

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

Saturday 16th December 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

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.

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

- Elaine Murphy – died on 17th Nov aged 77 years.
- **Kathleen Fish** – died on 12th Dec aged 93 years. Funeral Service on Thurs 4th January.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

- Maureen Joyce (nee Casey)
- Jean Greenwood
- Bob Fish

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

NEXT WEEKEND

4th Sunday of Advent: **Saturday 23rd @ 5.00pm**

Sunday 24th @ 10.00am: Family Worship of The Word, Prayers, Music and Children's Liturgy

Christmas Eve: **Sunday 24th @ 6.00pm** – preceded by Carols from 5.30pm

Christmas Day: **Monday 25th @ 10.00am**

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- **16th December: SVP (Birtley)** will be taken today - Saturday 16th December.
- **23rd December: Church Flowers for Christmas**
- **ADVENT ALMS** – this collection supports the work of St Cuthbert's Care and is open throughout the Season of Advent. **NB.** Please place your donations in the wall-box marked Advent Alms.

CHRISTMAS CARDS from St Benedict's Partnership.

These cards are still available at the back of church. Please take copies for family, friends and neighbours who do not normally attend church.

SEASON OF ADVENT

- **Wednesday 20th December @ 7.00:** Carol Service in St Joseph's (Birtley)
- **Thursday 21st December @ 7.00:** Reconciliation Service in St Bede's (Washington)
Several priests will be available to hear Confessions in our preparation for Christmas.

THE O ANTIPHONS

Many of us will know the hymn, based on the O Antiphons, called '**O come, O come, Emmanuel**'. These antiphons are used during Mass on the seven days leading up to Christmas and each one looks at a different title or attribute of God taken from the New Testament. They show us how God prepared the Jewish people for the coming of the Messiah. Booklets available at the back of church provide some wonderful reflections.

NORTHERN CATHOLIC CALENDAR (2024) costing £3 - an invaluable source of information.

NORTHERN CROSS – the December edition is now on sale at the back of church @ £1.50.

NB If you're taking Holy Communion to the Sick & Housebound, please take a free copy with you!

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 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.

CAFOD's online Advent calendar - This online calendar of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas: cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar.

ADVENT KINDNESS CALENDARS

Copies of these calendars will be available at the back of church.

2024 MISSIO CALENDARS are available at the back of church – free of charge!

REFLECTIONS - The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced a booklet of Advent reflections: <https://bit.ly/DHNAAdvent>. Last year's Advent booklet was very well received. As we prepare for Jesus' coming at Christmas, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and a renewed sense of belonging amongst the people of the Diocese. The reflections have been written by a variety of people to express the richness of our diocesan community.

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER - The December is available now. You can access it via this link: diocesehn.org.uk/services/communications/catholic-publications/#newsletter.

LOST PROPERTY – there a box at the back of church with gloves, umbrellas, glasses, etc.