### THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF GRACE Kidsgrove, Biddulph & Goldenhill

# PILGRIMS

# PARISH BULLETIN

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

#### SUNDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2025 CHURCHES

#### A Word from the Parish Priest



Looking back to when I was growing up, I remember the sign for the boundary for the city of Stoke--Trent along the A34. Underneath there was an added line "Twinned with Erlangen". I guessed that the twinned city was in Germany, but I never knew anything more about it. The twinning arrangement is still in place and this week a councillor from the City of Erlangen in Bavaria came to visit Stoke-on-Trent, invited by the former MP, Joan Walley.

The name of the Councillor is Martin Ogiermann, and he is also a lay minister in the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Erlangen. He was, therefore, very interested to visit a Catholic school and to meet a Catholic priest. And so, we were able to host the visit at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy. We had a lunch with a group of students, and then went on a tour of the school. Martin was very impressed with the school and the young people, and is eager to maintain a relationship with the Church in our area. You can see from the photograph a record of the visit.

As you are probably aware, all our Catholic schools in our area are 'academies'

and have, for the past 12 years, belonged to the Newman Catholic Collegiate. This is a multiacademy trust, which comprises St Margaret Ward and all its feeder schools. Some of you may remember the Collegiate being formed, and Bishop McGough celebrating the inaugural Mass at Port Vale. At the end of this month, the Newman Catholic Collegiate comes to an end, as all the schools are going to be brought into a much larger Catholic Multi -Academy Trust called the Archangel Gabriel Trust. This covers all the schools in Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and the Black Country.

On a final note, please ensure that children are not allowed to run up and down in Church at any time, as it is not safe and is distracting to parishioners.

Biddulph English Martyrs' Church, Church Road, Biddulph, ST8 6NE

Goldenhill St Joseph's Church, High Street, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6

Packmoor St Patrick's Church, Mellor Street, Packmoor, Stokeon-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:

Bidduph: Julie Shufflebotham (sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rc aob.org.uk)

Goldenhill: Jo Kirkham (sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.o

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.ourladvofgraceparish.org The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity no. 234216

#### Saint of the Week



#### **St Charles Garnier** 1606-1649

St Charles is one of the eight Canadian martyrs, who were missionaries who were martyred by native tribes. He was born in Paris, and joined the Jesuits in Clermont. After spending time as a teacher, he was ordained priest in 1635, and the following year, was sent to 'New

France' (today's Quebec) to serve in the missions to the Huron native Indians. He served the rest of his life in the missions there. He was very influenced by fellow-martyr St John de Brébeuf, being like the 'lamb' compared to St John's 'lion'. The Iroquois natives organised raids on the Hurons, during which St Charles was killed.

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# 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 18th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Stephen Holmes & family
Sunday 19th Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Int Mr & Mrs B Edwards Thanksgiving (Ursula K)
Monday 20th Feria		5.45pm 6.00pm		Vespers Holy Mass	Peter Moran & Dec of Moran family
Tuesday 21st Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	Lauds Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention
Wednesday 22nd St John Paul II	7.00pm	5.45pm 6.00pm		Vespers Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Tom Bailey
Thursday 23rd St John of Capistrano	12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) Holy Mass	Fr Keith Enstone Dec of Child family
Friday 24th St Antony Mary Claret	8.15am	5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) Adoration & Vespers Holy Mass	Fr Edwin Cownley Special Intention (LM)
Saturday 25th Our Lady		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish John Martin
Sunday 26th Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	George & Barbara Connell, Karol Grolik Teresa Pham, Joseph & Joseph Nguyen
Monday 27th Feria					
Tuesday 28th St Simon & St Jude	9.00am 9.15am		2.15pm	Lauds Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention
Wednesday 29th Feria	7.00pm			Holy Rosary	
Thursday 30th Feria					
Friday 31st Feria					
Saturday 1st Our Lady		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of the Solemnity	November List Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Sunday 2nd ALL SAINTS' DAY	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Schiavione family November List

Rosary in October As well as the weekday Rosary groups, we will be praying the Rosary each Sunday in October before each Saturday evening and Sunday morning Mass. 18th/19th Sorrowful Mysteries 25th/26th Glorious Mysteries The Rosary begins 20 minutes before Mass. We need volunteers to lead. Please also remember the date on which you have promised to pray a Rosary for peace at home, as part of our October Parish Rosary Chain.

November Month of the Holy **Souls** November is approaching, and this year, as is our tradition, we will be praying each day for the Holy Souls during the month. This Sunday we are distributing the envelopes and forms for the November List. Please write the names of your beloved dead on the form and place in the envelope together with a donation. The donations are collected together to fund the celebration of a daily Mass in November for those included in the list, and for Masses throughout the year. Those on the November list are prayed for at the end of every Mass in November. Please get your list in early, so that the souls can benefit from the prayers throughout the whole month.

Parish Social Committee We had an open meeting of our new Parish Social Committee a few weeks ago. Only a few parishioners came. It is quite disappointing that not many came to the meeting. However, the discussion was lively and with lots of new ideas of ways to engage parishioners socially, and to help with fundraising. And so we will have another meeting, and it would be great to see lots of people who want to help with ideas and with help at our future parish events. The meeting will be at St Patrick's church on Monday 20th October at 7pm.

Sacramental Preparation Do you have children who need to be prepared for First Confession (at least Y3) or First Confession and Holy Communion (at least Y4), or both? Whether they are in one of our three Catholic schools or not in a Catholic school, there will be a meeting for

parents and children at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 22nd October immediately following the 6pm Mass

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at English Martyrs' on Monday 10th November at 7pm. The following meeting will be on Monday 1st December. Both of these meetings will be at St Joseph's Goldenhill.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 25th October, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.

Monthly Care Home Service Th next monthly service at Lawton Rise will be on Wednesday 19th November at 11am. Once again we invite parishioners to come and take part. Please arrive in good time.

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 28th October at 7pm in the meeting room at St Joseph's.

Church Painting volunteers A great 'thank you' on behalf of the parish to the working group of Ray, Andy, Hugo and Moira, who together with Eugene, did the painting work in the entrance and the meeting room this week. The next stage is the Church which is being done professionally. This work will begin on 10th November, and will take two weeks. This means that English Martyrs' church will be out of use during the weekdays of 10th to 14th and 17th to 21st November. The Sundays will be unaffected.

Scripture Talk Fr Marco Egawhary will be giving a talk on the book of the prophet Daniel on Friday 24th October at 7pm at the parish centre at Holy Trinity, Newcastle. The Prophet Daniel reminds us that God is present and at work, from fiery furnaces to the lion's den. Fr Marco's talk will encourage us to live courageously and faithfully in our own

#### **HOSPITALITY**



St Joseph's Welcoming Space meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon at St Joseph's Academy (in

the after school club building).

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 28th October from 1.30 to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entrance £3.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space is on again on Wednesdays during the autumn and winter. It takes place from 11am to 2pm in the meeting room at church. Light refreshments and lunches available. Make it a date!

"Babylons", holding fast to the hope that God is in control.

Cursillo in Christianity There will also be a full Cursillo weekend on 13th to 16th November at Shallowford House, Staffs. If you are interested please email <a href="mail@cursillouk.org">nation-al@cursillouk.org</a> or call 07947 271037 For more information about Cursillo go to <a href="mailto:cursillouk.org">cursillouk.org</a>

Update of Assisted Dying Bill For those who keep up with the news, you will know that the Bill (called the Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill) which allows assisted suicide passed the House of Commons and is now in the House of



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

Lords. The good news is that the larger number of speakers in the debates in the House of Lords have been against the Bill. It is more difficult to get in touch with members of the House of Lords, as they do not have constituencies. However, please do try to contact any that you know of in order to voice opposition to the Bill. The Archdiocesan website has a summary of the message of Archbishop Sherrington of Liverpool which outlines the objections. Go to <a href="https://tinyurl.com/termill25">https://tinyurl.com/termill25</a>

Jubilee Pilgrimage for Parishes in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, Monday 10 November to Friday 14th November. £799 pps. Price includes flight from Birmingham, 10kg hold luggage, four nights in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Single supplement on enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

## 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 an Open House on Saturday 25th October and Saturday 1st November as normal.

#### PARISH REGISTERS

#### **Deaths**

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Tony Kral. Funeral service at Bradwell crematorium on Friday 24th October.

Please also pray for the soul of Simon (Old Simey) Doherty.

#### DILEXI TE—I HAVE LOVED YOU

On 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the Holy Father Pope Leo issued his first papal document called **Dilexi Te** on the mission of the Church to the poor. This document was drafted by Pope Francis, and completed by Pope Leo, and given to the Church as a reminder of our fundamental call to serve Christ in the poor. You can read the document fully **here**. This is a short outline of the teaching of the Holy Father:

- The 'faces' of poverty—Poverty isn't just of one type. There are many types of poverty: economic, marginalisation, cultural, moral, spiritual...
- There are new forms of poverty in a world where wealth is situated increasingly with the few.
- An economy that kills—The claim is made that the modern world has reduced poverty, but this denies the reality of an economy which favours the rich over the poor.
- The Pope points out that the throwaway culture, excessive market freedom and the favouring of the elite are challenges to the care for the poor.
- There needs to be a change of mentality that frees us from the illusion that a comfortable life that relies on taking advantage of social and economic inequality of others.
- The Holy Father focusses on migrants and on the need to recognise Christ in every person including migrants. In turn, they teach us the Gospel.
- Women and those who are disadvantaged such as children are still the victims of poverty in many parts of the world.
- The poor are not with us by chance. It is most often not the fault of the poor that they are disadvantaged, and to claim that it is their fault is to engage in a cruel and false lie.
- Christians should not allow their minds to be shaped by secular ideologies which have gross generalisations and false claims.
- We need to return to almsgiving as a spiritual and practical good. We should not disparage charity as a way to help others.
- The Pope points out that any Christian or Catholic organisation that is indifferent towards the poor cannot claim really to be Christian or Catholic. We have to arise out of our own indifference and seek to arouse others out of theirs.
- The saints of the Church show us the value of service of the poor as the service of Christ, and their witness of service is the greatest impetus.
- Education is one of the most effective ways to battle poverty.
- We have to allow ourselves to be evangelised by the poor. They are our family, one of us, and this should change our hearts towards them.

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.

#### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications Week beginning 19th October

St Patrick's: John Martin English Martyrs: Mary Jervis

Week beginning 26th October

St Joseph's: Michael & Maureen Meaney

St Patrick's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

English Martyrs: John, Mary & Lynne Hunter

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