The Parish of Our Lady of Grace
Kidsgrove, Biddulph & Goldenhill

Parish Bulletin

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time **Sunday 18th January 2026**

A Word from the Parish Priest

The first day of the year, 1st January, is the annual observance of the World Day of Peace. And yet, this year we still see so many wars and examples of violence around the world. This week we have observed from afar the poor people of Iran rising up against the terrible dictatorship there, which claims to operate under the authority of God. God never authorises, in his name, the oppression of people nor their torture or indiscriminate murder. All of this comes at the end of a year of Jubilee, which has celebrated to coming of the Prince of Peace into this world. The work of Christ is still so great, and there is so much still to be achieved in his name.

As well as the uprising in Iran, we still see the ongoing war in Ukraine, the paper-thin peace in the Middle East, and the civil war in Sudan. So many wars. So much human suffering. So little sense to it all.

In our own country, we see how the fall away of our society from Christian faith and values continues its course. This week, a huge upsurge in the rate of abortions was reported. We still see the Bill to legalise assisted suicide passing through Parliament, very slowly. Surely every disabled person and vulnerable person must be afraid of the pressure which will be brought to bear upon them in the future if this Bill passes into law. There can be no justice if there is not justice for the smallest, poorest and most vulnerable in society are not safeguarded

With all of this happening before our eyes, it can be easy to hide our heads in the sand and to avoid confronting these difficult issues. And yet, the Lord calls us to be even more faithful, even more prayerful, and even more trusting in his Divine Providence. And so it is a very apt moment for the Holy Father's call for us to keep a new Jubilee Year this year to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the passing of St Francis of Assisi. In his poverty and humility he demonstrates to the world the power of God to act through human weakness. Let us entrust the world to his prayer.

Saint of the Week

St Margaret of Hungary
1242-1271

Margaret was a Hungarian princess who became a Dominican novice at the age of 12 at a royal convent on the Danube. She was fully professed aged 18. Although most of the sisters were from wealthy families, she was given no special privileges because of her status. In fact, she went out of her way to perform the most menial tasks and spent a lot of energy on the most destitute of the poor and the most hopeless of sick people. She was also an example of great holiness and piety, probably shortening her life by the extent of her penances. She was canonised on the feast of her aunt, St Elizabeth of Hungary, in 1943.

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
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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 17th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	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
Monday 19th **St Wulstan**	11.00am	 *5.00pm* 6.00pm		Requiem Mass *Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers* Holy Mass	Mary Hunter RIP Jason Ferris
Tuesday 20th Feria	*8.55am* 9.15am		 2.15pm	*Lauds* Holy Mass Holy Rosary	 Frank Smithson
Wednesday 21st St Agnes	 7.00pm	*5.00pm* 6.00pm		*Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers* Holy Mass Holy Rosary	 Holy Souls
Thursday 22nd Feria	 *11.00am* 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) *Eucharistic Adoration* Holy Mass	Fr Ron Cosslett Mary Child
Friday 23rd Feria		8.15am *5.00pm* 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) *Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers* Holy Mass	Fr David Keniry Bailey & Plant families
Saturday 24th St Francis de Sales		8.15am	 5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Bob Bennison
Sunday 25th Third Sunday of Ordinary Time *Word of God Sunday*	9.00am	 11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Biggane family & friends Michael Joseph Dymnicki
Monday 26th Sts Timothy & Titus					
Tuesday 27th St Angela Merici			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 28th St Thomas Aquinas	7.00pm			Holy Rosary	
Thursday 29th Feria	*11.00am* 12noon			*Eucharistic Adoration* Holy Mass	 Deceased priests & religious
Friday 30th Feria		12.30pm *5.00pm* 6.00pm		Y9 Mass (St Margaret Ward) *Eucharistic Adoration & Vespers* Holy Mass	Fr Fred Sheldon Michael Higgins & Sharon Acton
Saturday 31st St John Bosco		8.15am	 5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Int Julia Keane
Sunday 1st Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	 11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Connor Young Jason Ferris

The Angelus During the Year of Prayer and the Jubilee Year, we have recited the Angelus before each Mass. Now that the Jubilee has finished, we will stop saying it before every Mass. We will still have it at 12 noon and 6pm, after Sunday 11am Mass, before weekday 6pm Masses, and before 12noon Mass. It would be great if we could all commit ourselves to the discipline of praying the Angelus personally each day, three times, as is traditional first thing in the morning, at noon and at 6pm.

Mary's Meals Many thanks to all our parishioners for their generosity in supporting our Christmas crib appeal for Mary's Meals once again this year. The cash amount donated was £5,300 (2025: £4,534), of which £2,180 was Gift Aided, making our effective contribution £5,845. This is a tremendous effort and a wonderful amount of support for our annual Christmas crib charity. It represents 305 children who will be fed each day in a place of education, thanks to our parishioners.

Eucharistic Adoration As a follow on to the Jubilee Year, which ended at Epiphany, 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.

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.

Hymn Books New hymn books were bought for all our churches in 2015. Most of these at English Martyrs' and St Patrick's are still in a good state of repair. The same cannot be said for St Joseph's! A large number of them have the spine ripped and the binding broken. Some have been scribbled in by children. These hymn books were given in memory of a deceased parishioner. We appeal to all parishioners to treat the books carefully so that they do not get ripped or destroyed. Please do not allow children to draw or scribble in them. Please look after the books!

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 9th February at 7pm at St English Martyrs' Biddulph.

PLW Prayer Circle Our prayer circle will next meet on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm at St Joseph's.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 14th February, 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).

Altar Servers We are very grateful to the dedication of our team of Altar Servers in the parish. We would like to invite anyone who wishes to become a server to speak to Fr Julian. Children have to be in, at least, Year 3 at school. Adults have to go through the normal safeguarding checks before being able to serve.

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.

HOSPITALITY

St Joseph's Welcoming Space meets on Tuesdays from 10am to 12noon at St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club building). Light refreshments are served and new people are always welcome.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space is open on Wednesdays. It takes place from 11am to 2pm in the meeting room at church. Open for refreshments and lunch. Why not come along?

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.

Oscott College Guided tours of the seminary resume for the new term at the end of January: 28th January 2026 11th February 2026 18th February 2026 4th March 2026 11th March 2026 22nd April 2026 29th April 2026 6th May 2026 20th May 2026 Tickets can be booked at https://www.oscott.org/events Cost, inclusive of tea and cake: £17.50 Please be aware that the public areas for visits are all on the ground floor and are all accessible to those with mobility issues. There will also be an organ recital on 8 February at 3pm. Booking can be done online at or pay in person on the door.

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

Jubilee Year of St Francis

As you know, the Jubilee Year of Grace finished on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, 6th January. Our Holy Father Pope Leo XIV has determined that this year should be a special Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi. It is 800 years this year since the death of the saint, on 3rd October 1226. The Holy Father has asked that this Jubilee Year, which began on 10th January and will end on the same date next year, will be a time when Catholics will walk more closely in the footsteps of St Francis, embracing a life of humility, peace, conversion of heart, and generous love rooted in the Gospel.

The Apostolic Penitentiary wrote, in the Decree on the spiritual privileges of this Holy Year:

"Our times are not very different from those in which Francis lived, and precisely in light of this, his teachings are perhaps even more valid and understandable today. When Christian charity languishes, ignorance spreads like bad habits, and those who extol harmony among peoples do so more out of selfishness than out of a sincere Christian spirit; when the virtual takes precedence over the real, social discord and violence are part of everyday life, and peace becomes more uncertain and distant every day; may this Year of Saint Francis urge us all, each according to our own possibilities, to imitate the Poverello of Assisi, to mould ourselves as much as possible on the model of Christ, to not let the intentions of the Holy Year just passed be in vain: may the hope that saw us as pilgrims now be transformed into zeal and fervour of active charity."

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 Delilah Lawton and to Reggie Peter Marks, who will be baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 18th January.

Deaths

Of your charity please pray 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 Biddulph cemetery.

And also for the soul of Cynthia Butcher. Funeral service and committal to take place at Bradwell Crematorium on Friday 6th February at

And also for the soul of Diane Campbell. Funeral arrangements later.

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 18th January

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs':

Week beginning 25th January

St Joseph's: Brian Wakefield

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs': Marysia & Vincent Happy Anniversary

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). 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 one is on Saturday 24th January. There is no Open House on Saturday 31st 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.