.

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
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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) 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); after Saturday morning Mass	
Saturday 6th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Julius Kaminskis
Sunday 7th Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parish Tom Bailey
Monday 8th Nativity of Our Lady		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
Tuesday 9th St Peter Claver	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Holy Souls
Wednesday 10th Feria	7.00pm	12noon 5.45pm 6.00pm		Funeral Service <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Keith Halfpenny RIP Families affect by addiction
Thursday 11th Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) Holy Mass	Fr Peter Blundell Holy Souls
Friday 12th Most Holy Name of Mary					
Saturday 13th St John Chrysostom			5.30pm	Holy Mass of the Feast	Welsh & Blood families
Sunday 14th Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Bill Adams Kath & Brian Wakefield
Monday 15th Our Lady of Sorrows		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Int Jean Keenan (90th Bday)
Tuesday 16th Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	8.55am 9.15am	7.00pm	2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary Memorial Service	Holy Souls Jason Ferris RIP
Wednesday 17th St Robert Bellarmine	7.00pm	5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Dec of Maughan family
Thursday 18th Feria	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) Holy Mass	Fr Bernard Garrett Holy Souls
Friday 19th Feria		12.30pm 5.00pm 6.00pm		Y7 Welcome Mass (SMW) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parish Barbara Yates (WS)
Saturday 20th The Korean Martyrs			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 21st Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parish Kevin Potts

Mission Appeal Thank you to everyone who responded to our Mission Appeal for the foreign missions. The second collection raised £731.55. This will be forwarded to the Vincentian Fathers.

Parish Social Committee As you will have read in Fr Julian's message on the front page, the Parish Forum will now become a Parish Social committee which will be a forum to plan and organise the events which bring us together as a Parish across our various communities, and to help with the fundraising for the parish. The first meeting will be on Tuesday 23rd September at 7pm at St Joseph's. Everyone is welcome to come and participate.

Stations of the Cross The Stations of the Cross, which were in St John's Kidsgrove, and were part of the original building, have been restored and repainted (the plaster was in a poor state). They have now been put in place at English Martyrs' Church. I would invite all parishioners who previously attended St John's to come to Biddulph and see the restoration. The cost of the work was £7,000. If anyone wishes to donate towards this, please see Fr Julian.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at St Joseph's on Monday 8th September at 7pm. It's Our Lady's Birthday and Fr Julian will be giving a talk on Our Lady and leading a Rosary. Because there will now be a separate Social committee for the parish, it is an opportunity to re-shape and plan different types of meetings for the future. It would be great to see new ladies or some who haven't been for a while.

PLW Prayer Circle We have a new prayer circle for all those who have participated in a Prayer & Life Workshop. It is an hour similar to one of the workshops, with prayers, sharing, Gospel and practising one of the prayer methods used in the workshops. The next meeting is on Tuesday 16th September at 7pm in the meeting room at St Joseph's.

OUR LADY OF GRACE PARISH QUIZ NIGHT

You are invited to our Parish quiz night at Knypersley Sports club on Friday 19th September at 7pm, with a bar and light refreshments.

Tickets are available after Mass. £5 per person (Children under 18 £2).

Teams of max 6 people.

Everybody welcome. Why not invite friends and family along too?

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 27th September, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.

Cursillo in Christianity The Cursillo movement is inviting everyone in the area to come and discover what Cursillo can do for you or your parish. (Cursillo is a movement which runs groups which promote a deepening of Catholic faith for people). The Encounter Day will be at Our Lady & St Werburgh's parish Clayton, on Saturday 20th September, 9.30am to 1pm. Refreshments and brunch will be provided (please advise of dietary requirements). To book a place please email Paul Northam on paul.northam@rcaob.org.uk For more information about Cursillo go to cursillouk.org There will also be a full Cursillo weekend on 13th to 16th September at Shallowford House, Staffs. If you are interested please email national@cursillouk.org or call 07947 271037

Filipino Community Mass The next Filipino Community Mass for North Staffs is this afternoon, Sunday 7th September, at 3pm at Holy Trinity, Newcastle.

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 Space meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon at St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club building). We begin again this Tuesday 9th September.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. This month there is no normal meeting but the group are holding a Fayre at the Town Hall on Tuesday 30th September from 1.30 to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entrance £3.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space will be starting again this autumn. It will be on Wednesdays, starting 1st October from 11am to 2pm in the meeting room at church. Light refreshments and lunches available. Make it a date!

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.

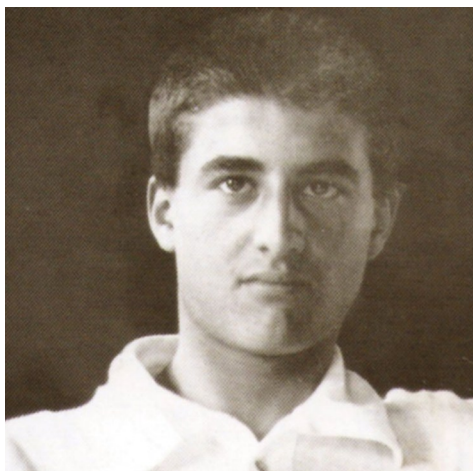
Open House is when Fr Julian is available to be seen for consultations about baptisms, weddings, or for any other reason. It takes place on Saturday mornings from 11am to 12noon. There will be no Open House until Saturday 27th September.



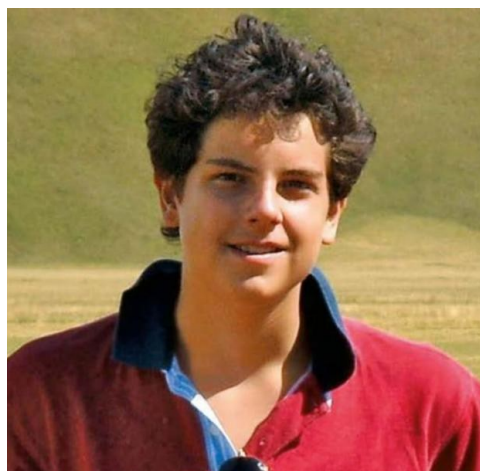
If you do not have a standing order in place, it is by far the best way of being able

to give to the parish, as it attracts the lowest bank charges for the parish. 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

CANONISATION OF STS PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI & CARLO ACUTIS



Today in Rome, our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV, will canonise the first two saints of his pontificate. The two both had the same nationality. Both of them were exemplary Catholics at a young age. The two both died young, one aged 24, the other 15. Both have become tremendously popular, especially among young Catholics, and both are patron saints for Catholic youth. They are St Pier Giorgio Frassati (left) and St Carlo Acutis (right).



"Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear."

"To always be close to Jesus: that's my life's plan"

The lives of these two young saints are similar in some respects: they both came from well off families, both were Italian (though Carlo was born and baptized in London), and both were very engaged in the life of the Church. However, they came from very different times: Pier Giorgio was born in 1901 and lived through the First World War, dying in 1925, aged 24. Carlo was born in 1991, and lived for 15 years over the dawn of the New Millennium. Pier Giorgio was a great outdoorsman, and loved mountaineering. Carlo was happier at home with his computer.

But both of these new saints are united in their heroic lives of faith. They both showed an absolute dedication to and love for Jesus Christ, and for the Holy Church. Both saw in the Eucharist the essence of this life in Christ. Pier Giorgio was seen every morning at Mass and spending time lost in prayer afterwards. Carlo

spent hours in Eucharistic Adoration and would never pass a Catholic church without entering and spending time before the Blessed Sacrament. He called the Eucharist his 'highway to heaven'. Both saints had a deep love for the Blessed Mother, and prayed the Rosary with fervour and devotion each day. Both of these young saints were known for Christian charity which led them to serve the poor. At the funeral of Pier Giorgio so many of the poor of Turin came out to line the streets to the surprise of his family and friends who did not realise that he had fed and helped so many. Carlo always insisted on feeding the poor and treating them like members of his family.

Both Pier Giorgio and Carlo died suddenly at an early age, one from polio, the other from leukaemia. Both are united today as Our Holy Father 'raises them to the altars'. May they pray for our young people today.

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Romano Alfie Warham, who was baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 20th July.

And to Molly Anne Gulliver and Ravi Baracat Froes who were baptized at St Joseph's on Saturday 26th July.

And to Dexter Kelechi Odimega and Amora Munachi Odimega who were baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 27th July.

And to Don-Avid Mu'onesi Chasauka and Stephanie Mjivisi Chasauka who were baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 10th August.

And to Isaiah Amos Ryan Gregory George Doherty who was baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 10th August.

And to Isaac Patrick Stokes who was baptized at St Joseph's on Saturday 16th August.

And to Mitchell Steven Kelsall and Frankie Evans who were baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 17th August.

And to Layla Uzoamaka Edoga who was baptized at St Joseph's yesterday.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Congratulations to Patrick Michael Mongon who received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion at St Patrick's church on Wednesday 30th July.

Marriage

Congratulations to Anthony Stanway and Alex Ward-Brassington who were married at St Joseph's on 16th August.

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Keith Patrick Halfpenny. Funeral service at St Joseph's on Wednesday 10th September, followed by burial at Woodhouse Lane Burial Ground.

Requiescat in Pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 7th September

St Joseph's: John Martin

St Patrick's: Robert Johnson

English Martyrs':

Week beginning 14th September

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs':

You can dedicate a sanctuary lamp for a week for a minimum donation of £7