

# **ST JOSEPH'S NEWS**

## **Saturday 25th November 2023**

### **PRAYERS OF THE MASS**

You will find these prayers, especially the Nicene Creed, on pages 4-10 of our Hymn Books

### **Sunday morning Celebration in St Joseph's Birtley**

Every Sunday, there will be a Service of The Word, Prayer and Music, including Children's Liturgy, at **10am in St Joseph's Church**. After the service the celebration will continue over tea and coffee in the Parish Centre.

**TOMORROW! COFFEE MORNING** from 11.00 till 12.30 in the Parish Centre.

Tea, coffee and soft drinks, Cake stall, Raffle, Tombola, Name the Teddy, Treasure map, Jewellery, scarfs & handbags, Bottle stall, Christmas cards & gifts. All proceeds given to our Parish. If you're unable to attend, raffle tickets will be on sale this evening!

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:**

- Elaine Murphy – died on 17<sup>th</sup> Nov aged 77 years. Requiem Mass on 30<sup>th</sup> Nov @ 10.00

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:**

- Maureen Joyce (nee Casey)
- Jean Greenwood

**NB.** Please let us know if anyone else wishes to ask for prayers from our parish community.

### **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

- **FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING.**

Today is also 'Youth Sunday.' We have a pastoral letter from Bishop Stephen, who invites us to support the Youth Mission Team with our prayers and a retiring collection. Our Diocese is blessed! We have a dedicated team of people exploring how our young people can become more dedicated followers of Jesus. It is a tough ask! This team works alongside our Catholic Schools to help ensure that our young people look seriously at what it means to be a committed Catholic in our world today.

The bishop also writes about the 'Lourdes Youth volunteers' and encourages us to support and promote this important ministry in our Diocese.

- **ADVENT ALMS** – this collection supports the work of St Cuthbert's Care and is open throughout the Season of Advent

### **SEASON OF ADVENT**

- **Cycle of readings** – Year B begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – **next Saturday evening!**
- **Jesse Tree** – decorated by our children at the Family Liturgy on **3<sup>rd</sup> December @ 10.00**
- **Holy Hour** - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction on **3<sup>rd</sup> December @ 3.00** followed by Afternoon Tea in the Lounge of the Parish Centre.
- **Carol Services:**  
Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.00 in Our Lady Queen of Peace (Penshaw)  
Wed 20<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.00 in St Joseph's (Birtley)
- **Reconciliation Services:**  
Wed 13<sup>th</sup> December @ 7.00 in St Cuthbert's (Chester-le-Street)  
Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> December @ 7.00 in St Bede's (Washington)

**PLEASE TURN OVER**

## **CHRISTMAS EVE** Carol Services and **CHRISTMAS** masses

- see page 3 of the Weekend Newsletter.

### **CAFOD - World Gifts 2023-24**

World Gifts are an amazing way to make a difference! You buy a virtual gift, get a gift card to pass on and your donation will then change someone else's life. Catalogues available at the back of church.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Holy Communion will now be distributed to both aisles at the same time, starting with those in the front benches.

In addition, those who are taking Communion to the sick and housebound are asked to step up on the Sanctuary after receiving Communion, so that the priest can place the hosts into their pyx before giving a Blessing and sending them out on their visit.

### **CAFOD - Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal**

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help](https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help) to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

### **2024 MISSIO (Red Box)**

Calendars are available at the back of church.

### **BIRTLEY DIY – SOS**

The outside crib will be installed in the days before Christmas, but it is in urgent need of a major re-build. The parish will provide the necessary materials, but we need some volunteers to construct it! Please contact Deacon Peter (07305-059297)

### **CHRISTMAS SHOE-BOX APPEAL**

Please remember your donations for the shoebox appeal and put in the box at the back of church before December 3. You will find a list of urgently needed items and a collection box for your donations. Please be as generous as possible.

### **SVP 200 Club Draw**

November Result: First prize £50 No. 76, Second prize £25 No. 57.

**DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER** - The November edition is available now. You can access it via this link: [diocesahn.org.uk/services/communications/catholic-publications/#newsletter](https://diocesahn.org.uk/services/communications/catholic-publications/#newsletter).

### **NOVEMBER – the month of the Holy Souls**

- A framed rollcall of all parishioners who have died in the past year has been placed before the altar, above the Book of Remembrance and on the Noticeboard at the back of church.
- A decorated Memorial Tree has been placed at the foot of St Joseph's statue and you are invited to complete a leaf-shaped card and hang it upon the tree.

