

St Joseph's News
3rd August 2024
18th 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 WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

- Edwin Thomas (son of Mary Thomas) – died on 9th July.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

- Maureen Joyce (nee Casey), Jean Greenwood, Bob Fish, Valerie Waggott and Elaine Hannon
NB. Please let us know if anyone else wishes to ask for prayers from our parish.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- **24th & 25th August - SVP (St Joseph's Parish)**

BREAST CANCER - you're invited to an Afternoon Tea in the Methodist Church (Station Lane, Birtley) on **Wednesday 7th August @ 2.00pm** to raise money to support people affected by Breast Cancer. The £1 entry includes your raffle ticket.

GREAT NORTH RUN - CAFOD would love to invite you to take on this challenge.

The Great North Run takes place on **Sunday September 8th** in Newcastle and is the biggest Half Marathon in the world! If you'd like a place to run for CAFOD, please follow this link here: [Great North Run](http://GreatNorthRun.org.uk) or email events@cafod.org.uk.

MANY THANKS to our wonderful young people who have been printing our Weekend Newsletters and have now completed this task as part of their St John Paul II award. However, we need more volunteers to carry forward this work. Please contact Deacon Peter (07305-509297).

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - Our parish is already blessed with many long-serving Eucharistic Ministers. We now need to appeal for other parishioners to volunteer and share this wonderful ministry – assisting during Mass and/or visiting the Sick & Housebound. We anticipate a training day in the Autumn and we hope, amongst others, to enrol parishioners who are younger and/or newly-arrived into our parish – please contact Fr Martin or Deacon Peter for more information.

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) to confirm your interest or if you want any further information.

HYMN BOOKS – some of our hymn books are missing! Perhaps, you've mistakenly taken one home? Please return them, as soon as possible.

FOOTSTEPS OF ST PAUL- Fr Jim O'Keefe has compiled a short booklet on his pilgrimage – a trip enabled by the generous donation of parishioners and friends. You can view this on the St John XXIII website www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx...

NEW LECTIONARY- A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. Visit the CBCEW website to find out more.

ADORATION and BENEDICTION

As part of our Partnership-wide worshiping schedule - Adoration and Benediction which continue until November. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a few minutes or an hour in silent prayer with our Blessed Lord.

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)

PARISH SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE (PSR)

Our parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our PSR is Pauline Lavery and her contact details & photograph are displayed in the church porch, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk