



St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Today, Fr. Martin also blessed 'God's Creation' garden 🌱🍷🍷



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



What a beautiful and poignant end to the spring term! Thank you to Year 6 for leading KS2 Stations of the Cross.



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Reception class lead a beautiful Palm Sunday Celebration of the Word yesterday. They confidently (and joyfully) shared the story of Palm Sunday through their singing, prayers and even a little acting! The children shared their palms with their loved ones in the congregation as part of their mission. Thank you Reception, and to all of the families who joined us in church!



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



The children from the Infant School were fantastic on their sponsored walk on Monday. It was brilliant to join together for a good cause.



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Birtley Town Juniors FC  
Well done 🙌





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



On Friday, Year 2 made the most of the beautiful sunshine and enjoyed gathering together in our new God's Creation garden to reflect on our week and say our home time prayer together.



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**St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley**



Reception did amazingly well on their Big Lent Walk yesterday for Cafod! You can still make donations using this link! <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/.../st-josephs-catholic...>

Thank you and well done everyone 😊





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Links to the MS Forms for the Nourish Food School:

<https://forms.office.com/e/f53vTaHKRq> (Year 1 and Reception)

<https://forms.office.com/e/snmxDWhdVw> (Year 2)... [See more](#)



SCHOOLS.WALK.CAFOD.ORG.UK

**St Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools is fundraising for CAFOD**

Support St Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools and donate to their page



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Well done to our junior school today for completing their big lent walk for CAFOD! The children persevered through the cold and the mud to complete their walk for this amazing charity! Our just giving page is still open and there is still time to donate! Any donations are much appreciated 🙏👉 <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/.../st-josephs-catholic...>



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Just taking a moment to appreciate our little haven, here at the infant school. We've been busy working on developing our garden 🌱 and, today, Margaret and Peter, from the SVP, helped our Mini-Vinnies to plant fruit and vegetables. They even brought us a plant called: 'Angel's Wings'. We plan to use this area in the summer and may even host Celebration of the Word in the garden, too!

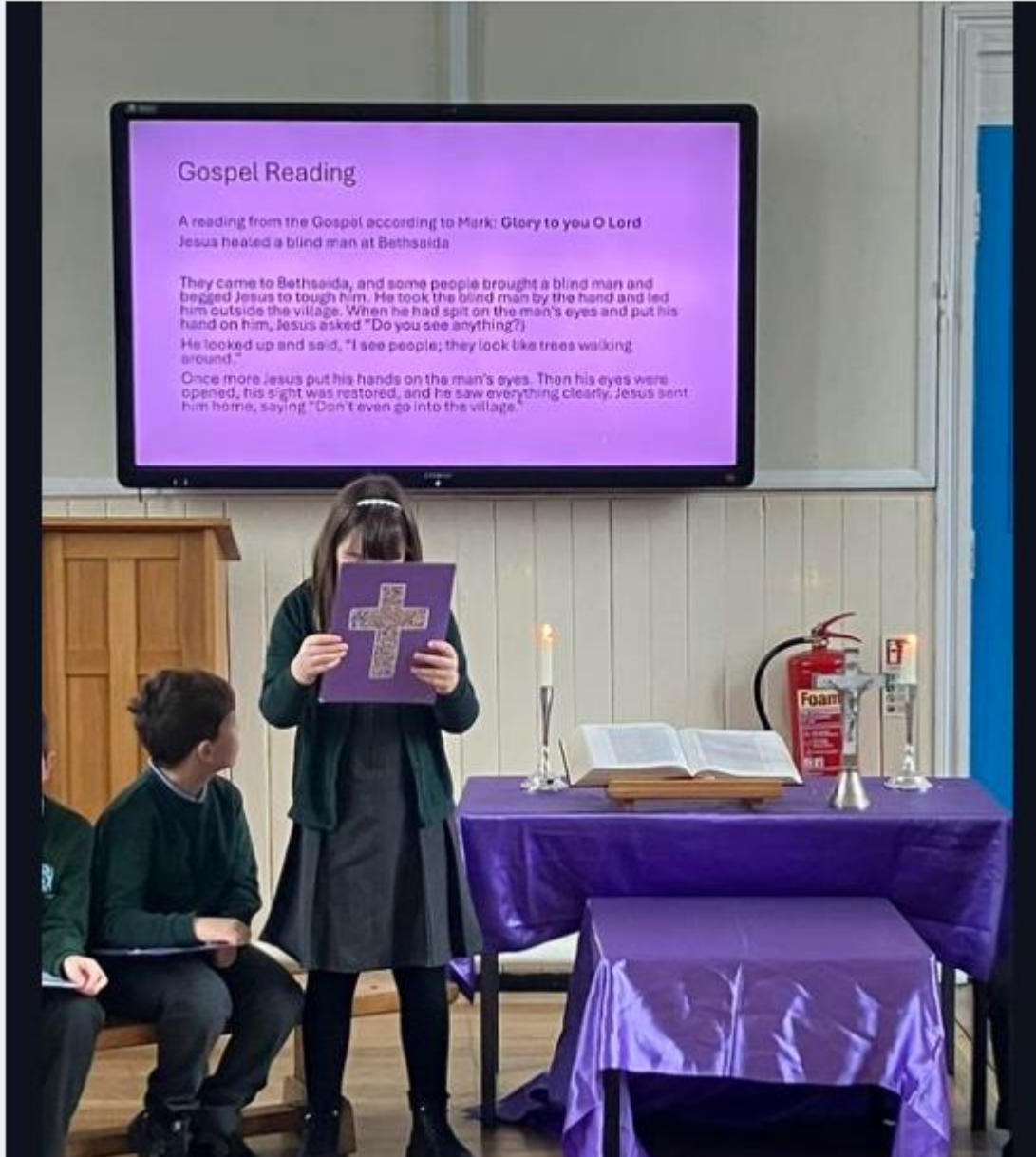


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Today, our Year 3 pupils led a beautiful Celebration of the Word service. As mentioned, our children are the true sparkles in our lives: they bring light and brightness to each one of us, every day 🌟





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Yesterday, we celebrated St. Joseph's Feast Day with Fr. Martin in St. Joseph's Church.  
#HappyFeastDaytous 😊





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Don't forget that on Monday 25th March, we will be raising funds for Cafod. We're participating in the Big Lenten Walk!

Remember, that if you are a tax payer, you can also claim Gift Aid to increase your donation! 😊

Click the link for our JustGiving page:... See more



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Year 6 had the pleasure of attending a D-Day presentation and workshop at Birtley library this morning, hosted by the Heritage Group. The children listened so attentively, answering questions and making lots of contributions. They have clearly remembered a huge amount from their autumn term topic on WWII. Well done, Year 6!



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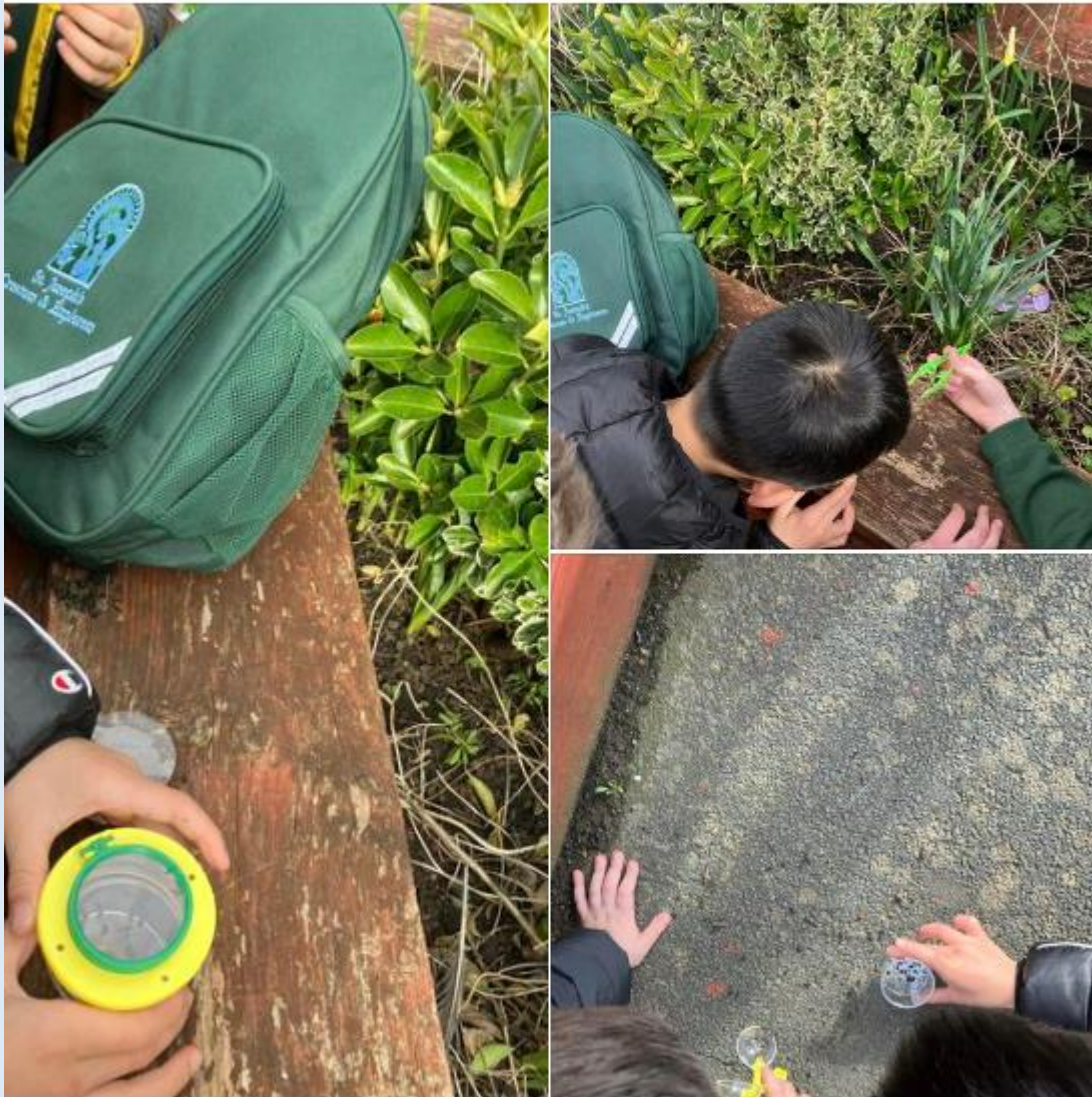
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Currently, bug hunting at lunchtime! 🐛



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In Reception we have been reading the story 'The Tiny Seed' by Eric Carle. The children have planted their own beans and after watching the time lapse of a bean growing they are very excited to watch and wait for their own to grow! Some of the children decided to make a countdown chart to cross out the days as they pass. We looked at the roots and stem of a real plant and thought about what will help our beans to grow well!



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We've had a busy start to the term! Thank you to the parish who have kindly bought My Day by Day Lenten booklets for our pupils 🙏



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Parish of St Joseph

15 February · 🌐

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will be live streamed from Saint Josephs Church on Church Services TV at 7.00pm on Thursday evenings during Lent.

The broadcast will be... [See more](#)

No insights to show ⓘ

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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Final showcase complete! Well done to all the children for their hard work, we were very impressed 👍👏 The art work of the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin looked amazing, the drama piece made us all giggle and the dance was super 🥳👏👏



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Final projects are almost finished! We can't wait for the children to show us what they have been doing 🙌🎨👧



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Final workshops underway! We have dance, art and drama 🎨🎭🕺



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Our last session for today was listening to the parable of the lost coin and then thinking about who makes us feel precious and valued! The children decorated their own coins to help them think about our question 🍌



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Walk finished and now onto the final session before tea! We are learning about Oscar Romero and what we want our future to look like by designing crosses [+](#)



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Getting ready to go on a spiritual forest walk 🌲





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Quiz time 🎉 Let's hope the teachers can beat the kids





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We have been making promises about how to make a difference in the world and then took part in some team challenges! Well done to the girls team for building the tallest free standing paper tower



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First sessions of the day done 🙌 Team Lost in Netherland have been writing prayers in the chapel and making gratitude bracelets! Lots of thinking about what we are grateful for and what we can thank God for 🙏



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Warm up Minecraft activity underway, ready for our first full exciting day 🌟



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We're embracing being in God's presence. ❤️



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Sandra Neal

I loved seeing all of the children at the mass in the church and I loved the children singing



8 w Love Reply Hide

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Just busy sorting out our dormitories! Having the best time here, at YMT 😊 We're meeting new friends and our retreat leaders have introduced themselves to us! [#Lostandfound](#)





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Applications for the SVP Camp on Holy Island are opening shortly. More information can be found on the website: <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island>

The SVP allow boys or girls currently in Years 5, 6 or 7 to attend.

If you have any questions, please email SVP: [holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk](mailto:holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk)



SVP.ORG.UK

### Holy Island

Holy Island SVP Camp is a holiday camp for children on Holy Island.

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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



It was very special to share Reception's Celebration of the Word with families this morning and to think about the simple things which make us happy. How lovely to see the children growing in confidence with their speaking and singing! Thank you for your feedback, which we shared together in class!



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley

...

Well, what a week Year 4 (and the rest of the school!) have had for our careers week. We have had visits from a barrister, a business manager, health researchers, a graphic designer, a police detective, an A&E doctor, an ambulance driver, a procurement specialist and an architectural designer. We also have fun learning about the many different roles available in the NHS and loved dressing up in the scrubs. We have been given a real insight into careers that we knew very littl...  
[See more](#)



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Two of our Year 4 children were thrilled to receive a letter from their prayer partners from our parish. It is so lovely to have their support as the children continue their journey towards their first Holy Communion. Thank you so much - it made their day.



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



We have had a really exciting week in Year 1! We have had a visit from a doctor, a clinical care assistant, a business manager and a police man!! We have learnt lots of exciting things about different careers. We even got to pretend to be doctors and bandage up our teddy bears, wear mini scrubs, see inside an ambulance, learn about working as a business manager in a school and heard some amazing stories about being a police officer!



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Thank you, Mr Taylor, for coming to see us today to tell us about the Wedding Feast of Cana.

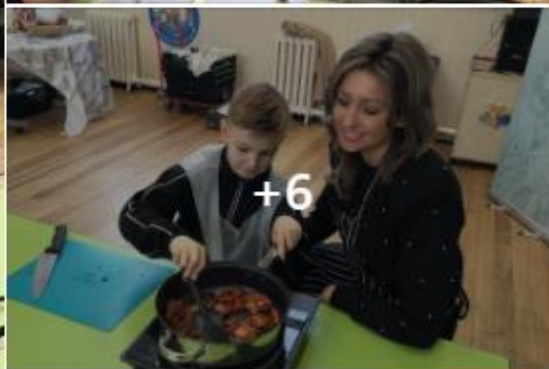




St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



The children in year 5 have been taking part in the Nourish Food Programme, bringing food into the classroom!



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Here are some great pictures of Year 1 in the week before Christmas!  
They had a great time performing in the Nativity, making Christingles, writing letters to Santa and meeting him!



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Today, our new Mini-Vinnies were commissioned by Michael Willcock, Saint Vincent de Paul Mini-Vinnie area coordinator.

The President from the parish Saint Vincent de Paul conference also came to support us.

The children were superb and sang the Mini-Vinnie song, brilliantly!



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



We received such kind words at the end of the term. Wishing you and your families every blessing. ❤️

December 2023

To Mrs. Swaddle  
& all the staff.

Thank you so much for all of  
your hard work with the  
children in making the  
'Nativity Story' so very special.

The children were just  
brilliant & it was so wonderful  
to watch and carry it forward  
into Christmas time.

Peace, health & happiness for 2024!

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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



On this beautiful Christmas night, we have been reflecting on the terrific term we have celebrated and enjoyed.

Here are some photos from the last couple of weeks ❤️🎄

From panto to one of our grandma's painting icons of St. Joseph, to Mr Taylor, Mr Wilcock and Christingle making, Nativities and Carol services, these are tiny pieces of the big curriculum jigsaw! ... See more



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



A small snippet taken from our KS2 Carol Service rehearsals, yesterday. We are just brimming with pride at how wonderful our children are! Dances, Carol singing, a little bit of German, scripture readings and prayer all made for a wonderful evening! 🎄🌲



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In Reception we love seeing how you've shared the travelling crib at home, talking about your prayers, pictures and special times with your family!



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### Holy Island SVP Camp

Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island. They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable ... See more



SVP.ORG.UK

### Holy Island

Holy Island SVP Camp is a holiday camp for children on Holy Island.

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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley is 😊 feeling blessed.



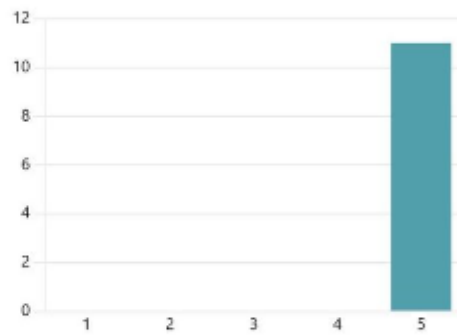
Great to have such positive feedback from our Nourish Food School Partnership sessions!

3. Did you enjoy working with your child in our Nourish Food School Partnership?

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

5.00  
Average Rating



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Sandra Neal

I loved teaching there for twenty five years and some of my pupils still keep in touch with me



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<https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/church-bulletins/>

Click the link to find out the Partnership Mass times over the Christmas period.

St. Joseph's Catholic  
Infant & Junior School  
Birtley



STJOSEPHCATHOLICSCHOOLSBIRTLEY.ORG

**Church Bulletins - St. Joseph's Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley**

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School Mitchell Street Birtley Chester-le-Street County Durham DH3 1...

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Great to celebrate The Jesse Tree Advent Prayer Service, today.



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Reception had a lovely start to the festive season yesterday! Find out more - <https://stjosephcatholicschoolsbirtley.org/feeling-festive/>



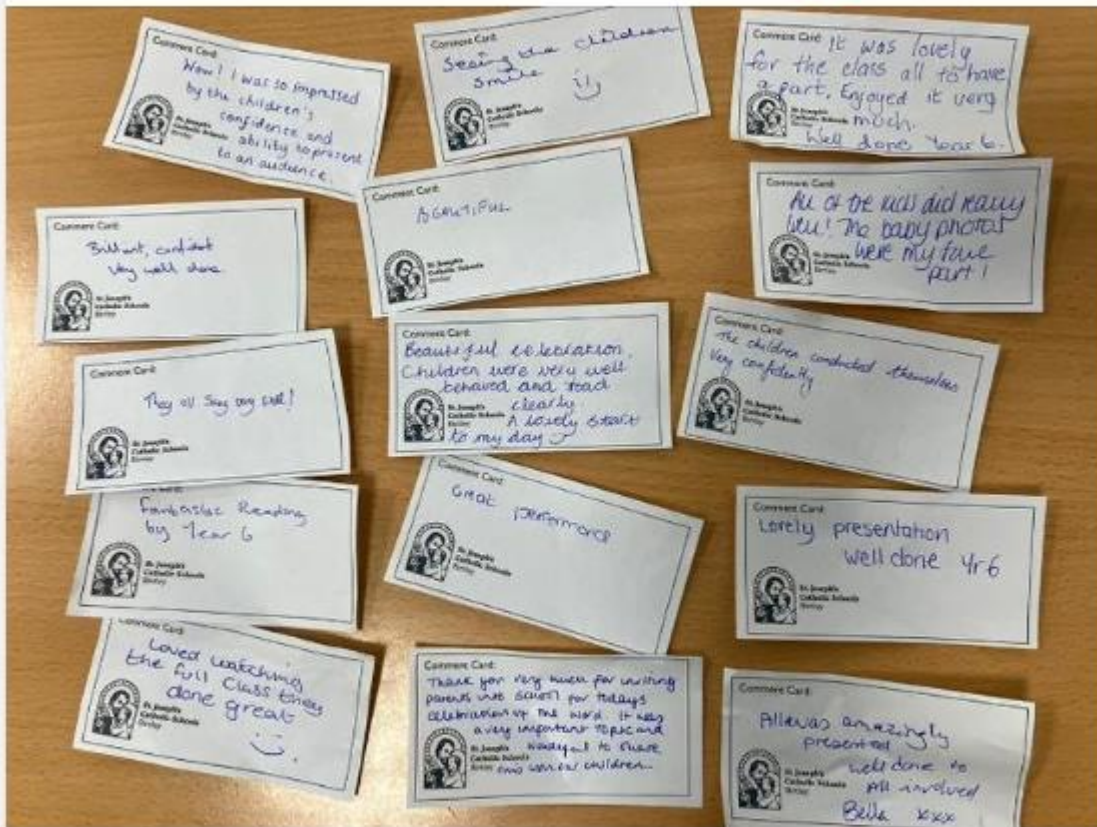
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We love reading your comments and we treasure each one in our hearts. 🥰



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👍 3

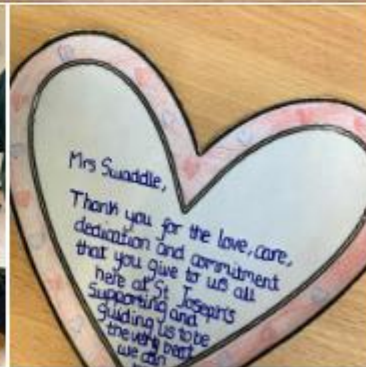


St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



We are so proud of our fantastic Year 6 cohort who showed us what commitment and responsibility means to them.

Another beautiful Celebration of the Word. Thank you to all who attended. 🙏



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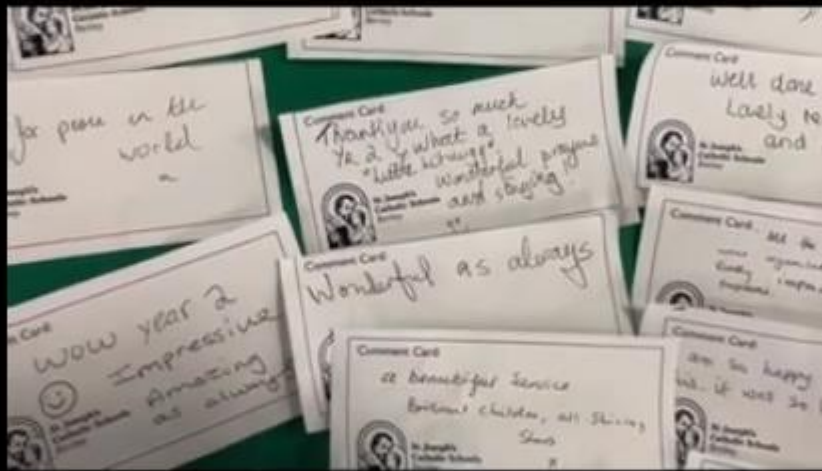
In Reception we have been learning about Celebrations! Today we decided to share a celebration snack together. The children chose between healthy and unhealthy options, being sure to have equal amounts of both! They concentrated on chopping their fruit and then adding everything onto the stick carefully. All of the children followed our safety rules for using the sticks and we shared the snack later in the morning! A lovely way to end another fab week in Reception- well done everyone



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Thank you to all those who came to our Year 2 Celebration of the Word.

••• enough (feat. Jacquire King,



St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Thank you to John, for coming into speak to us about becoming altar-servers...if your child would like to participate in the liturgy by serving, then please get in touch.



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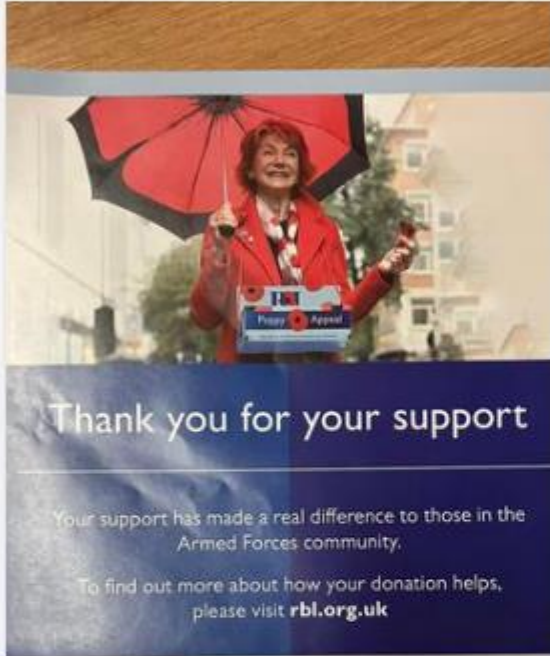


We are so proud of our community and the money we have raised for charitable causes!

£309.47 to The Royal British Legion

£306 to Children in Need

£370 raised from the School Disco!... See more



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



A huge thank you to Mr Willcock from SVP for coming into both schools to talk to us about launching Mini-Vinnies 😊



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



A message from the parish... 😊

## **Live Simply in November & December 2023**

**Celebrate the real meaning of Christmas by helping others**

### **IN NOVEMBER**



**Could you help to fill a shoebox for the refugees and asylum seekers projects in our area?**

(Filling a whole shoe box can sound daunting, especially with much higher bills and shopping costs than last year. If you can donate one or more of the items on our list, that would be wonderful. If you would rather fill a shoebox that would be great. Please bring items or boxes any time until December 3rd and put in the box at the back of church.)

### **IN DECEMBER**

**Take a step back from the commercialism and try one of our alternative Advent Calendars. No chocolate, just kindness!**

(We have three calendars to offer- Acts of Kindness Advent calendars for adults or children or if you prefer something more practical we have a Food Bank Donation Advent Calendar. These will be available at each church on the first Saturday or Sunday of Advent.)



**If we all do a little we can achieve a lot!**

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Parish Fundraising  
Coffee Morning  
Sunday 26th November  
Parish Centre - from 11:00am

# Parish Fundraising

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November

### Parish Centre - from 11:00am

**TOMBOLA**

GUESS MY NAME	
1	2
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
19	20
21	22
23	24
25	26
27	28
29	30
31	32
33	34
35	36
37	38
39	40
41	42
43	44
45	46
47	48
49	50

**Wine or Water?**

**Where is the Treasure?**



St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.... See more



YOUTUBE.COM

Remembrance Day 2023

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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley

...

Reception have had a fantastic week in school. They created a beautiful Little Liturgy on Tuesday morning about rules and responsibilities, they have learned all about the significance of poppies, continued writing about Room on the Broom and much more! Here are some of the beautiful poppies they have painted in their creative task this week. Well done to you all, you have been superstars!



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Deacon Peter visited Year 3 this afternoon to teach them all about the signs and symbols of baptism, to support their learning as they come to the end of their 'promises' unit of learning in RE. Following this, Imogen showed everyone some special items from her own baptism, including her baptism candle.



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Here's a short video from our beautiful Harvest celebrations. We sang:  
'Let us sing to the Lord.'



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Another beautiful prayer focal point for All Saints' and All Souls' Day ❤️





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



7



A beautiful All Saints' Day Celebration of the Word was delivered by Year 4, today.

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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal has dropped off poppies and items for purchase at both schools.

Suggested donations are below.



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



At the Infant School, we enjoyed celebrating Harvest. Deacon Peter was so impressed with our singing and responses! We also collected lots of donations for The People's Kitchen.



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Please please please remember that tomorrow we have our Harvest Festival celebration! 😊 Our School Council are leading us in our Mass, which begins at 2pm. All are welcome 🙏

Please remember to bring food donations into school for [The People's Kitchen](#)

Don't forget to remember that there will be no tuck shop and to pop the money you would normally give to tuck shop in the Cafod envelope!



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Thank you to those who were able to join Year 3 for their Little Liturgy this morning, which celebrated the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. It was a beautiful celebration of the Word, which reminded us to care for animals and the environment.



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Year 6 have been designing some fabulous Christmas cards, sketching their own silhouettes and using watercolours to create a stained glass window effect.



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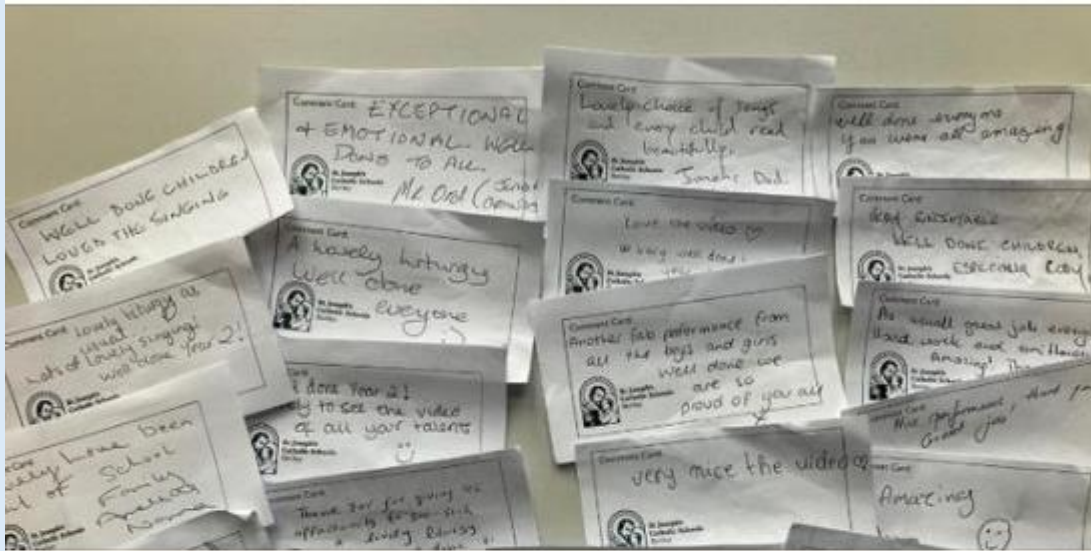
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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Today's Year 2 little liturgical prayer comments from parents and carers brought a tear to our eye!



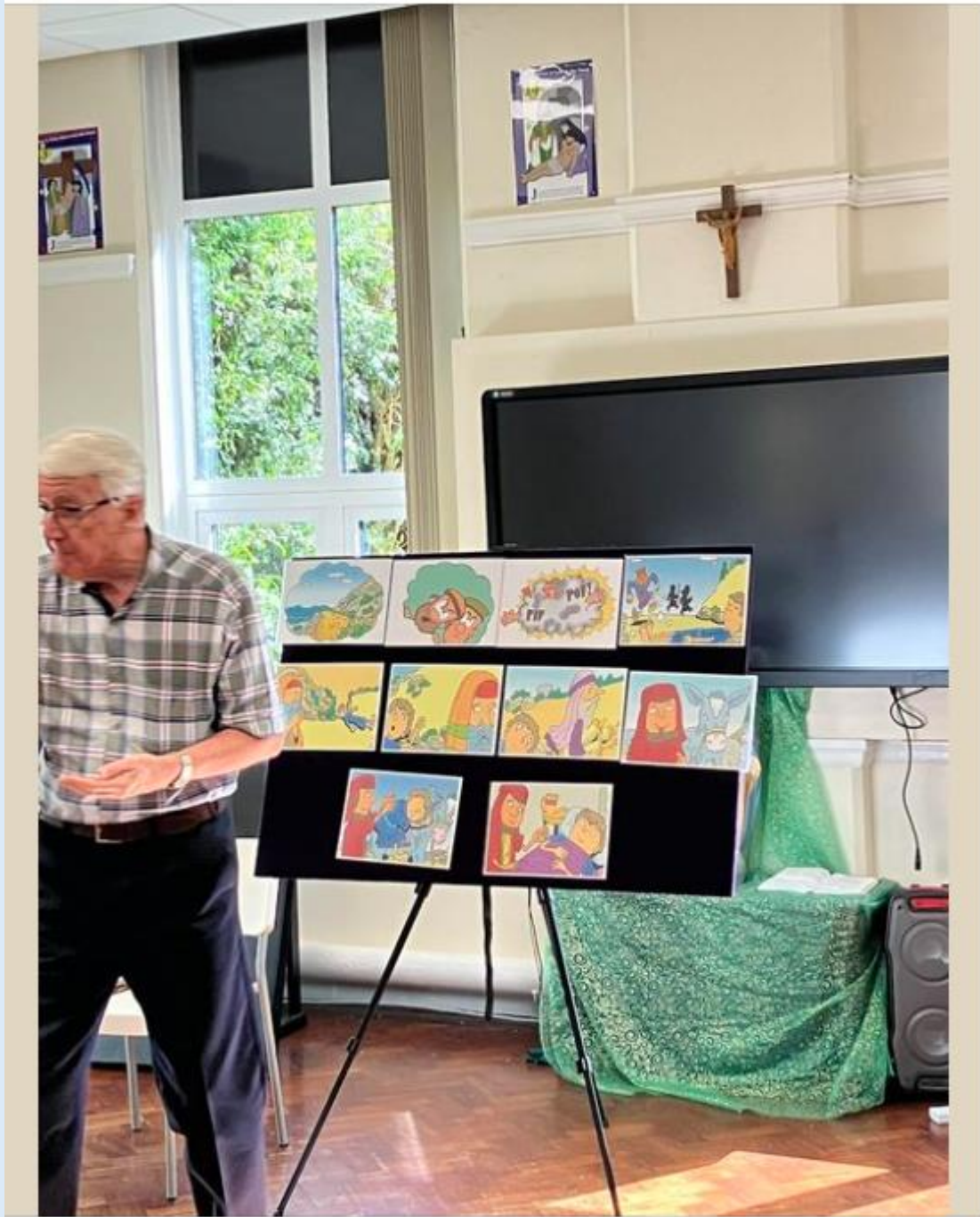
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A big thank you to Mr Taylor, from Bible Explorers, who came to the Infant School for our first Bible Story session 😊🙏

Today, we learnt about being a good neighbour - just like Jesus.



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



This Sunday, I will have the great honour of representing Red Sky Foundation at the Great North Run! I was inspired to fundraise for this amazing charity following Sergio's visit to our schools earlier this year, and hearing about their work supporting babies, children and adults with heart conditions. Any sponsorship, words of advice and encouragement would be greatly appreciated! Many thanks, and looking forward to seeing you at school tomorrow! Miss Maggiore 😊



great north run

10th September 2023

**AM #TEAMREDSKY**  
**unning for every heartbeat**



REDSKYFOUNDATION.ENTHUSE.COM

**GREAT NORTH RUN 2023**

I'm running the Great North Run to raise vital funds for Red Sky Foundation. A North East hear...

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Author

St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley

Best of luck, Miss Maggiore! Have a fantastic run! 🏃



30 w Like Reply



Please read the attached information about Birtley Pool...we all recognise how vitally important this community asset is...

## Birtley Community Aquatics Centre Crowdfunding Project



**HELP REOPEN BIRTLEY SWIMMING CENTRE**

*.....as a Community Asset*

Gateshead Council closed Birtley Swimming Centre on Friday 21st July. A project team has been created from a mix of local volunteers from the community, alongside members of Birtley swimming club and Gateshead and Whickham swimming club. The team plans to reopen Birtley Swimming Centre as a Community Asset - owned and run by the community as a not for profit company and using the building for the wellbeing or social



**PLAN TO REOPEN APRIL 2024**

The project team are now working on a more detailed business plan for Birtley Swimming Centre, which we will present to the Council at the end of October. We are currently aiming to reopen the pool in April 2024, if our business plan is approved by the Council.



**FUNDS REQUIRED TO REOPEN**



**CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN**

We will be applying to funding from a variety of sources, such as the Community Development Fund and the National Lottery, but residents and businesses locally will need to contribute some of our funds, to partly match the funding we get from other sources. The best way to do this is through a Crowdfunding campaign, which is a well-established way to engage a large group of people and local businesses in helping to fund something that will benefit their community.

We will be aiming to raise £400,000 from the Birtley Swimming Centre Crowdfunding campaign: the amount, which would give us 40% of our overall funding requirement. 60 to £100,000 of the Crowdfunding target could come from Sport England, so the owners are not having access from the state completely, which is fantastic. Our vision is to see the a



**HOW LOCAL RESIDENTS CAN HELP**

A significant part of the funds raised through our Crowdfunding campaign will be those donated by individuals, which can then cost at discounted prices to people who access the crowdfunding web page and identify items they want to buy. These are called rewards on the Crowdfunding page.

Rewards donated by individuals are typically items that you may no longer need or want, but other people will want to buy from the Crowdfunding web page.



**WHAT CAN I DONATE?**

Items can be new or second hand, as long as they are in good condition. The following list gives some examples of the types of items that we

**DONATE**

**CAN I DONATE FROM MY BUSINESS?**

If you would like to donate something to our Crowdfunding campaign please email or call one of our project team members. Use details below and give them a description of the item. If you can also send a photo of the item that would be very helpful. This will enable the Crowdfunding team to include the item you have donated as a reward on the Crowdfunding page ready for when we launch our Crowdfunding campaign in early September.

The person who you contacted will then arrange to collect the item that you have donated and store this until it is purchased by someone else once the Crowdfunding campaign has started. They will also arrange for the item to either be returned to or retained by the campaign.



**FIND OUT MORE**

Please contact any of the following project team members, either by email or by phone, to see how to get a more detailed overview with further

**B** Birtley Community Aquatics Centre  
2 · August 2023 · 🌐

Hi All,

Please find attached the Community Asset Transfer Team's Crowdfunding communication for the Birtley Swimming Centre. As you will be aware, we are taki... See more