

**ST JOSEPH'S NEWS**  
**Saturday 17th February 2024**  
**1<sup>st</sup> 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 IN OUR PARISH WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:**

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

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

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

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

**SPECIAL COLLECTION**

**FAMILY FAST DAY** will be celebrated on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**. This year's donations go to CAFOD'S work in Liberia – see the poster at the back of church. Envelopes are available at the back of church and you can donate on-line at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk).

**PRAYER FOR THE EARTH**

There will be a Vigil outside Parliament from **14<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March @ 2.00pm in St Joseph's**

The 2024 WDP Service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine. The same service will be celebrated in over 146 countries & islands throughout the world, with some 6,000 services taking place in the UK. "Birtley Churches Together" invites you to join them in this great network of prayer. Refreshments afterwards - everyone welcome!

**AFTERNOON TEA - LOURDES YOUTH GROUP** invites you to Afternoon Tea in the **Parish Centre on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**LOURDES YOUTH GROUP**

The members of the Lourdes Youth Group would like to thank parishioners for their generous contributions to last weekend's special collection. £270 was donated to the Youth Sponsorship Fund.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

During Lent, our priests will make themselves available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation after each Mass in St Joseph's church. In addition, there will be two Partnership Reconciliation Services with dates & places yet to be announced.

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

There will be 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](http://www.churchservices.tv/birtley).

A recording of the Thursday evening Stations of the Cross will be available on Church Services TV. Stations from Thursday 15th February is available now.

**LOUDfence.** Together with the Diocese of Newcastle, our diocesan family is privileged to be hosting a LOUDfence at St. Marys' Cathedral and at Newcastle Cathedral. It will begin at the 11.30 Sunday Mass on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St. Mary's Cathedral and end with a Service of the Word at Newcastle Cathedral on 6th March at 7pm.

Everyone is welcome to these liturgies and to visit both Cathedrals during the days to offer their prayers and support for all who have suffered abuse within church communities and all contexts. We are invited to leave prayers and messages together with provided items like the prayer ribbons presented to Bishop Stephen at his Installation Mass, which are still tied to his Bishop's Chair. People can leave their prayers and messages within or outside of the Cathedrals, recognising some people would rather not enter a place of worship. There will be people available for pastoral accompaniment if that is requested. As a diocesan family we pray for all who have suffered abuse and recognise our shared duty to safeguard the vulnerable.

## **PARISH CENTRE MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Subscriptions for 2024 are due to be paid by 28th February. Annual subscriptions for members under the age of 65 is £5. Honorary Members (aged 65 and over) are not required to pay subscriptions but must collect their 2024 membership sticker.

You can pay your subscriptions and/or collect membership stickers on Friday evenings between 8.00pm and 9.00pm, Sunday mornings between 11.30am and 12.30pm or Monday afternoons between 1.00pm and 1.30pm. Alternatively you can leave your membership card and any subs due with the bar staff during opening hours.

## **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 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.

**SVP200 CLUB** - The results from the February 2024 draw can be found at the back of church. There were unfortunately no winners from the parish in the draw.

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

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