

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
Saturday 10th February 2024
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

PRAYERS OF THE MASS

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

ORDINARY TIME

We celebrate Ordinary Time until Ash Wednesday on 14th February.

The readings for Mass are as follows: **Sundays Year B** and **Weekdays Year 2**

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**. Our celebrations will continue over tea and coffee in the Parish Centre.

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

- **Billy Wilson** – died on 5th January aged 86 years.
- **Mary Ann Grieveson** – died 13th January aged 90 years.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

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

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This weekend's feast-day calls us to a World Day of Prayer for the Sick & Housebound

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION – LOURDES YOUTH SPONSORSHIP

Many thanks for the appeal given last weekend by two our young people who work on the Lourdes pilgrimage. Please be generous in this weekend's collection.

AFTERNOON TEA - LOURDES YOUTH GROUP invites you to Afternoon Tea in the **Parish Centre on Sunday 17th March from 2.00 till 4.00**. Tickets are £5 and available from Christine Johnson, Bernadette Bartlett and Margaret Taylor. Any donations for the tombola and raffle would be greatly appreciated.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE - Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass in **St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 17th February @ 12.00** to give thanks for the sacrament of Marriage & Family Life. Everyone is welcome. If you need transport, contact Deacon Peter.

RITE OF ELECTION - Bishop Stephen will be celebrating the Rite of Election in **St Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 18th February @ 3.00pm** with all those who are undertaking a Journey of Faith, as part of their preparation for entering the Catholic Faith at Easter. Please keep them in your prayers

HYMN BOOKS - Please return any books that you may have borrowed or mistakenly taken home!

REPAIR & DECORATION

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the latest stage of the repair & decoration of church.

MASS INTENSIONS - If you have a Mass Intention, please contact Deacon Peter (07305-059297)

PASTORAL COUNCIL - meets in the presbytery @ 7.00pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month to discuss the pastoral needs of our parish and we need someone to prepare the minutes of our meeting. If you're willing to help, please contact Deacon Peter.

SEASON OF LENT – please turn over to Page Two



SEASON OF LENT

THE SEASON OF LENT is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter and there are lots of opportunities available within our parish:

ASH WEDNESDAY on **14th February** is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence, or other act of self-denial. Ashes will be distributed during the 12.00 Mass.

PRAYER FOR THE EARTH

There will be a Vigil outside Parliament from **14th to 23rd February** which is supported by **CAFOD**. They are asking us to offer the prayer from Pope Francis entitled Prayer for the Earth for five minutes on each of these dates. **NB.** There are prayer cards available at the back of church.

FAMILY FAST DAY will be celebrated on **Friday 23rd February**. This year's donations go to CAFOD'S work in Liberia – see the poster at the back of church. Envelopes will be available next weekend and you can donate on-line at cafod.org.uk.

HOLY HOUR with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on **Sunday 25th Feb at 3.00pm** followed by afternoon tea in the Parish Centre.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be celebrated @ 11.30 before the 12.00 mass each Thursday.

CAFOD - BIG LENT WALK

The Big Lent Walk is a challenge where we're asking you to walk 200km over the 40 days of Lent and get sponsored to raise money to help people fighting extreme poverty globally. You can walk alone, with friends or your school-friends - see <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/about>.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – there will be opportunities in St Joseph's and other parishes within our Benedict Partnership with Penitential Services on dates/times to be confirmed, as soon as possible.

REFLECTION BOOKLETS

Last year's Lenten Reflection booklets were very well received. As we prepare to commemorate Jesus' salvific death and resurrection at Easter, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and a renewed sense of purpose and hope amongst the people of the Diocese. The reflections have been produced by a great number of people to express the richness of our Diocesan community.

The daily reflections will be available for viewing, downloading and printing from the Diocesan website, using this weblink: <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>. The weblink will go live in time for Ash Wednesday.

SYCAMORE ONLINE SESSIONS

Take some time out with God during this Lenten season and join online (via Zoom) for a series of Sycamore sessions as we explore how we can live out our 'Ministry of Love'. Please register your interest to receive the Zoom link. You can do this by completing the online form or by calling the admin team on 0191 243 3316. The sessions will take place on Thursdays throughout Lent from 7.00pm to 8.15pm.

