

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

PARISH BULLETIN

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY 4TH JANUARY 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



On Tuesday, we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany. It will also mark the end of the Jubilee Year, as Pope Leo will close the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica. It has been a strange year, with a change of Pope during the year, which has certainly drawn more people to go to Rome on pilgrimage. Although we had no organised pilgrimage from the parish to Rome, a good number of our parishioners went on a private pilgrimage, as I did myself. It has been an opportunity for other pilgrimages too, and it was

great to see such a large number of people come on the North Staffs pilgrimage to Walsingham on the August bank holiday.

A particular highlight for our Deanery was the North Staffs Eucharistic Congress at the beginning of July. As the one who first suggested the Congress, it was a particular joy (and relief) that it was so well attended, and drew so many people from the Deanery together. It was helped by the schools, especially St Margaret Ward and its staff, and Fr George at Sacred Heart, Tunstall, as well as all those who gave time and energy to help me to plan the event.

The Jubilee Year called us to be Pilgrims of Hope, and that means that we continue on the journey. As pilgrims of hope we have not come to the end of the pilgrimage as we

come to the end of the year. It is a pilgrimage that we continue to tread. It means being challenged to live and more committed life as a Catholic Christian, and especially to make the life of prayer more important in our lives and to seek to grow closer to the Lord.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped during the past year in our parish. There are a number of volunteers who give a huge amount of time and effort. I want to thank them all. Their efforts should not mean the rest of us can sit back and relax—it should be an impetus for all of us to give time and talents to the life of the parish. In the near future we will have a new census of parishioners, and a time and talents survey, so that we can invite everyone to be part of the parish's life.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Genevieve
422-512

After the death of her parents, Genevieve moved from her home town to Paris. She became known for her prayer and devotion, and became a great influence in the city. She fasted most of the week and took on penances, but was also known for charity. She also consecrated her-

self as a virgin. When Paris was threatened by an attack of the Huns under Attila in 451, Genevieve brought together the women of the city as a great movement of prayer and fasting, and Paris was spared. When Paris was taken over by the Franks, Genevieve was very influential with the King Clovis and had churches built.

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

Sunday Readings Year A Weekday Readings Year II	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 3rd			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	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
Monday 5th Christmas Feria	11.00am		6.30pm	Explained Mass Vigil Mass of the Solemnity	Fr Ron Cosslett Wasył & Peter Maksymiw
Tuesday 6th EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	9.15am	11.00am 2.15pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Mass (St John's school)	Mary Hunter Ken Holmes & family People of the Parish
Wednesday 7th St Raymond of Penyafort		10.00am		Requiem Mass	Matthew Gibson RIP
Thursday 8th Epiphany Feria					
Friday 9th Epiphany Feria					
Saturday 10th Epiphany Feria			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 11th The Baptism of the Lord	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	For healing (GC & DC) Helen Hewitt & Bob Bennison
Monday 12th St Aelred of Rievaulx <i>Ordinary Time begins Week 1</i>		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Michael Higgins & Sharon Acton
Tuesday 13th St Hilary of Poitiers		8.55am 9.15am	2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Michael Cullen, family & friends
Wednesday 14th Feria	7.00pm	1.00pm		Requiem Mass Holy Rosary	Leonarda Wysocka RIP
Thursday 15th Feria	11.00am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's School) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parish Mary Child
Friday 16th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Bishop David & Paul McGough
Saturday 17th St Antony, Abbot		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Vincent Davis
Sunday 18th Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am 6.00pm	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass Reception into church	Special Intention (LM) Paul David Dymnicki Mary Hunter RIP

Epiphany This Tuesday is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord and is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be a Vigil Mass at St Patrick's at 6.30pm on Monday, and three Masses on Tuesday, at 9.15am at English Martyrs', at 11am at St Joseph's, and at 2.15pm at St John's school, Kidsgrove. Please note there will not be an evening Mass on Tuesday.

Christmas Cribs We will dismantle the Christmas cribs in our churches after the Mass on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th January, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the end of the Christmas season. Please stay to help after Mass.

Eucharistic Adoration As a follow on to the Jubilee Year, which ends on Tuesday, we are going to pick up on the encouragement of the Eucharistic Congress that we celebrated in July, and have more opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration in our parish. It has also been lovely having Adoration each day during the Christmas Octave. From the beginning of Ordinary Time, there will be Eucharistic Adoration before all the evening weekday Masses at St Joseph's, and before the Thursday noon Mass at English Martyrs' in the Lady Chapel. It is a beautiful opportunity to come and be before the Lord and to pray silently.

Christmas Offering Fr Julian would like to thank all the parishioners for their generosity in the Christmas offering, as well as for other gifts and cards at Christmas.

Defibrillator Michael Maughan has volunteered to do a sponsored 15 mile run on the last weekend of January to raise money for an internal defibrillator. We have experienced two people having cardiac arrests in St Joseph's church in under two years. The target is £1000, so please be generous in sponsoring Michael.

Foodbank update The English Martyrs' foodbank reopens after Christmas on Thursday 8th January. We made up around 100 Christmas goodie bags which were given out at English Martyrs' and St John's Knyppersley foodbanks. Thanks to everyone who donated to the foodbank this Christmas and throughout the year. On the last session before Christmas we had 25 vouchers feeding 87 people. Unfortunately this is the largest number of people needing the foodbank in any one foodbank session since we opened. So the need seems to be increasing, and the help is still necessary.

Thanks to all who came to the afternoon of prayer on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, 'Walk with Mary, Young Lady of Grace'. It was lovely to take an hour out of a busy time to pray together.

Monthly Care Home Service 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 along.

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 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.

Parish Social Committee This is an advance reminder of our Parish Social Committee which will be meeting at St Joseph's on Monday 2nd February at 7.30pm (please note change of venue and time).



PRAYER AND LIFE WORKSHOPS
A New Evangelization

Prayer & Life Workshops are starting up again locally this New Year. This 15 week programme of learning to pray and spiritual renewal is a wonderful way to reassess life in the light of Christ. The following PLWs are taking place soon: **St Wulstan's Wolstanton** on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 9pm starting on 15th January; **Sacred Heart Hanley** on Saturday mornings 10am to 12noon starting on 10th January; and at **Our Lady & St Werburgh's Clayton** on Thursday mornings 10.15am to 12.15pm starting on 15th January.

St Margaret Ward Lay Chaplain St Margaret Ward are advertising for a Lay Chaplain, required as soon as possible. 37 hours per week and termtime plus 2 weeks. Level 5—SCP 7-12 (Salary £24,252 to £26,857). Closing date: Monday 5th January 2026 (noon). Please see the full advert at <https://stmargaretward.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Lay-Chaplain-advert-Nov-2025.pdf>

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 Welcoming Space reopens on 13th January.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space on Wednesdays is restarting on Wednesday 7th January. It takes place from 11am to 2pm in the meeting room at church. Open for refreshments and lunch.

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.



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! The Appeal ends on Sunday 11th January.



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 REGISTERS

Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Maeve Creed Owusu who will be baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 11th January.

Deaths

Of your charity please pray 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 Leonarda Wysocka. Requiem Mass will be offered for the repose of her soul at St Joseph's on Wednesday 14th January at 1pm, followed by committal at Burslem 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.

Requiescant in Pace

Hospital ministry 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 4th January

St Joseph's: Fr Simon Hall

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

Week beginning 11th January

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's: Donald Green

English Martyrs':

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.

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. There is no Open House on Saturday 10th January. The next one is on Saturday 17th January.

Mass Intentions & Offerings

We get a lot of requests for Masses to be celebrated for people's intentions in our parish. Please realise that Masses, especially for Sundays, get booked up well in advance. If you want a specific date, please request the Mass three months in advance. Please expect that any general requests for Sunday Masses will join a queue and can sometimes take a number of weeks before they are allocated. Mass bookings are strictly on a first come, first served basis.