

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

PARISH BULLETIN

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

This Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent, the spiritual journey which leads us to Easter. Lent has its origin in the earliest times of the Church. Before the time of St Augustine, the majority of Catholic Christians were baptized as adults. This came after years of preparation, attending classes given by the Bishop. Once a catechumen decided they would be baptized, then they embarked on a period of intense preparation, which reached its high point in the forty days preceding Easter, when they would be baptized. This period of time would include prayer and fasting, together with exorcisms. It was a bit like preparing the earth for new seed. Those who come to St Joseph's will have seen, last year, how we had some of these rites of preparation for



those who were baptized at Easter. They are called 'scrutinies'.

After the time of St Augustine, with the emphasis on the baptism of children, adult baptism became rare. But this period of forty days did not disappear: it changed its meaning. No longer was it a time of preparation for baptism. Now it became a time of renewal of the grace of baptism. That is the Lent that we all know. And it is through prayer, fasting and almsgiving that we seek to be renewed in that grace.

For all of us now, preparing for Lent in these few days before Ash Wednesday, it is a good idea to get

a plan together. This year the Holy Father Pope Leo, in his message for Lent, is calling us to listen to the Word of God, and to take fasting seriously. Every one of us should read the Gospel given for the daily Mass each day. We can follow these using the Walk with Me booklet. We should also take fasting seriously, giving up something we are really attached to, especially if it leads us to sin. The other essential element of Lent is sacramental confession. People have become very lax, believing that they don't need this sacrament. If it is a long time since you confessed, come to confession this Lent!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



**St Claude de la
Colombiere**
1641-1682

St Claude was a Jesuit priest who became Spiritual Director to St Margaret Mary, the visionary of the Sacred Heart. He had to discern the authenticity of St Margaret Mary's visions. He became so convinced of the validity of her experiences that he dedicated the

rest of his life to preaching the merciful love of the Heart of Jesus. He came to London as chaplain to the Queen, Mary of Modena, and preached about the Sacred Heart at a time when the suspicion was still on Catholic priests. He was arrested and put into prison for a year, but his health never recovered and he died aged 41.

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

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. During Lent: St Joseph's Friday 5pm to 5.30pm. English Martyrs' Thursday after Stations of the Cross
Saturday 14th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday
Sunday 15th Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass
Monday 16th Feria	10.00am	<i>5.00pm</i> 6.00pm		Requiem Mass <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass
Tuesday 17th Feria	<i>8.55am</i> 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary
Wednesday 18th ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Day of Fasting & Abstinence</i>	9.15am 7.00pm	6.30pm		Holy Mass Holy Mass Holy Rosary
Thursday 19th Feria of Lent	<i>11.00am</i> 12noon 6.30pm			<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross
Friday 20th Feria of Lent <i>Day of Abstinence</i>		<i>5.00pm</i> 6.00pm 6.30pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross
Saturday 21st Feria of Lent		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday
Sunday 22nd First Sunday of Lent	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass
Monday 23rd Feria of Lent				
Tuesday 24th Feria of Lent	<i>8.55am</i> 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 25th Feria of Lent		<i>5.00pm</i> 6.00pm 7.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Reconciliation Mass followed by First Reconciliation Holy Rosary
Thursday 26th Feria of Lent		9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) <i>Adoration</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross
Friday 27th Feria of Lent <i>Day of Abstinence</i>		8.15am <i>5.00pm</i> 6.00pm 6.30pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross
Saturday 28th Feria of Lent		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday
Sunday 1st Second Sunday of Lent	9.00am	11.00am	3.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Healing Service
				Special Intention Geoff Lovatt

Ash Wednesday This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and is a day of fasting and abstinence. Fasting means having only one main meal and is for all Catholics aged 18 to 59, with the exception of those who are sick or nursing young children. Abstinence which means eating no meat is obligatory for all Catholics aged 14 and over. It is also a day when you can come and receive the blessed ashes at Mass. As it is half term, there are only two Masses on this day: 9.15am at English Martyrs' and 6.30pm at St Joseph's.

Lenten Alms Next Sunday we begin our weekly collections for Lenten alms second collections. The causes for each week's alms are as follows:

- 22nd Feb SMW Lourdes Fund
- 1st Mar CAFOD
- 8th Mar St Chad's Cathedral
- 15th Mar Number 11
- 22nd Mar The Missions
- 31st Mar Holy Places

Stations of the Cross Once Lent begins, we will be preparing for Easter by the praying of the Stations of the Cross each week in each church: Tuesdays at 2.15pm at St Patrick's (in place of the Rosary); Thursdays at 6.30pm at English Martyrs'; Fridays 6.30pm at St Joseph's.

Eucharistic Adoration This year we are focussing on prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Could you spare some time to come and pray before Our Lord's Eucharistic Presence? It is transforming for anyone's spiritual life as well as the life of a parish. Look for the times of Adoration on the bulletin each week.

Defibrillator Thanks to Michael Maughan's hard work, and also the generosity of parishioners, and the particular support of a local business, we are going to be able to install a defibrillator in each of our three churches. Thanks to all who supported this fundraiser. If you have not yet given your donation to Michael, please do so as soon as possible, so that the machines can be ordered.

Foodbank Easter Eggs We like to give Easter eggs out to our families who come to the Foodbank before

Easter. Please start bringing Easter eggs to Church from next week. Thank you!

Healing Service This Lent, we shall have the Healing service on Sunday 1st March at 3.30pm at St Patrick's Packmoor. Anyone who has a diagnosed illness or is burdened by older age can be anointed at this service. As a change to the usual format, we will have a Stations of the Cross for healing.

Mass of the Nations On Sunday 17th May, in the Pentecost Novena, the 11am Mass is an event that we are calling Mass of the Nations. It is our parish celebration of being a diverse community from many nations and cultures. It can involve national dress, languages, and a celebration afterwards with food and entertainment. It needs some preparation! So please come to a meeting after Sunday morning Mass at St Joseph's on Sunday 1st March.

Vocations Mass Our Deanery Mass for Vocations is being hosted by our parish this year, at St Joseph's on the feast of our Diocesan Patron, St Chad, 2nd March at 6.30pm. The children from our schools are animating the Mass, and children from across the Deanery will be participating. We need to fill the Church for this Mass, so please come along

Parish Quiz Night On Thursday 5th March at 7pm we will be having another Parish Quiz night at Knydersley Sports Club. Teams are limited to 4 adults. Tickets are £5, including a buffet. Children under 16 £2. Bar available. Tickets available after Mass next Sunday.

Monthly Care Home Service The next monthly service will be after the New Year and will be on Wednesday 18th February at 11am. Once again we invite parishioners to come along.

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

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at on Monday 9th March at 7pm at St St Joseph's Goldenhill. As it is Lent, Fr

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 24th February from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entry £3.

Julian will be participating in this session and giving a spiritual input.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 14th March, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.

Red Mission Boxes Please bring your red boxes in to be counted to church during February. Just a note of thanks to those from Goldenhill who contributed £470 through the mission boxes during the last year.

Filipino Mass Next Mass is at Holy Trinity, Newcastle on Sunday 1st March at 2.30pm.



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

PARISH CALENDAR DATES

February 2026

Wednesday 25th 6pm at St Joseph's: First Reconciliation Mass with First Confessions

March 2026

Sunday 1st 3.30pm at St Patrick's: Healing Service

Monday 2nd 6.30pm at St Joseph's: Deanery Mass for Vocations

Wednesday 4th 6.30pm at English Martyrs': Confirmation Mass

Thursday 5th 7.00pm at Knypersley Sports Club: Parish Quiz Night

Tuesday 17th 6.30pm at St Patrick's: St Patrick's Day Mass followed by bring and share supper

Thursday 19th 6.30pm at St Joseph's: St Joseph's Day and Confirmation Mass

Monday 30th to Wednesday 1st Parish Retreat evenings for Holy Week at St Patrick's

April 2026

Thursday 2nd 11.30am at Biddulph Town Hall: Open Air Stations of the Cross

Thursday 2nd 7pm at English Martyrs': Mass of the Lord's Supper and Watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight

Friday 3rd 10am starting at English Martyrs': Biddulph Churches Together Walk of Witness

Friday 3rd 3pm at St Joseph's and 6pm at English Martyrs': The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 4th 8pm at St Joseph's: Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday 5th Easter Sunday Masses at the normal times

Monday 6th 10am at St Patrick's: Easter Monday Mass

Wednesday 22nd 6.30pm at St Joseph's Mass and Parish Annual General Meeting

May 2026

Sunday 3rd 3.30pm at St Patrick's: Parish May Procession

Monday 4th 12noon at English Martyrs': English Martyrs' Feast Day Mass & Bring and share buffet lunch

Thursday 14th: Ascension Day Masses

Sunday 17th 11am at St Joseph's: Mass of the Nations—A celebration of the different cultures in our parish

Sunday 31st 3.30pm at St Patrick's: Healing Service

June 2026

Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th: Corpus Christi Triduum Eucharistic Adoration at English Martyr's (Thursday); St Joseph's (Friday) and St Patrick's (Saturday)

Sunday 7th 11am at St Joseph's: First Holy Communion (St Joseph's Academy)

Saturday 13th 10am to 12noon at Oasis Church, Biddulph: Our Lady of Grace Parish Summer Fayre and Prize Draw

Sunday 14th 9am at English Martyrs': First Holy Communion (Our Lady of Grace Academy)

Sunday 14th 11am at St Joseph's: First Holy Communion (St John the Evangelist Academy)

July 2026

Saturday 11th: 12noon at St Joseph's: Fr Julian's Pearl (30th) Anniversary Mass and Parish celebration.

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of Elsie Heath. Requiem Mass at English Martyrs' on Monday 16th February at 10am, followed by committal at Carmountside Crematorium at 11.30am.

Requiescat in Pace

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 15th February

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs': Elsie Heath

Week beginning 22nd February

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's:

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.

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. Any difficulties, contact the Parish Office.

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. There will be no Open House on 21st February. The next is on 28th February.

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.

Currently, the availability of Sunday Masses for intentions is as follows:

St Joseph's: None until 31st May

English Martyrs': None until 22nd March

St Patrick's: None until 11th April

Please consider asking for a Mass on a weekday which are more freely available.