

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

PARISH BULLETIN

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2026

A WORD FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

Today is the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi, or maybe we should say, of his birth into heaven. For this reason, the Church is keeping a Jubilee Year of St Francis this year.

St Francis is such an emblematic saint. Many know about his relation to animals and nature. But he was much more than a nature lover! He was a lover of Jesus, especially as he is found in the Eucharist and the poor. These two are not opposites. Sometimes people try to say that we should be more interested in liturgy, and others that we should be more interested in social justice. However, following St Francis, and other saints, the presence of Jesus is found in both the Eucharist and in the person in need, and we are called to attend to him in both forms.



In fact, I would say that it is a measure of how Catholic we are: how we attend to Jesus in the Eucharist (in the Holy Mass, in Eucharistic Adoration, in preparing well for Holy Communion...) and how we look after the poor and those in need (engaging in active help for others in need, being generous with our

goods, time...). Maybe this could be a great fruit of the Year of St Francis if we make a determined effort to 'turn up the heat' on our practice of the faith in the Eucharist and in our outreach to those in need.

Next weekend is the National Eucharistic Congress in London, with a parallel event in Liverpool. In our parish, I am calling on as many of you as possible to come together on Friday for Holy Mass, and a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration. This will also be our parish's main focus for praying for vocations, as October is our month of prayer for Vocations in the North Staffordshire Deanery. It is also the month of the Rosary, so please remember to take up your beads and join in praying for vocations during this month, as well as praying for our parish and families.

SAINT OF THE WEEK



**St Hewald the Dark &
St Hewald the Fair
d. 692**

These two were brothers in religion, as Benedictine monks, and shared a name. What distinguished them was one was dark of hair and complexion, and the other was fair. It was said that 'the dark' was the more learned, but that both were exception in holiness.

Both were natives of Northumbria and had studied in Ireland. Acquainted with the missionary St Willibrord, they followed him on mission to pagan Saxony. As it was suspected they had come to convert the overlord, a group of villagers, fearful of losing their paganism, rose up and martyred the two monks near Dortmund.

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
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Parish Secretary

Teresa Harding
Tel: (01782) 782121
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)

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 20 minutes before each Saturday evening/Sunday Mass. St Joseph's: Friday 5pm	
Saturday 3rd			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	Elsie Parr
Sunday 4th Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time <i>800th Anniversary of St Francis</i>	9.00am	11.00am	3.30pm	Holy Mass Holy Mass Healing Service	Int Kath & Ken Owen (60th Wedding Anniversary) Bailey & Plant family
Monday 5th St Faustina Kowalska		5.45pm 6.00pm		<i>Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Pat Holmes & family
Tuesday 6th St Bruno	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Holy Souls
Wednesday 7th Our Lady of the Rosary		11.45am 5.00pm 6.00pm		Funeral Service <i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Baby Ivy May Talbot-Clewes RIP Winifred & Paddy Maughan
Thursday 8th Feria	11.15am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (in Church) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	M E Connolly Special Intention
Friday 9th St John Henry Newman		8.15am 6.00pm 6.30pm		Holy Mass (St Margaret Ward) Holy Mass 'Adoremus 2026' Holy Hour	People of the Parish Michael & Maureen Meaney
Saturday 10th Our Lady			5.30pm	Holy Mass of Sunday	John Martin
Sunday 11th Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Nicolo Brazzo Winefride & Leonard Atherton
Monday 12th Feria					
Tuesday 13th St Edward the Confessor	8.55am 9.15am		2.15pm	<i>Lauds</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Holy Souls
Wednesday 14th Feria	7.00pm	5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass Holy Rosary	Bernadette McGough
Thursday 15th St Teresa of Avila	11.15am 12noon	9.30am		Holy Mass (St John's school) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Holy Mass	Fr Chris Greaney Dec of Child family
Friday 16th St Margaret Mary		5.00pm 6.00pm		<i>Adoration & Vespers</i> Holy Mass	Stan Grandfield
Saturday 17th St Ignatius of Antioch		8.15am	5.30pm	Holy Mass (in Latin) Holy Mass of Sunday	People of the Parish Blood family
Sunday 18th Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am	11.00am		Holy Mass Holy Mass	Bill Adams Stephen Holmes & family

Please note School Masses for St Joseph's Academy, Goldenhill, will now take place in Church rather than in school. Hopefully, this will encourage parishioners to come to the Masses too!

Rosary During October, the month of the Holy Rosary, we will have the prayer of the Rosary before each Saturday evening and Sunday Mass. We need volunteers to lead the Rosary! Please see Fr Julian to volunteer. The mysteries will be prayed like this: 3rd/4th Oct—Joyful; 11th/12th Oct—Luminous; 18th/19th—Sorrowful; 25th/26th—Glorious. Don't forget that we also have the Rosary on Tuesday at 2.15pm on Tuesdays at St Patrick's and on Wednesday at 7pm at English Martyrs' (except first Weds of the month).

Healing Service Everyone is invited to come and pray for the sick, and for those who are sick to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, at our healing service. It will take place this afternoon, Sunday 4th October at St Patrick's church at 3.30pm. Please see Fr Julian if you wish to be anointed (usual conditions apply).

'Adoremus 2026' Holy Hour As our focus of praying in communion with the rest of the nation before the Blessed Sacrament, and in prayer particularly for vocations, we will have Mass and Eucharistic Holy Hour on Friday evening this week, the eve of the National Eucharistic Congress (at which Fr Julian and three parishioners will represent the N Staffs Deanery). The Holy Hour begins after Mass at 6.30pm will include the prayer of the Rosary for vocations, and end with Benediction at 7.30pm.

Parish Christmas Fayre The Parish's Fayre will take place on Saturday 5th December at St Joseph's Academy from 11am to 1pm. Make it a date! In the next bulletin we will be appealing for items for the Fayre, but please start by bringing bottles in for the bottle stall.

Bl Ivan Merz Young Adults group We had an excellent pilot meeting at which a good small group of young people came together for Bible study, food, fellowship and prayer. We will begin regular meetings for young adults every other Sunday afternoon from 5pm to 7pm in November. The dates are 1st No-

vember, 15th November, 29th November, 13th December. Don't be shy! Come along and join in. If you want to know more ask Carina (mcarinaaug@gmail.com) or Fr Julian.

Becoming a Catholic If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, please see Fr Julian as soon as possible. Maybe, if you have been attending Mass for a long time, and are not yet a Catholic, this is the year to come in and be able to share in Full Communion with us!

First Sacraments meeting For children who are baptized and in Year 3 or above, and have not yet made their First Confession, there will be a meeting for parents and children after the Mass on Wednesday 14th October at St Joseph's church. The preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin after the October half term. This is a necessary step for all children (Y4 and above) who wish to receive First Holy Communion or (Y6 and above) Confirmation later in the year.

Our Lady of Grace Ladies Our Parish Ladies' Group are meeting at on Monday 12th October at 7pm at English Martyrs' Church. Fr Julian will speak about, and lead the Rosary. All ladies are welcome to come.

Men's Prayer Circle The next meeting of the PLW men's prayer circle is on Saturday 17th October at 9am in the presbytery.

Rosary for Vocations As a great focus for our Deanery vocations month, you are invited to join Rosary for Vocations each day during the month. This was an initiative begun by Will Simpson RIP last year, and is being continued in his memory. There will be a video each day which will focus on one of the Mysteries of the Rosary, beginning today. You can access the daily videos (Monday to Friday) on the Facebook page or YouTube page of St Gregory's and St Maria Goretti's parishes which can be found at www.youtube.com/@StGregorysandStMariaGoretti-p7s or tinyurl.com/StGregsfacebookpage

HOSPITALITY



St Joseph's Welcome 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.

Our Welcome Space at English Martyrs' will begin again from Wednesday 7th October. Come and join us on Wednesdays from 11am to 2pm for light refreshments or lunch (soup, sandwiches, dessert). And of course, good company.

The Young at Heart Club, for senior citizens, is at Kidsgrove Town Hall on the last Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is on 27th October from 2pm to 4pm. £3 entry.

October Devotions Fr Julian will be leading the Walsingham Association October Devotions at Holy Trinity, Newcastle on Tuesday 13th October at 6.30pm. All welcome. Members are invited to come to the AGM afterwards.

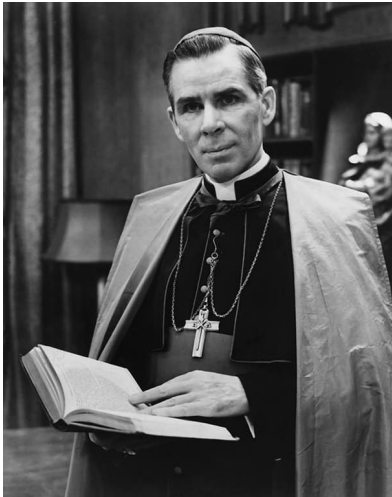
Churches Together The local churches are present each year for the switching on of the Christmas lights in Biddulph which takes place on the last weekend of November. We are hoping to give out to children knitted angels. But we need knitters to knit them! We have the pattern—just ask Jackie Menzies at English Martyrs.



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

THE BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED FULTON SHEEN



On Thursday, 24th September, at St Louis, Missouri, in the name of Pope Leo XIV, Cardinal Tagle declared the beatification of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. He was Bishop of Rochester, New York, in the 1960s, having been an auxiliary bishop in New York. However, he was best known

for his appearances first on radio and then on television in the USA, and for his retreats. It is hard to think of it today, but back in the 1950s and 1960s, Bishop Sheen would go on prime time television in the USA, on his programme 'Life is Worth Living' and give theological talks to the nation, dressed as a Bishop and with a piece of chalk and a blackboard as his only tools. So popular were his transmissions, that he won an Emmy award as Most Outstanding Personality in 1952 and was nominated again the following year.

Bishop Sheen did not draw back from bold political statements. During the Second World War he denounced Hitler as the Antichrist, and later similarly for Soviet Russia and Stalin.

He spoke of the depths of Catholic theology, spirituality, and about the Blessed Sacrament, Mary and especially the gift of Christian marriage. In his retreats to priests, he

urged them to identify with Jesus Christ, the eternal High Priest, and gave his own example of making a daily Eucharistic Holy Hour as the way for priests to remain faithful and fruitful for the whole of their lives. In fact, Archbishop Sheen died at the age of 84, on 9th December 1979, while praying before the Blessed Sacrament in his private chapel. The retreats to priests were popularised worldwide through being distributed and listened to on cassette tape.

Bishop Sheen was well known for his work of evangelization, and was responsible, through bold suggestion, for the conversions of many, including celebrities.

On his retirement from the Diocese of Rochester, Pope St Paul VI made him an honorary Archbishop. Not having the governance of a Diocese allowed Sheen to focus on his preaching and writing ministry. Before he died, Pope St John Paul II met him and said to him, "You have written and spoken well of Our Lord Jesus Christ. You are a loyal son of the Church."

Pope Leo XIV paid tribute to Bl Fulton Sheen on the eve of his beatification, at the Wednesday audience in Rome. He said: "May the example and intercession of this holy bishop, known for his evangelizing work through the media, inspire many others likewise to find new ways of spreading the Gospel message with joyful enthusiasm."

In order to be beatified, the recognition of one miracle is required. For Fulton Sheen, it was a newborn baby, in 2010, who was believed to have been stillborn, whose heart began beating and began breathing after 61 minutes, after the family invoked Fulton Sheen. The boy who is now 16, James Fulton Engstrom, is in full health and in high school, and was present for the beatification Mass.

PARISH REGISTERS

Deaths

Of your charity please pray for the soul of baby Ivy-May Rose Talbot-Clewes. Funeral service at St Joseph's on Wednesday 7th October at 11.45am followed by committal at Bradwell crematorium.

Also for the soul of baby Josie Michelle Mayer.

Requiescant in pace

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 recom-

mended 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. The next Open House will be on Saturday 26th September and again on Saturday 3rd October. No Open House on 10th October.

Mass Intentions & Offerings

Please realise that Masses 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. Weekdays are much easier to allocate, and there are plenty of dates available. Mass bookings are strictly on a first come, first served basis.

Sanctuary Lamp Dedications

Week beginning 4th October

St Joseph's: Winifred & Paddy Maughan & Family

St Patrick's:

English Martyrs:

Week beginning 11th October

St Joseph's: Janet Johnson

St Patrick's: Jean Green

English Martyrs: Mary Jervis

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. 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.