

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

13th April 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

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:

- Bernard Hagan – died 7th March aged 88 years.
- Michael Duffy – died 24th March aged 68 years.
- **Father Phil Carroll** – died 9th April.
- **Deacon John Hawthorne** – died 10th April.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

Maureen Joyce (nee Casey), Jean Greenwood, Bob Fish, Valerie Waggott, John Comerford, Edwin Thomas

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

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- **Sick and retired Priests (NBF: Northern Brethren Fund)**
The collection remains open till 28th April.
- **13th April: First Holy Communion celebrations in May & June**
Our catechists are going to provide a special breakfast for our Year 4 children.
- **20th April: Little Sisters of the Poor**
St Joseph's Home in Elswick provides nursing care for Catholics throughout the diocese. The Sisters and lay staff give themselves unstintingly in caring for all their residents – which include some priests and religious from our diocese. Our collection is to support the Sisters in their work so that we can rely on their services well into the future. See the Newsletter for details of their current projects.

BISHOP STEPHEN - As mentioned in last week's Pastoral Letter, he is gradually moving around the Diocese visiting as many parishes as possible. The bishop will visit St Joseph's on **Saturday 18th May** and celebrate our 5.00pm Vigil Mass for the solemn feast of Pentecost followed by a reception in our Parish Centre. See the Newsletter for details of celebrations within the parish of St John XXIII.

NORTHERN CROSS – on sale at the back of church @ £1.50

See page 7 for a report from Catherine Tumelty on Birtley's World Day of Prayer service.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES – Please collect your box!

Boxes for all parishioners are now available at the back of church with named envelopes for those who have completed a Gift Aid declaration.

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER

During the Easter season we are asked to pray for these intentions: New members of the Church; Vocations; The right use of the media; the Church; Human Work.

CAN YOU HELP?

Vinnies in St Dominics Newcastle are desperate for contributions to their emergency food bank. They particularly need coffee, tea, milk, sugar, soup, tuna, cereals, any kind of tinned meat, biscuits, dilute juice and any other food items.

Or if you wish you can donate to their Just Giving page will enable them to buy what is needed at www.justgiving.com/.../vinniesnew-newcastle

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.

SYNOD – Amy Cameron (Diocesan co-ordinator for Faith & Mission) reports:

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle has been on its own synodal path over the past two years within the universal synod on synodality. The Listening Exercises were intended to '*walk together*', to listen to one another, and to see how the Holy Spirit might be speaking through the people of God. The results of this have been published [here](#) if you missed them last month. We want to encourage synodal conversations and there is a day on synod skills being held at Ushaw. To help people gain confidence. I encourage anyone interested in taking a lead in synodal working to come and explore, [please click here](#) for details.

HOLY ISLAND SVP VINNIES CAMP

There are places still available for boys and girls in school years 5-7 (inclusive) at Holy Island Children's camp. A week's traditional holiday with meals and transport costs just £150!

If you would like your child to have a week's holiday on Holy Island this Summer please visit our site <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island>.

If you know of any child who would benefit from this opportunity, but may need assistance in paying, please email holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk