

# ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

20th April 2024

4th 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 7<sup>th</sup> March aged 88 years.
- Michael Duffy – died 24<sup>th</sup> March aged 68 years.
- **Father Phil Carroll** – died 9<sup>th</sup> April.
- **Deacon John Hawthorne** – died 10<sup>th</sup> 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

- **20<sup>th</sup> 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 (page 4) for details of their current projects.
- **Sick and retired Priests (NBF: Northern Brethren Fund)**  
The collection remains open till 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### BISHOP STEPHEN

Our bishop is gradually moving around the Diocese visiting as many parishes as possible. The bishop will visit St Joseph's on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 further 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](http://www.justgiving.com/.../vinniesnew-newcastle)

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is a priority in every parish and diocesan organisation. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is fully committed in the church and operates a zero-tolerance approach. The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. We adopt and implement fully the policies and procedures of the Catholic Church of England and Wales, which is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact the safeguarding officer in any of our churches – their details are on the noticeboard in the porch. Details of our Diocesan policy can be found by [clicking here](#).

## **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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk)

## **A YEAR OF PRAYER**

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year *Pilgrims of Hope*, 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. Please visit our Diocesan Year of Prayer [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.