

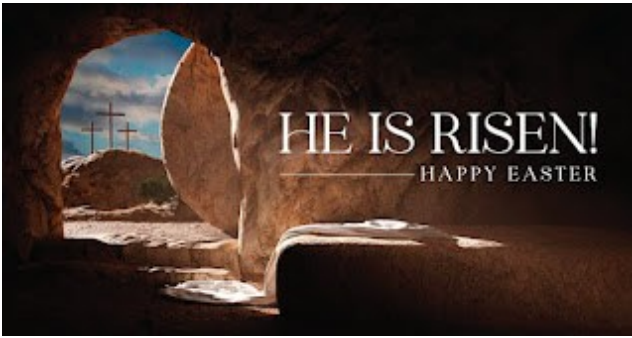
THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF GRACE KIDSGROVE, BIDDULPH & GOLDENHILL

PARISH BULLETIN

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



I want to begin this message simply by wishing you all, together with your families, a very Happy and Blessed Easter!

I don't know about you, but I've almost given up reading newspapers or listening to the news at all. It's always so grim. At home, it seems there is a lack of political seriousness, alongside so many of our trusted institutions failing. Abroad, it would seem that the world order of peace which we had got used to has disappeared, and all seems uncertain once again.

We may think of our own lives and situations. Once again, many families will be dealing with the uncertainty that economic instability brings.

In the midst of all of this, I want to say only one thing: God never fails us. That is the lesson of this Easter day. Even though it seemed that the Son of God was dead and buried, on the third day, the Father raised him from the dead. In the same way, there is nothing on this earth that can so afflict us that the Lord, who conquered sin and death, cannot over-

come it all, and lead us into new freedom.

St Augustine said: "We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song!" The Resurrection of our Lord from the dead is also our resurrection from the dead. He assures us of eternal life in him, if we remain faithful. He also promises that he will be with us, no matter what, 'even till the end of time'. He is with us in our joys and sorrows, always faithful. And so I urge you to become the message of Easter! If we are an Easter people, let people know our hope and our joy. Show by your way of living, and the joy of your life, that we trust in God who is always and everywhere our Risen Lord.

Once again, I hope that you have a great celebration of this feast. Don't forget it is a feast of 50 days, so be joyful!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



**St Maria Crescentia
Hoss
1682-1744**

Born as Anna Hoss, into a poor family, she aspired to religious life. The monastery of third order Franciscans accepted her when asked by someone who had done a favour for the community. Anna was accepted without a dowry but was resented and treated badly

by the other sisters, especially the mother superior. She suffered her treatment with patience. Eventually she was trusted to be professed, to be portress, and novice mistress. She spent great care in writing to encourage people in the spiritual life. As superior, she had a great influence on the community's spiritual life and development.

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

LITURGY & DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

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. After then: Before each Saturday evening/Sunday Mass	
Saturday 4th		8.00pm		Easter Vigil Mass	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 to Friday 10th EASTER OCTAVE				<i>No Masses or Devotions</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
Monday 13th Feria					
Tuesday 14th Feria			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
Wednesday 15th Feria	7.00pm			Holy Rosary	
Thursday 16th Feria					
Friday 17th Feria					
Saturday 18th Feria			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 19th Third Sunday of Easter	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Marie Reilly Anthony Stephen Barretto
Monday 20th Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
Tuesday 21st St Anselm	8.55am 9.15am			<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass	Dec of Child family
Wednesday 22nd Feria		6.30pm		Holy Mass Followed by Parish AGM	Special Intention (LM)
Thursday 23rd ST GEORGE	11.15am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	ME Connolly Special Intention
Friday 24th Feria		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Dec of Hedgecox family Katie Burchill
Saturday 25th St Mark, Evangelist		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Kath Bailey
Sunday 26th Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Yates Helen Hewitt & Robert Bennison

Easter Duties Please remember that it is a precept of the Church that everyone receive Sacramental Confession and Holy Communion during the Easter season. The opportunity lasts until Trinity Sunday 31st May. It is a good opportunity to return to the full practice of receiving the Sacraments.

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

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. You don't have to be a man to attend!

Divine Mercy Sunday Next Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday (the Second Sunday of Easter). The Deanery devotions to the Divine Mercy are taking place at St Augustine's church Meir on Sunday 12th April. The devotions begin with Adoration from 2pm, the Divine Mercy chaplet at 3pm, followed by Benediction, refreshments in the presbytery. The afternoon ends with Mass at 3.30pm.

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

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.

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

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.

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. We will be joined by children from the schools, as well as members of the Walsingham Association. It makes for a beautiful celebration in honour of Our

Lady who is our parish patroness. Bring and share cakes and biscuits for a nice afternoon tea afterwards.

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.

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

Mass of the Nations The 11am Sunday Mass on Sunday 17th May, at St Joseph's church, will be our Mass of the Nations, in preparation for Pentecost. In this Mass we will celebrate our Catholicity: that we are a community which is universal, drawn from so many different nations. To plan this event, we will have a meeting on Tuesday 21st April at 7pm at St Joseph's church in the meeting room. Please come along and help make this a great success, especially if you have ideas for representing your background or community!

Eucharistic Triduum Remember last year's Eucharistic Congress? It was a great success, and so many participated. This year, we are going to follow on by having three days, or a Triduum, in honour of the Eucharist in our Parish, in the days running up to the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th June. Each of our churches will take on day to host this with Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. On Thursday 4th there will be Mass at 12noon at English Martyrs' followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 6pm. On Friday 5th June, there will be Eucharistic Adoration at St Joseph's from 9.30am,

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 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.

ending with Benediction at 5.45pm and Mass at 6pm. On Saturday 6th, there will be Eucharistic Adoration from 2pm until 5.15pm at St Patrick's followed by 5.30pm Mass.

Fr Julian's Anniversary Mass On Saturday 11th July, we will have a parish celebration to mark Fr Julian's 30th Anniversary of Ordination. Because COVID curtailed his 25th celebrations, this is an opportunity to get together with parishioners and celebrate. The Mass will be at 12noon, with the North Staffs Filipino choir singing, and Bishop Menezes preaching. Afterwards we will bring and share food and a hog roast at St Joseph's Academy. Make it a date!



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

ARCHBISHOP LONGLEY'S EASTER MESSAGE

Dear friends, I want to greet you very specially and very warmly, as we celebrate this wonderful and joyful season of Easter.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is central to our Faith. It is the foundation upon which everything else rests. And at this time of the year, as the days are lengthening and we are enjoying slightly better weather, it is very significant that the Church reaches this very important turning point. It is a turning point for so many who come to find their faith in Jesus Christ and to believe in his Resurrection from the dead. It is a turning point also for those who are facing difficulties or real challenges in their lives. We cannot enter into the joy of Easter without remembering those who continue to suffer within their families or communities, especially people in Ukraine, and those in the Middle East, who have suffered so much over recent weeks and months. We pray for them, and that their faith—as so many of them have faith in the Risen Christ—may sustain them and uphold them in the present time.

Perhaps there have been turning points in our own lives as well, where we turn to Christ, the Risen Lord, and ask him to fill our hearts with that joy and confidence in the new life that he brings. I pray that you, and all those close to you, will receive just such blessings this Easter season. Draw close to Christ. Pray and ask him especially for bless-

ings for your own family and those who are dear to you. And know that, as we hold one another in prayer, we are united this year, and every year, with those who have entered into full Communion with the Catholic Church. This year we had a remarkable number of catechumens and candidates who came to the Rite of Election in Lent. I wish all of you who are being baptized or received this Easter every blessing. Thank you too for your great witness.

May the Risen Christ bring you joy and peace this year, and thank you for all that you do as witnesses to him. May God bless you and have a very Happy Easter.

+ Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham



Easter Sunday

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

—John 20:19

LET US PRAY:

Alleluia! We rejoice in your Resurrection, Lord Jesus. Today we sing your praise for the life and hope you have lovingly given us through your death and Resurrection. Help us to reflect the meaning of this most profound love in our daily lives. Amen.

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity, please pray for the soul of Gabrielle Child. Reception into English Martyrs' church on Tuesday 28th April at 6pm. Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 29th April at 11.15am followed by committal at Bradwell crematorium.

Requiescat in Pace

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.

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. The next Open House is on Saturday 25th April.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 5th April

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis

Week beginning 12th April

St Joseph's: John & Mary Leese & the Leese family

St Patrick's: Jean & Don Green, Mandy & Lorraine

English Martyrs':

Week beginning 19th April

St Joseph's: Michael & Maureen Meaney

St Patrick's: Mary Jervis

English Martyrs': Marie Reilly

To dedicate a lamp, minimum donation is £7. Please place the offering in an envelop (NOT a Mass offering envelope) and write the intention, preferred date and preferred church on the envelope. It can be deposited in the collection bag.