

**St Joseph's News**  
**24th August 2024**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle B)**

**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 ARE SICK:**

- Maureen Joyce (nee Casey), Jean Greenwood, Bob Fish and Valerie Waggott.

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

**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

- **24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August - SVP (St Joseph's Parish) – please be as generous as you always are!**
- **7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> September – Catholic Education Service**

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS** - Our parish is already blessed with many long-serving Eucharistic Ministers - but we now need to appeal for other parishioners to volunteer and share this wonderful ministry – either by assisting during Mass and/or visiting the Sick & Housebound. A training course will be held at St Michael's (Houghton-le-Spring) in September - [New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Course - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle \(diocesehn.org.uk\)](http://NewExtraordinaryMinistersofHolyCommunionCourse-DioceseofHexham&Newcastle(diocesehn.org.uk))

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Please pray for our Engaged Couples who have recently married in our Parish:

- **Lucy Cushkin & Gary Ord**
- **Kathryn Spalding & Daniel Barnes**
- **Jane Lynch & Gareth Wright**

We pray that they will enjoy a life-time of happiness in their Marriage and in their Family Life.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH**

Each year St Joseph's parish extends an invitation for adults to enrol on a **Journey of Faith** and to enjoy learning more about our Catholic faith and I've already received enquiries for the coming year! There are many reasons for these expressions of interest:

1. To understand what your children are learning in school each day. This may be especially important when your child is preparing for First Holy Communion in Year 4.
2. You may wish to consider Baptism or Reception into the Catholic Church for yourself and for your children, enabling them to receive the Sacraments of the Church and to continue their education within our Catholic Secondary Schools.
3. To deepen your own understanding of Faith, building upon what you will have learnt in your own childhood.

There will be an **Information Evening in our Parish Centre in September** and I'll confirm that date, as soon as possible. This will be an opportunity for me to give a warm welcome to everyone, answer any questions that you may have and then make convenient arrangements to begin our **Journey of Faith**. Please contact Deacon Peter (07305-059297 / [laveryp@hotmail.com](mailto:laveryp@hotmail.com)) to confirm your interest or if you want any further information.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

The priests of St John XXIII & St Joseph's will be available directly after the following masses:

- Thursday @ 10.00 – Our Lady Queen of Peace (Penshaw DH4 7JZ)
- **Thursday @ 12.00 – St Joseph's (Birtley)**
- Friday @ 10.00 – St John Boste (Oxclose Village NE38 0LB)
- Saturday @ 10.00 – Our Blessed Lady Immaculate (Washington Village NE38 7HS)
- Saturday @ 5.00 – St Bede's (Coach Road Estate NE37 2HE)