

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
Saturday 16th March 2024
5th Sunday of Lent

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

- Priests: Fr Patrick Kennedy, Fr John McElhone and Fr Mark Whelehan (Minsteracres).
- **Bernard Hagan – died 7th March aged 88 years. Funeral on Tues 26th March @ 11.00**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

- Maureen Joyce (nee Casey)
- Jean Greenwood
- Bob Fish
- **Valerie Waggott**
- **John Comerford**

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

FEAST OF ST JOSEPH - on Tuesday 19th March there will be two masses in our church:

- **2.00pm** St Joseph's Infant & Junior School Mass and all parishioners are welcome!
- **7.00pm** – our usual Tuesday evening mass

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PALM SUNDAY- Holy Places

Jesus' footsteps walked all over the land we now call Israel. From his birth in Bethlehem to his upbringing in Nazareth, his preaching all over Galilee and in Jerusalem. It is so important for us to make sure that Pilgrims from all over the world visit the places where Jesus walked, healed and preached. We have to support our Catholic sisters and brothers to make sure that they can maintain and visit the places Jesus was born and preached.

Please give what you can to help our Church protect the places where Jesus walked.

LENTEN ALMS – We are invited to donate our Lenten Alms collection to St Cuthbert's Care helping them to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable member of our communities. Donations can be placed in the wall-box to your right-hand side as you leave by the main door.

RED BOX COLLECTION - after mass on **Saturday 16th March**.

The quarterly magazines are at the back of church for anyone to take and read.

ST PATRICK'S & EASTER - cards are available for sale at the back of the church.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION in the Season of Lent

- After each Mass in St Joseph's church.
- Penitential Services:
Wednesday 20 March 7pm in St. Joseph's Birtley.
Tuesday 26 March 7pm in St. John Boste NE38 0LB

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER

During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments, Women, The Needy & the Hungry of the world, Penitents & Wanderers.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND in St Joseph's

Fr Martin Wheaton is very happy to visit any sick or housebound parishioner with the Sacraments. The Sacrament of Holy Anointing and Confession can be a great help in such circumstances. Please contact Fr. Martin on 07709-961040 if you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There are Stations of the Cross in St Joseph's every Thursday during Lent.

- On **Thursday mornings** Stations will take place at **11.30am**, before the Mid-day Mass.
- On **Thursday evenings at 7.00pm** there will be an audio visual version of the Stations of the Cross You can attend the evening stations in person in church or on the live stream broadcast on Church ServicesTV using the following link www.churchservices.tv/birtley.

A recording of the Thursday evening Stations will be available on Church Services TV.

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>.

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>.

SYCAMORE ONLINE SESSION

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND – Saturday 13th July.

Bishop Stephen will travel with us and celebrate Mass @ 3.00pm.
Please put this date in your diary – further information to follow.

THE SOURCE

The YMT SOURCE is back again! It will be at St Mary's Cathedral from 7pm on Thursday 21 March 2024. The event will welcome Year 9+ students and staff from different secondary schools around the Diocese and young adults around universities such as Newcastle, Sunderland, and Durham, who will be encouraged to pray together through praise, worship, and adoration. Catechists can also bring their confirmation group to join the evening of praise and worship. Please click [here](#) if you are bringing a group to the event.