

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

## PARISH BULLETIN

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2026

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST



Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day when Catholics throughout the world pray for more vocations to the priesthood, as well as praying for those who are in preparation for Ordination and for the priest we already have, who always need your prayers!

The Catholic Church is 'hierarchical', which literally means 'led by priests'. The high priest in any Diocese is the Bishop. But it is impossible for one man to lead a whole Diocese. And so, since the early days of the Church, the Bishop has

been assisted by the 'presbyters', or elders, of the Church. The word 'presbyter' in English got shortened to 'priest'. The priests share in the sacred calling of the Bishop to be the presence of Jesus Christ who is the Head of the Teacher, Priest and Shepherd. In the Diocese, it is the Bishop who is the properly established 'pastor' of shepherd leader. In a parish, it is the parish priest who has this role.

Let us be quite clear: we need more priests. We are grateful to those priests who come from other countries to help support the Church here. But we need more priests from among our own people. We need to see young men come forward wishing to offer themselves to Jesus Christ to be his presence to his people. Pray for this!

No priest, no Eucharist. No Eucharist, no Church. That is the bottom line.

At present in this Diocese there are four seminarians in formation to be priests in the future. While we are very pleased that one of these is from our own parish—Ron Castillo who is completing his first year in training at the Royal English College in Valladolid—this number is dire for the future of the Church.

There are many vocations in the Church, but we need priests to continue the saving work of Christ. As St John Vianney said: "If a parish is left without a priest for 20 years, they will end out as pagans." To continue the proclamation of the Gospel and the teaching of the Faith, the celebration of the Sacraments and leadership is such difficult times, we need more priests.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### St Maughold d. 488

Maughold was a tribal prince in Ireland during the time of St Patrick. He lived among a group of fellows who were pirates. Legend says that he tried to trick St Patrick, but the saint ended out converting Maughold and his companions. As his penance for his immoral life Patrick instructed that he

should be put in a coracle without oars and set adrift in the Irish Sea. The little boat brought him to the Isle of Man, where he established himself in a cave as a hermit. When the bishops who were companions of Patrick died, the Manx people asked for Maughold to be their bishop. He is the patron saint of the Isle of Man.

### 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 9am to 3.30pm. Weds, Thurs 9am to 1pm. **No office hours on Fri.**

### 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*

## LITURGY &amp; DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday Readings Year A Weekday Readings Year II	Biddulph	Goldenhill	Packmoor	<b>Sacrament of Forgiveness (Confessions)</b> At each church Saturday/Sunday 20 minutes before each Saturday evening/Sunday Mass. <b>St Joseph's:</b> Friday 5pm	
<b>Saturday 25th</b>			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Kath Bailey
<b>Sunday 26th</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Good Shepherd Sunday</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Mary Yates Helen Hewitt & Robert Bennison
<b>Monday 27th</b> Feria					
<b>Tuesday 28th</b> St Louis de Montfort	6.00pm		2.15pm	Holy Rosary Reception into Church	Gabrielle Child RIP
<b>Wednesday 29th</b> <b>St Catherine of Siena</b>	11.15am  7.00pm	5.45pm 6.00pm		Requiem Mass <i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Gabrielle Child RIP  Bradley & O'Driscoll families
<b>Thursday 30th</b> St Pius V	11.15am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St Joseph's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	James P Shaw  Gabrielle Child
<b>Friday 1st</b> St Joseph the Worker <i>First Friday</i>		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	John Brian Keenan
<b>Saturday 2nd</b> St Athanasius		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	Int Fr Joseph Hamilton Welch family
<b>Sunday 3rd</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	9.00am	11.00am	3.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass May Procession, Crowning of the Statue, & Benediction	Maria Williams Tessie Barretto
<b>Monday 4th</b> <b>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>	12noon			Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
<b>Tuesday 5th</b> Feria	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Special Intention
<b>Wednesday 6th</b> Feria		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Michael & Maureen Meaney & family
<b>Thursday 7th</b> Feria ( <b>Feast of St John in St John's School</b> )	11.15am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	People of the Parish  Gabrielle Child
<b>Friday 8th</b> Feria		8.15am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) <i>Adoration &amp; Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Dec Hedgecox family  Int Jimmy Lai
<b>Saturday 9th</b> Feria		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	Int Fr Joseph Hamilton John Boyle
<b>Sunday 10th</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass  Holy Mass	Karol Grolik, George & Barbara Connell Kath & Brian Wakefield

**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.

**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** Our Parish Ladies' Group are meeting at on Monday 11th May at 7pm at St Joseph's Church.

**Men's Prayer Circle** The next meeting of our Men's prayer circle is on Saturday 16th May, 9am to 10.30am at the presbytery.

**Monthly Care Home Service** The next monthly service will be on Wednesday 20th May at 11am at Lawton Rise nursing home. All welcome. Mee outside from 10.45.

**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. 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, 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 30th 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!

**Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage** The Diocesan day pilgrimage to

## MAY PROCESSION

Our Parish May Procession, with the Crowning of the Statue of Our Lady of Grace and Benediction will take place on Sunday 3rd May at 3.30pm at St Patrick's Packmoor.

You are invited to bring items for afternoon tea which we will share after the Procession.

We will be joined by members of the Walsingham Association who will also have a raffle for their funds, to help pilgrims get to Walsingham.

## MASS OF THE NATIONS

To celebrate the contribution of the many cultures and nationalities of our Parish...

The Mass will be on Sunday 17th May at 11am at St Joseph's Goldenhill.

We are inviting people to wear their traditional cultural clothing

Please also bring a plate of finger food from your culture (this includes England, Ireland, Stoke...!) for people to taste as they leave church.

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

**Talk on St Catherine** Sr Mary Valery OP will give a talk on 'St Catherine of Siena and the Dominican Sisters' at Coolock in Newcastle-under-Lyme at 2pm on Wednesday 29th

## HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcoming Space is back in operation on Tuesday mornings. Come and join the friendship and have a cuppa and a chat! At St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club) on Moberley Road, 10am to 12noon.

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 28th April from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All welcome. Entry £3.

April. All welcome. Refreshments available.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bookings are still open for people to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by His Grace the Archbishop. It is from Monday 25th to Saturday 30th May. Various travel, hotel and price options. For more info, have a look online at <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

**We Believe Festival** The festival is running again this year at Oscott College, Birmingham from 24th to 27th July. A Catholic festival to learn, deepen, and celebrate the Faith together. Tickets are on sale now. See [www.webeliefestival.com](http://www.webeliefestival.com) for more details and bookings.



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

## A MESSAGE FROM HIS GRACE, THE ARCHBISHOP ON GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Dear friends,

This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday, when the Church prays especially for vocations to the priesthood. I want to ask you to join me in praying today that all those whom Our Lord is calling will respond with courage and generosity to his invitation to serve their brothers and sisters as priests in our Archdiocese.

If you feel that the Good Shepherd might indeed be calling you - and if you are male and 18 or over - I would ask you to write an email to me directly at [archbishop@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:archbishop@rcaob.org.uk). I shall be happy to meet you, with our Vocations Director, Fr Craig Szmidt, and to hear your story as you try to discern what the Lord is asking of you today and in the years ahead.

Please pray for me and for all our priests. With my prayers and kindest wishes.

+Bernard Longley Archbishop of Birmingham

## PARISH REGISTERS

### Baptisms

Welcome to the family of the Church to Lydia Rose Hall, baptized at St Joseph's on Saturday 25th April.

And also to Louie James Ashton, to be baptized at St Joseph's on Sunday 26th April.

And also to Scarlett Lyna Wilson, to be baptized at St Joseph's on Saturday 2nd May.

And to Freddie Arthur Erskine, Ronnie Paul Crofts and Patrick Alexander Crofts to be baptized on Sunday 3rd May.

### 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.

And also for the soul of Brian Waters Funeral service and committal at Carnounside on Wednesday 29th April at 3.30pm.

*Requiescant in Pace*

## PARISH NEWS

**Thanks from the Foodbank** Thanks to everyone for all the Easter egg donations which we were able to give to our visitors at Easter. Many thanks also to everyone who came to the Maundy Thursday Mass for the collection to support the Foodbank. It raised £238.25, which will help us to continue to add toiletries, cleaning products and fresh food items to the food parcels we give out.

**Defibrillators in place** The first of our three defib machines has not been put in place at St Joseph's Church, on the back wall. We hope it never needs to be used, but if it is needed it is there! The two defibs for the other churches will be installed in the next couple of weeks. Thanks once again to Michael Maughan for his fundraising and for parishioners for supporting it.

**Parish Annual General Meeting** Very few parishioners chose to come and attend the AGM which took place this week. The 2025 accounts which were distributed at the meeting are available today for those who wish.

**Summer Fayre** Our Summer Fayre will take place at English Martyrs' church on Saturday 13th June from 10am to 12noon. Draw tickets available next week to buy and sell. If you wish to contribute to the cash prize or gift voucher cost please see Fr Julian.

### Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

#### *Week beginning 26th April*

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's: Mary Welsh

English Martyrs':

#### *Week beginning 3rd May*

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs': Mary Jervis RIP

*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.*

### 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. If you have 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). **Please note that Teresa, the Parish Secretary, no longer works on Fridays.** 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. Open House is available on Saturday 2nd or 9th May.