

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

PARISH BULLETIN

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



How has Lent gone for you so far? Well, now we have arrived at our great week: Holy Week. It is still Lent, but now we have an opportunity to really consecrate this time, this week, to Jesus our Lord. We can plan to participate as well as possible in the opportunity laid before us of staying close to the Lord in his passion and his death, with the objective of receiving the great grace of sharing in his Resurrection. The Lord wants to raise us

up in our faith, and our living of the Faith.

Holy Week divides into two halves. Today we begin the first half: Sunday to Wednesday. I am inviting you all to come together on these days for some days of prayer in the form of retreat evenings, at St Patrick's Church, where we will have Stations, Mass, a talk on a Holy Week theme, and finally Eucharistic Adoration with the opportunity for confession.

The second half of Holy Week is the Paschal Triduum, Thursday to Sunday. This is the highpoint of the Church's year. If you have never taken part in the great liturgies of the Triduum (Thursday evening Mass, Good Friday liturgy and the Easter Vigil Mass) then this is the year! Whether you have or not, these are days to put aside other concerns and to celebrate, in each stage, the wonderful mysteries of the Lord's paschal mystery. Particularly, I have noticed how Good Friday has become just another day for so many people. Let's not let this happen to us too. Everyone who is able should be in Church on Friday at the least. This year we don't have any adult baptisms at the Vigil. But we still need it to be a great celebration, so why not come?

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St Peter Regalado 1390-1456

Peter was from Valladolid in Spain, and at the age of 14 joined the Franciscan Order in his home town. He was attracted to the more austere life of a new Franciscan movement, and joined the friary at La Aguilera. Here, Peter found the solitude, prayer and poverty he longed for.

He abstained from all meat and dairy products, and was particularly known for his charity to the poor. In spite of his personally austere life, he was known as a warm and kind man. Prayer was his principle focus, spending 12 hours a day in prayer. After his death, many miracles were attributed to his intercession.

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
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

Sunday Readings Year A Weekday Readings Year II	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions) At each church Saturday/Sunday No Confessions before Sunday Masses until 19th April For Confession times this week see below	
Saturday 28th			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Int of Rosary Group (BG)
Sunday 29th PALM SUNDAY	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Child Peter Harding
Monday 30th Monday of Holy Week		5.00pm	6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	Reception into Church Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Talk Eucharistic Adoration	Mary Whalley RIP Frank Smithson <i>Confessions available during</i>
Tuesday 31st Tuesday of Holy Week		10.15am	6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	Requiem Mass Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Talk Eucharistic Adoration	Mary Whalley RIP Special Intention (LM) <i>Confessions available during</i>
Wednesday 1st Wednesday of Holy Week <i>Spy Wednesday</i>			6.00pm 6.30pm 7.00pm 7.30pm	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass Talk Eucharistic Adoration	Peggy Hogg <i>Confessions available during</i>
Thursday 2nd MAUNDY THURSDAY	7.30pm 10.00pm			THE EASTER TRIDUUM Mass of the Lord's Supper Followed by Watching at the Altar of Repose including Holy Hour of led prayer	John & Mary Leese <i>Confessions available after Mass</i>
Friday 3rd GOOD FRIDAY <i>First Friday</i> <i>Day of Fasting and Abstinence</i>	9.00am 10.00am 6.00pm	3.00pm	12noon	Office of Readings & Lauds Walk of Witness Stations of the Cross Good Friday Liturgy Good Friday Liturgy	<i>Confessions available after</i> <i>Confessions available after</i> <i>Confessions available after</i>
Saturday 4th HOLY SATURDAY		9.00am 8.00pm	12noon	Office of Readings & Lauds Our Lady of Sorrows Devotion Easter Vigil Mass	<i>Confessions available after</i> <i>Confessions available after</i> People of the Parish
Sunday 5th EASTER SUNDAY	9.00am	11.00am		Easter Day Mass Easter Day Mass	Mandy Buxton Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Monday 6th EASTER OCTAVE			11.00am	Holy Mass	Doreen & Ken Hughes
Tuesday 7th EASTER OCTAVE					
Wednesday 8th EASTER OCTAVE	7.00pm			Holy Rosary	
Thursday 9th EASTER OCTAVE					
Friday 10th EASTER OCTAVE <i>No Abstinence today</i>					
Saturday 11th EASTER OCTAVE			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Bill & Mary Whitehouse & Int of Peter Whitehouse & family
Sunday 12th DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	People of the Parish Stan Grandfield

Easter Duties It is a precept or law of the Church that every Catholic should make a sacramental confession of their mortal sins at least once a year, and receive Holy Communion at least once a year, during the Easter season. This is called our Easter duties. It has never gone away!

Good Friday 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.

Walk of Witness We will join with Oasis church on the car park at English Martyrs' on Good Friday at 10am to walk with a Cross to Biddulph town hall where we will meet with the other churches of the town for a Good Friday service at about 10.30am. It will be good to see a good number of parishioners joining with fellow Christians on this day. Because of this, there will be no outdoor Stations of the Cross this year on Thursday.

Easter Offering As though you needed reminding... The Easter collection is for the Parish Priest. This is the only collection on Easter Sunday. Any parish envelopes (gift aid and non-gift aid) do not form part of this collection, as they must go to the parish. However, they can be put into the collection bags and will be separated out later. Easter offering is also payable on the card machine. Thank you!

Mission Appeal Many thanks for your generosity in giving to last week's appeal for the missions by Sr Assumpta. The appeal raised £783.

Lenten Alms Thanks also for your generosity in supporting the local charity Number 11 in our Lenten alms collection. We were able to send £477 to them, and we have received a letter of gratitude from them

Divine Mercy Today we are giving out picture cards for the Divine Mercy and leaflets are also available. The Novena of Divine Mercy begins on

Good Friday, and concludes with the Feast of Divine Mercy, which is the Second Sunday of Easter, or Low Sunday. If you wish to join others in the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, in our Deanery, the devotions take place at St Augustine's, Meir, in the afternoon.

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.

Rosary The Rosary group at St Patrick's is on holiday until Tuesday 14th April. There will also be Rosary at English Martyrs' on Wednesday 15th & 29th April.

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

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 15th April at 11am. All welcome.

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.

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Space is on holiday during the school holidays. Back on Tuesday 14th April.

English Martyrs' Welcoming Space has now come to an end. It has been well attended during the winter months. It is intended that it will return in the autumn. Thanks to all volunteers who have helped this year, and also all who have supported it.

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 31st March from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entry £3.

Readers We are looking for new volunteer readers for Mass. Please let Fr Julian know if you are willing.

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

CONFIRMATIONS 2026

It is lovely to share the group photos from this year's two Confirmation Masses at which young people from our parish were confirmed by Bishop Timothy Menezes. The first Confirmation took place at English Martyrs' on Wednesday 4th March, and included children from Y 5/6 from Our Lady of Grace Academy and other parishioners. The second Confirmation was at the feast day Mass on St Joseph's Day at St Joseph's, where children from Y6 in St Joseph's and St John's Academies plus others from the parish were confirmed.



PARISH REGISTERS

Baptism

Welcome to the family of the Church to Michelle Roseann McGinley, Margaret Teresa McGinley, Denis Francis McGinley, Anthony McGinley and Amos Matthew McGinley who are being baptized at St Joseph's today.

And also to Sienna Elizabeth Oakes who was baptized on Saturday 28th March at English Martyrs' Church.

Confirmations

Congratulations to the young people who were confirmed at St Joseph's Church on 19th March 2026: Paragon Muganesi Chasauka, Daniel Cooper, Kane Esposito, Joshua Gannon-Smith, Jayden Ingram, Jocknom Lyamgohn, Lewis Schifano, Isla Bithell, Isla Eyre, Lola Nixon, Emily Renaudin, Alexia Twigg, Francesca Wilshaw. Daniel Cooper, Joshua Gannon-Smith and Jayden Ingram also received First Holy Communion at this Mass.

Death

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Mary Whalley. Reception into St Joseph's Church on Monday 30th March at 5pm. Requiem Mass on Tuesday 31st March at 10.15am followed by burial at Woodhouse burial ground, Biddulph.

And also for the soul of Leonard Capper. Funeral service at Bradwell crematorium on Wednesday 1st April at 3.20pm.

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. 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.

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 29th March

St Joseph's: Kevin Potts

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs':

Week beginning 5th April

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

To dedicate a lamp, donation is £7