

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

## PARISH BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



A very Happy Mothering Sunday to all the mothers (and grandmothers!) of the Parish. It is a day when we rightly celebrate the gift of motherhood, one of the signs of God's blessing to the human race. We pray not only for our mothers who are still around, but also those who have gone to their eternal reward. I know that today I will be praying for my mum, and thanking God for the gift that she was to me.

Today is also a day when we celebrate the mother-

hood of the Holy Church. She is a Mother who teaches us and guides us here on earth. We also give thanks for the motherhood of Our Blessed Lady, who is Mother not just of Christ, but of all Christians too. What a gift to have all these mothers!

Today is also called Laetare Sunday, which is a brief respite in our time of Lent, when we can relax our penances and Lenten practices before we take them up again for the final push towards Easter. Today you

can also look ahead to Holy Week, which begins in two week's time, and plan to take part as much as possible in the life of the Church during that week. It disturbs me that Good Friday, for example, has become a day like any other, and that attendance at the Liturgy has really declined in recent times. Let's try and plan to make it a holy day of commemoration of Our Lord's Passion.

This week we also celebrate two feast days. On Tuesday, we celebrate St Patrick, with a Mass and shared supper at St Patrick's church. On Thursday, we welcome Bishop Timothy Menezes again, who will come and celebrate the Mass for St Joseph's day, and will confer Confirmation. I ask all our parishioners to come and take part in that Mass too!

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### **Bl Artemide Zatti** 1880-1951

Son of Italian farmers, because of poverty, the family emigrated to Argentina when Artemide was a child. He aspired to become a Salesian brother but, just as he was about to receive his habit, he contracted TB. He promised Our Lady that, if he should recover, he would dedicate his whole

life to the care of the sick. He started with the care of the pharmacy. When he was professed, he took over as director of the hospital, but always with direct care for the sick. He qualified as a nurse, and oversaw the building of a new hospital. He continued his dedication to the sick and Our Lady until he died of cancer in 1951.

### 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](mailto:fr.julian.green@rcaob.org.uk)

### Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding  
Tel: (01782) 782121  
[OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sg.englishmartyrs.biddulph@rcaob.org.uk))

**Goldenhill:** Jo Kirkham  
([sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjoseph.goldenhill@rcaob.org.uk))

**Packmoor:** Lorraine Connell  
([sg.stpatricks.packmoor@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stpatricks.packmoor@rcaob.org.uk))

Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240

or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

### Parish Website

[www.ourladyofgraceparish.org](http://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	<b>Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions)</b> At each church <b>Saturday/Sunday</b> Confessions are available at each church 20 minutes before Mass. <b>During Lent: St Joseph's</b> Friday 5pm to 5.30pm. <b>English Martyrs'</b> Thursday after Stations of the Cross	
<b>Saturday 14th</b>			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Peter & Joan Jackson
<b>Sunday 15th</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <i>Laetare Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Jean Green Winifred & Paddy Maughan
<b>Monday 16th</b> Feria of Lent		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
<b>Tuesday 17th</b> <b>ST PATRICK</b>			2.15pm 6.30pm	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass	Int Patrick Michael (Thanksgiving)
<b>Wednesday 18th</b> Feria of Lent <i>St Cyril of Jerusalem</i>	7.00pm	5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Martin Walklate
<b>Thursday 19th</b> <b>ST JOSEPH</b>	11.15am 12noon	9.30am 6.30pm		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Stations of the Cross <b>Confirmation Mass</b>	Matthew Gibson
<b>Friday 20th</b> Feria of Lent <i>Day of Abstinence</i>		5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		<i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Winifred & Paddy Maughan
<b>Saturday 21st</b> Feria of Lent		12noon	5.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish John Martin
<b>Sunday 22nd</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Flatley family John Hodgkinson
<b>Monday 23rd</b> Feria of Lent <i>St Turibius</i>		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Gerard Williams
<b>Tuesday 24th</b> Feria of Lent	8.55am 9.15am	1.15pm	2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross Stations of the Cross	Sick person (GC)
<b>Wednesday 25th</b> <b>ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD</b>	11.30am 7.00pm	9.30am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St John's school) Stations of the Cross <i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Agnes O'Riordan  Clare Hanrahan
<b>Thursday 26th</b> Feria of Lent	11.15am 12noon	9.30am 6.00pm 6.30pm		Holy Mass (in church) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Stations of the Cross Penitential Evening: Holy Mass Adoration & Confessions	Mr ME Connelly  Mary Patricia Yates
<b>Friday 27th</b> Feria of Lent <i>Day of Abstinence</i>		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass Stations of the Cross	Dec of Hedgecox family  Int Stephen Edwards
<b>Saturday 28th</b> Feria of Lent		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Int of Rosary Group (BG)
<b>Sunday 29th</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Child Peter Harding

**Lenten Alms** Next Sunday we begin our weekly collections for Lenten alms second collections. The causes for each week's alms are as follows:  
15th Mar Number 11  
22nd Mar The Missions  
31st Mar Holy Places

**CAFOD** Thanks for your generosity in contributing to the CAFOD Family Fast Day collection. In our parish we collected £925 much of which was Gift Aided.

**Quiz Night** Thanks to everyone who attended the parish Quiz Night last week. It is a shame more parishioners weren't able to come. But we made £79 for the parish, and came together for a good social evening.

**Collection Envelopes** The new collection envelopes are available to collect at each church. There are numbered envelopes for gift aid donors (names are on the box). Please ensure you take the correct one. There are unnumbered boxes available for parishioners who do not gift aid their donation. From next year the parish will only order boxes of numbered envelopes for regular gift aid donors and there will be no boxes provided for non gift aid donors. So many envelope sets are not taken and they are wasted, costing £5 per box. The most cost effective way to make your donation is by standing order.

**Stations of the Cross** Please note the slightly different times for Stations over the next two weeks. The Thursday Stations at English Martyrs' will take place at 12noon in place of the lunchtime Mass, because of the Confirmation at St Joseph's and the Penitential Evening. Also there will be Stations with the children from the schools in Church, which everyone is welcome to come to: Tuesday 24th March at 1.15on in St Joseph's church; Wednesday 25th March at 11.30am in English Martyrs' church.

**Penitential Evening** We will be having our 'Parish Cluster' Penitential Evening on Thursday 26th March at St Joseph's. There will be Mass at 6pm followed by Adoration and Confessions beginning at 6.30pm and

ending with Benediction. There will be a choice of priests for confession.

**Annual General Meeting** The Parish's AGM will be on Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm, following Mass which is at 6.30pm. There will be the opportunity to look at the parish accounts for 2025, for reports from parish groups, and for ideas and views to be aired. It is open to everyone in the parish. If you have something you would like to raise, please email the parish secretary on [OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:OLG.parishes@rcaob.org.uk)

**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** Our Parish Ladies Group are meeting at on Monday 13th April at 7pm at English Martyrs' Church.

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

**Monthly Care Home Service** The next monthly service will be after the New Year and will be on Wednesday 18th March at 11am. All welcome.

**Foodbank Easter Eggs** There is still time to bring Easter eggs and goodies for distribution through the foodbank.

**May Procession** Our Parish May Procession in honour of Our Lady of Grace and Our Lady of Walsingham, will be on Sunday 3rd May at 3.30pm at St Patrick's Packmoor.

**English Martyrs' Feast Day** Our patronal feast of the English Martyrs' is on 4th May, which is the May Day Bank Holiday. We will have a Mass to honour the Martyrs at English Martyrs' Biddulph at 12noon, followed by bring and share lunch.

**The Life of St Therese** Fr Michael Miners will be giving a talk on the life of St Therese of Lisieux at St Teresa's Parish Trent Vale on Friday 20th March at 7pm. The talk is being given in memory of Fr Simon Hall RIP.

**Easter Monday Men's Mass** This year the annual Easter Mass in honour of the Blessed Sacrament will be at Sacred Heart Tunstall at 10am. Chief Celebrant: Bishop Timothy Menezes, Auxiliary Bishop.

## 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. The Welcoming Space runs to the end of March.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kildgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 31st March from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entry £3.

**Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage** The Diocesan day pilgrimage to Walsingham will be taking place on Saturday 9th May. A coach from North Staffs will be leaving at 7am from Holy Trinity, Newcastle. Mass at the Shrine is at 1.30pm, followed by Procession to the Holy House in the Priory grounds. Leaving Walsingham at 5pm, with a stop at a place to eat on the way home. Cost for travel and entrance to the Priory grounds is £22 (Under 18s go free). Please contact Julie for more information and bookings. Call 07791 759713



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

# HOLY WEEK 2026

## PARISH HOLY WEEK RETREAT

### *A Retreat without leaving home*

From Monday to Wednesday in Holy Week (30th March to 1st April) there will be three evenings at St Patrick's Packmoor, with Mass, Stations, a Holy Week talk, and Eucharistic Adoration. Come and prepare for the Easter Triduum together as a parish.

6pm Stations of the Cross  
6.30pm Holy Mass  
7.00pm Talk/Meditation  
7.30pm Adoration and Confessions

## OUTDOOR WAY OF THE CROSS

On Maundy Thursday, 2nd April, we will be making the Stations of the Cross on Biddulph High Street starting at 12noon on the steps of the Town Hall. Come and join us for this great public act of witness.

## CONFESSIONS

Please try to come to the Penitential Evening on Thursday 26th March at St Joseph's. Alternatively there will be Confessions Monday to Wednesday at St Patrick's in Holy Week during the Holy Hour at 7.30pm. You can also get to Confession on Sunday at the usual times.

## PARISH REGISTERS

### **Baptism**

Welcome to the family of the Church to Georgia-Mae Kathleen Davies who is to be baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 22nd March.

### **Confirmations**

Congratulations to the young people who were confirmed at English Martyrs' Biddulph on 4th March: Nirojan Ariyakumar, Nirishan Ariyakumar, George Clack, Victor Houghton, Sebastian Lorazo, Zachary Moran, Sophie Aaron, Madison Adams, Gabriella Brown, Grace Brown, Charlotte Elliot, Penelope-Rae Kinder-Rigby, Chloe Morris, Amelia Nixon, Jessica Ryder and Sophie Simcock

### **Death**

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Mary Whalley. Funeral arrangements later.

*Requiescat 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. 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 about baptisms, weddings, or for any other pastoral reason. It takes place on Saturday mornings from 11am to 12noon. There will be an Open House on both 21st and 28th March. No Open House from 4th to 18th April.

# THE EASTER TRIDUUM

The Easter Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday and ends with Easter Sunday Mass. These are the holiest and most solemn days of the Church's year. Let's make them a great celebration of faith this year!

### **Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at English Martyrs' Biddulph

The Mass is followed by the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose. There is then watching there until midnight, with a Holy Hour of led prayer at 10pm.

### **Good Friday**

10.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness and town centre gathering at Biddulph. (Begins outside Church).

12noon Stations of the Cross at St Patrick's

3.00pm The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday at St Joseph's

6.00pm The Liturgy of Good Friday (simple celebration) at English Martyrs'

### **Holy Saturday**

12noon Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows at St Patrick's

8.00pm Solemn Easter Vigil Mass at St Joseph's

### **Easter Sunday**

9.00am Easter Sunday Mass at English Martyrs'

11.00am Easter Sunday Mass at St Joseph's

### **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.

### **Sanctuary Lamp Dedications**

#### **Week beginning 15th March**

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan & family

St Patrick's: Jean Green

English Martyrs': Elsie Heath

#### **Week beginning 22nd March**

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan & family

St Patrick's: Mary Jervis

English Martyrs':

*To dedicate a lamp, donation is £7*