

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
Saturday 23rd March 2024
PALM SUNDAY

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- **Today - 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.

- **30th March: SVP (St Joseph's parish)**

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.

THE LOURDES YOUTH GROUP would like to say a '*Big Thank You*' to everyone who supported them at the Afternoon Tea. A total of £1,000 was raised!

HOLY WEEK

If you wish to assist in the various ministries in our Holy Week celebrations, please put your names on the lists at the back of church.

CHURCH FLOWERS -there will be a retiring collection next weekend.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

For those who have completed a Gift Aid declaration, their Offertory Envelopes are available at the back of church this weekend. All others will be available next weekend.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION during the Season of Lent

- After each Mass in St Joseph's church.
- Penitential Service: on **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.

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.

2025 HOLY YEAR of JUBILEE

Pope Francis has declared a Holy Year of Jubilee for 2025, when the Holy door in Rome will be opened. In preparation the Pope asks for 2024 to be a year of prayer. Please visit our Diocesan Year of Prayer [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.