

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

## PARISH BULLETIN

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 12TH JULY 2026

### A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

It does not seem like thirty years since the equally hot weekend when I was ordained



to the priesthood at Our Lady & St Werburgh's church in Clayton. Looking at the old photos of that day, like the one above, it is sad to see how many of the priests and people who came to the Ordination are no longer with us. That's certainly true for my family, but also parishioners and friends who came.

I really want to thank parishioners who turned out yesterday for the celebration of my 30 years of priesthood. It is, as I have said before, a strange anniversary to celebrate, and I probably wouldn't have,

except for the fact that, when it was my Silver Jubilee, the COVID restrictions were still in place, and we could only have 100 people at Mass and 36 at dinner afterwards. On Saturday everyone was able to come, and I am grateful for the celebration. Of course, I am writing this in advance of the day, but I am sure we will have had a great time.

Summer is upon us, and I will be off on holiday on Monday. During the summer months, there will be fewer parish activities and a slimmed down bulleting.

However, I would like to highlight one day: The annual World Day of

Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly is on Sunday 26th July, the Feast of Ss Joachim & Anne, the parents of Our Lady. Each year, the Holy Father gives a message to older Catholics. You can find an excerpt from it on page four of the bulletin. Here's a suggestion: Why not invite families to come with you to Mass, especially grandchildren, on that day? It would be great to see families come together to celebrate the part played by older people, especially grandparents, in our families and in our parish.

### SAINT OF THE WEEK



#### St Bartholomea Capitanjo 1807-1833

Two weeks ago, the saint of the week was St Vincenza Gerosa. Today is the feast day of her companion and cofounder of the Sisters of Charity of Lovere, St Bartholomea. Her short life was dedicated to the education of children and the poor as a teacher. She

was educate by the Poor Clares and would have entered the convent but was stopped by her mother. She turned to the intercession of St Aloysius, and then met St Vincenza. Becoming close friends they worked together to open a hospital for the poor and later a school for poor girls. Her life was cut short by tuberculosis.

### 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 11th</b>			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
<b>Sunday 12th</b> <b>Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Michael Cullen Ken Holmes & family
<b>Monday 13th</b> Feria		9.30am		Holy Mass	Bernadette McGough
<b>Tuesday 14th</b> St Camillus of Lellis			2.15pm	Holy Rosary	
<b>Wednesday 15th</b> St Bonaventure	7.00pm			Holy Rosary	
<b>Thursday 16th</b> Our Lady of Mt Carmel					
<b>Friday 17th</b> Feria					
<b>Saturday 18th</b> Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Peter & Joan Jackson
<b>Sunday 19th</b> <b>Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Theresa Pham, Joseph Nguyen Sr & Joseph Nguyen Jr Lisa Maddox
<b>Monday 20th</b> Feria					
<b>Tuesday 21st</b> Feria					
<b>Wednesday 22nd</b> <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>	7.00pm			Holy Rosary	
<b>Thursday 23rd</b> <b>St Bridget of Sweden</b>					
<b>Friday 24th</b> St Charbel Mahkluf		9.30am		Holy Mass	Betty & Frank Smithson
<b>Saturday 25th</b> <b>St James the Apostle</b>	10.30am		5.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Gabrielle Child
<b>Sunday 26th</b> <b>Seventeenth Sunday of Ordinary Time</b> <i>World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly</i>	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Delaine Wood Kevin Potts

**Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus** July is traditionally dedicated to the Precious Blood of the Lord. Through the blood spilt for us on the Cross, Jesus Christ has redeemed the whole world of sin and death. It is good to remember and meditate upon the seven times when the Lord's blood was spilt during his life: 1. The Circumcision of the Lord; 2. The Agony in the Garden; 3. The Scourging at the Pillar; 4. The Crowning with thorns; 5. On the way of the Cross; 6. The Crucifixion; 7. The piercing of the side. You can also spend a time meditating in turn on each of the five wounds of Christ: the two in his hands, the two in his feet, and the open side revealing his Sacred Heart.

**Holy Rosary** There will be no Tuesday Rosary at St Patrick's over the summer holidays. The last Tuesday Rosary before the break is this Tuesday. It will begin again on Tuesday 15th September. The Wednesday Rosary will continue as usual through the summer months.

**Our Lady of Grace Ladies** Our Parish Ladies' Group are meeting at on Monday 13th July at 7pm at St Patrick's Church. All ladies are welcome to come.

**Men's Prayer Circle** We are having a break for the summer, and will return in the autumn, on Saturday 12th September at 9am in the presbytery. All men who have been through the Prayer & Life Workshop are welcome to come.

**Red Mission Boxes** Please bring your red mission boxes in to church for them to be counted over July/August. Thank you.

**North Staffs SPUC** The area branch of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children is organising a leaflet distribution, house to house, in Goldenhill. They would like to invite anyone who is able to come and help with the leafleting which takes place on Monday 20th July at from 10am. It will take about an hour. For more information or to volunteer please contact [northstaffs.spuc@yahoo.com](mailto:northstaffs.spuc@yahoo.com)

**Harvington History Festival** This history festival runs from 22nd to 26th July at Harvington Hall, Worcs, the Diocesan shrine of the English Martyrs. There is a fascinating programme of talks, tours and events over these days. For more information about the event, please visit [www.harvingtonhall.co.uk](http://www.harvingtonhall.co.uk)

**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.webelievethefestival.com](http://www.webelievethefestival.com) for more details and bookings.

**Bl Dominic Barberi Mass** Fr Julian Booth will be celebrating Mass for



**CAFE ON THE STEPS**  
*Celebrate Biddulph Festival*

4th July 10am-1pm  
 11th July 10am-12pm  
 18th July 10am-12pm  
 25th July 10am-12pm

the cause of canonisation of Bl Dominic Barberi, the Passionist priest who converted St John Henry Newman in 1845. Everyone is invited to come to the Mass which will be at Our Lady of the Assumption, Swynnerton on Thursday 30th July at 7.30pm. Refreshments in the village hall after.

**Pro-Life Pilgrimage** The annual pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life to Walsingham takes place on Saturday 1st August. The pilgrimage begins with the midday pilgrim Mass, celebrated by Bishop Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia. The programme ends at 5pm. For more information please see the website [www.prolifepilgrimage.org](http://www.prolifepilgrimage.org)

**St Chad's Cathedral visits** Three dates are being offered for free guided tours of our Diocese's Cathedral on Fridays 7th, 14th and 21st August at 10.30am. These are 'walk-in' events, so just turn up!

**Deanery Mass** The Area Pastoral Council invites you to come to a Deanery Mass which will be celebrated at St George & St Martin's Church, Birches Head (Parish of St Bernard of Clairvaux) on Thursday 20th August at 7pm, the Feast of St Bernard. The celebrant will be the Parish Priest, Fr Adrian McNamara.

**HOSPITALITY**



St Joseph's Welcoming Space is our open house group for people to come and have a cuppa and a chat! At St Joseph's Academy (in the after school club) on Mobberley Road, 10am to 12noon. This Tuesday 14th is the last session before the summer holidays. We will then be open again from Tuesday 22nd September.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. There is no meeting in August. Next meeting is on 29th September.



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

# POPE LEO'S MESSAGE TO GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 2026

*Here are some extracts from Pope Leo's message to grandparents and the elderly for the Day of Prayer on 26th July:*

The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly (26th July) is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them. Bring them, through this message and your presence, the closeness and affection of the Pope. Ensure that the words of the prophet, "But I will never forget you," take the form of a tender and affectionate encounter. "In an era that favours speed and fragmentation, the human person still yearns to receive care and recognition from attentive minds, kind words and hands capable of tenderness. The digital culture multiplies connections and offers new opportunities for interaction; yet, the human heart retains an irrevocable need for genuine closeness"

It is a joy, at any age, but especially when we are no longer young, to discover, as John Paul I said, that we are the recipients "of undying love on the part of God. We know: he has always his eyes open on us, even when it seems to be dark. He is our father; even more he is our mother". Even if it does not come naturally to think this way, the truth is that even in old age we do not cease to be sons and daughters; therefore, the invitation to return to the arms of God — whose love is both paternal and maternal — remains worthwhile at any age.

For many, the discovery of God's tenderness takes place over the course of their lives, sometimes even in its final stages. Indeed, unlike in the past, it is increasingly common to reach old age without having had a genuine experience of faith. In such cases, old age — beginning with the questions that arise with greater urgency during this season of life — can become the right time to begin or resume a spiritual life. On this new journey, one can recognize that God, as Saint Augustine says, "is a mother because he cherishes, because he nourishes, because he nurses, because he protects". It is an awareness that helps us not to feel ashamed of the fragility that emerges and also to understand that we are always in need of one another and in need of attention and care. To God, who draws near to us and whom we learn to recognize in his tenderness, we can now turn with filial trust in prayer. It is never too late to begin turning to him. It can be a great gift for everyone.

I would like to say to you: do not be afraid of fragility! It is precisely this weakness that holds within itself a new potential that also illuminates the other stages of life. Indeed, when "we acknowledge our fragility, our hearts become open to supporting one another and to invoking the One who can grant what no human power can ensure: the profound reconciliation of hearts and, with it, true peace".

In this time, so harshly marked by the violence of war and social unrest, many wonder what the world in which their grandchildren will grow up will be like. I urge you, dear friends, to join me in praying earnestly that peace may soon come to the whole world. Dear elderly brothers and sisters, I thank you for supporting me every day with your prayers, especially when you recite the Holy Rosary. I return this gratitude from the bottom of my heart and leave you with this prayer: may the Lord always renew us in faith, hope and love — He who never forgets us!

*From the Vatican,*

LEO PP. XIV

## Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

### *Week beginning 12th July*

St Joseph's: Bob & Jack Watts

St Patrick's: John Martin

English Martyrs: Fr Julian & family

### *Week beginning 19th July*

St Joseph's:

St Patrick's: Welsh family

English Martyrs: Mary Jervis

*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.*

## 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. Open House does not take place during the summer and returns in the autumn. If you need to see Fr Julian please contact the parish office.

**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.