

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



PARISH BULLETIN

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2025

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Rejoice! That's the word which introduces the Liturgy today. We rejoice that Christ is near, and we will soon celebrate his birth. From today, the emphasis is less on the coming of the Lord at the end of time, and focusses now on our annual celebration of the Nativity.

As we approach the great feast of Christmas, it is a really good opportunity to try to share our faith. Why not invite non-Catholics and Catholic friends and family alike to our parish Carol Service, which is on Thursday evening this week? Again, invite family to come and join you for Christmas Mass. Even those who may not show much interest in the Faith during the rest of the year can often be grateful for an invitation at Christmas. Please take a Christmas card from the parish for



yourself and also use those cards to invite others to our celebrations. We have plenty of cards!

Christmas is also a time to remind us of the poverty of the stable where Christ was born. And we too think of those who live in poverty today, at home or abroad. Today, we will have a collection for the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who organise the Compassion Kitchen in Hanley for the homeless. They need funds to put on their Christmas dinner next week, and to

put together packages of gifts for those who have nothing. From next Sunday, through to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, 11th January, we will be running our annual Christmas crib appeal for Mary's Meals. I know you will support this with generosity as you always do.

Christmas also makes us think of family. There will be great celebrations in most of our families at this time, and it is good to celebrate family. There are those, however, who are living through difficult family moments. Let us pray for them. And then there are those of us who have no immediate family. So please remember those who are lonely. Maybe pop around with a card or a gift for someone who is on their own this Christmas. For my part, I wish you a very blessed Christmas.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



Bl Bartholomew of San Gimignano 1228-1300

Bartholomew was born after his previously childless mother had prayed to have a child. In a dream St Peter appeared to her to assure her she would. Her son felt the call to the priesthood at an early age, but out of obedience became a knight. However,

he found refuge in a monastery, where he tended the sick. In a night vision he saw the suffering Lord telling him that he was not to be a monk but a Franciscan friar. He was ordained priest as a third order Franciscan. In 1280 he contracted leprosy, and spent the next 20 years serving fellow lepers. He was beatified by St Pius X.

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) At each church Saturday/Sunday Confessions are available at each church 20 minutes before Mass. This week there will also be confessions after each Sunday Mass. St Joseph's Friday 5pm (when there is a 6pm Mass) <i>Also at additional times listed below</i> | |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------|----------|---|---|
| Saturday 13th | | | 5.30pm | Holy Mass of Sunday | John Martin |
| Sunday 14th Third Sunday of Advent | 9.00am | 11.00am | | Holy Mass Holy Mass | Barbara & George Connell, Karol Groluk Denis Culhane |
| Monday 15th Advent Feria | | 5.45pm 6.00pm | 10.00am | Requiem Mass <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass | Kerrie Ryles RIP Int Patrick Michael & family |
| Tuesday 16th Advent Feria | 8.55am 9.15am | 2.15pm | | <i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Funeral Service | Mick Higgins Thomas Allen RIP |
| Wednesday 17th Advent Feria <i>O Sapientia</i> | 7.00pm | 9.30am 1.45pm | | Holy Mass (St John's School) St Joseph's Academy Carol Concert (in Church) <i>5pm Holy Hour with Confessions & Mass at St Joseph's Burslem</i> Holy Rosary | Paul McGough |
| Thursday 18th Advent Feria <i>O Adonai</i> | 12noon 12.30pm | 9.30am 6.00pm | | Holy Mass (In Church) Holy Mass <i>Confessions</i> Parish Carol Service | Fr John Baggaley Clifford family & friends |
| Friday 19th Advent Feria <i>O Radix Jesse</i> | | 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm | | <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass <i>Confessions</i> | Bridget Culhane |
| Saturday 20th Advent Feria <i>O Clavis David</i> | | 7.30am | 5.30pm | Rorate Mass Holy Mass of Sunday | People of the Parish Kenneth Harding |
| Sunday 21st Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>O Oriens</i> | 9.00am 3.00pm | 11.00am | | Holy Mass Holy Mass Marian Hour "Walk with Mary, Young Woman of Grace" | Mary Jervis Doreen Hughes |
| Monday 22nd Feria <i>O Rex</i> | | | | | |
| Tuesday 23rd Advent Feria <i>O Emmanuel</i> | | 5.00pm 5.45pm 6.00pm | | <i>Confessions</i> <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass | Carol Smith |
| Wednesday 24th CHRISTMAS EVE | 6.30pm | 4.30pm | | Vigil Mass of Christmas Vigil Mass of Christmas | Frank & Betty Smithson John, Mary & Lynne Hunter |
| Thursday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY | | 12.00am 11.00am | 9.00am | Midnight Mass of Christmas Dawn Mass of Christmas Christmas Day Mass | Stan Grandfield Connor Young Winifred & Paddy Maughan |
| Friday 26th St Stephen, First Martyr | | 11.30am | | Holy Mass (Servers' Mass) | Karol Groluk, George & Barbara Connell |
| Saturday 27th St John the Evangelist | | 10.00am | 5.30pm | Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday | People of the Parish Lydia Davies |

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| Sunday 28th The Holy Family | 9.00am | 11.00am | | Holy Mass Holy Mass | Maria Williams & Hogan family Aine McGinley |
| Monday 29th St Thomas Becket | | 9.00am 10.00am | | Adoration & Lauds Holy Mass | Darren Paul & Stan Grandfield |
| Tuesday 30th Christmas Octave | 9.00am 10.00am | | | Adoration & Lauds Holy Mass | Kath & David Pooley |
| Wednesday 31st Christmas Octave | | 9.00am 10.00am | | Adoration & Lauds Holy Mass | Bernard Cunningham |
| Thursday 1st MARY, MOTHER OF GOD | 9.00am 10.00am | 11.30am | | Adoration & Lauds Holy Mass Holy Mass | Jean Green Winifred & Paddy Maughan |
| Friday 2nd St Basil & St Gregory Nazianzen | | 5.00pm 6.00pm | | Adoration & Vespers Holy Mass | Sharon Acton |
| Saturday 3rd The Most Holy Name of Jesus | | 8.15am | 5.30pm | Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday | People of the Parish Dec of Whitehouse & Jones families |
| Sunday 4th Second Sunday of Christmas | 9.00am | 11.00am | | Holy Mass Holy Mass | Nellie, Michael & Joe Flatley Michael Maughan |

Christmas Fayre Thank you to everyone who supported our Parish Christmas Fayre, as organisers, ticket sellers, stallholders or helpers at the event. Thanks also to those who gave items and came to support the event. It was good to see how the Fayre was supported by Mrs Hamilton and the staff at St Joseph's academy, to whom special thanks are due. The final amount raised was £1860.40, which is a great help to our parish finances.

Christmas Offering The collection at each of our Christmas Masses goes to the parish priest, as your personal contribution. Please take the offering envelope and return it at one of the Christmas Masses. Thank you.

Penitential Service Our local cluster group of parishes has its penitential service at St Joseph's Burslem on Wednesday 17th December at 5pm followed by Mass at 6pm.

Rosary There will be no Rosary on Tuesdays at St Patrick's until Tuesday 13th January, when it will resume. There will be Rosary at English Martyrs' this week but then not again until Wednesday 14th January.

Monthly Care Home Service The Christmas service at Lawton Rise will

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 last meeting will be on 16th December. The next one will be on 13th January.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 27th January from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entry £3.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space on Wednesdays is now on holiday until after the New Year, restarting on Wednesday 7th January. It takes place from 11am to 2pm in the meeting room at church.

now **not take place** this Wednesday. The next monthly service will be after the New Year and will be on Wednesday 21st January at 11am. Once again we invite parishioners to come and take part.

Hour of Prayer An hour of led prayer, called "Walk with Mary, Young Woman of Grace" will be led by our PLW prayer guides on Sunday 21st December at 3pm at English

Martyrs' church. It promises to be a lovely hour of prayer preparing for Christmas. All are welcome to come.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at on Monday 12th January at 7pm at St English Martyrs' Biddulph.

PLW Prayer Circle Our prayer circle will not meet during December. We will next meet on Tuesday 13th January at 7pm at St Joseph's.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 17th January, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.

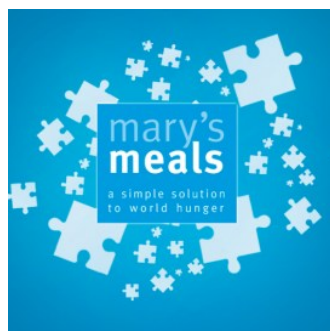


If you do not have a standing order in place, it is by far the best way of being able

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

CHRISTMAS CRIB APPEAL 2025

SHARE THE LOVE WITH MARY'S MEALS



Once again this year, for the fourteenth year running, we are making our Christmas Crib offering appeal for Mary's Meals. As you are probably already aware, Mary's Meals offers children in the developing world a daily meal on school days, in school, to ensure that they

not only receive nourishing food, but also an education. It is raising the level of development in all the places where it is set up. It uses locally grown food, and local volunteers to make it a community project which is sustainable. But it uses funds which we supply. Mary's Meals is now providing daily food for over 3 million children each day.

We ask our parishioners and visitors to consider supporting the Appeal by providing Mary's meals for a child during the coming year. The cost of feeding one child for the year is £19.15 (let's call it £20), the same as last year. If you are an income tax payer, please also fill in the Gift Aid form, to increase your donation by 25 per cent. May God reward your generosity!

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Bettie Margot Tara Willatt, who will be baptized at St Joseph's on Saturday 20th December.

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Kerrie Ryles. Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 15th December at 10am at St Patrick's, followed by burial at St James's churchyard, Newchapel.

And also for the soul of Thomas Allen. Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 16th December at 2.15pm at St Joseph's followed by committal at Bradwell crematorium.

And also for the soul of Matthew John Gibson. Requiem Mass will take place at St Joseph's on Wednesday 7th January at 10am, followed by committal at Silverdale cemetery.

And also for the soul of Mary Hunter. Reception into English Martyrs' Church will be on Sunday 18th January at 6pm. Requiem Mass will take place on Monday 19th January at

11am followed by committal at Bidulph cemetery.

And also for the soul of Doreen Hughes, recently departed. No Catholic funeral has been arranged, but there will be a Mass offered for the repose of her soul at St Joseph's on Sunday 21st December at 11am.

Requiescant in Pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 14th December

St Joseph's: Brenda Chadwick

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs': Jean & Don Green

Week beginning 21st December

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

St Patrick's: Welsh & Blood family

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis, Helena & Cyril Jeffries

Week beginning 28th December

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

St Patrick's: Fr Simon Hall

English Martyrs': Brian Stanway

You can dedicate a sanctuary lamp for a week for a minimum donation of £7. Place in an envelope with the intention written on, and preferred church & date.



The North Staffs Walsingham Association

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2026

Sat 29th – Mon 31st August

Bank Holiday weekend

An opportunity for you, your family and your friends to make a pilgrimage to Walsingham in the footsteps of Christian kings, saints, and many holy people, to deepen your faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary.

Includes coach travel; two nights' dinner, bed & breakfast in Elmham House; Sunday packed lunch; a programme of liturgical, devotional and social activities in Walsingham.

Adult prices: £213 (Standard pilgrim room)

£253 (Ensuite pilgrim room – limited availability)

Pilgrims U16: Half price – must be accompanied by an adult.

Contact Mary Shirley for extra information/ bookings:

07910 605984 or maryroseshirley@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 pastoral reason. It takes place on Saturday mornings from 11am to 12noon. The next Open House will be on Saturday 20th December. There will be no Open House on 27th December.

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.