

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

19th & 20th October 2024 : 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE FAMILY OF DEACON PETER LAVERY:

After Peter's passing on the 27th September, and a wonderful requiem mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen at St Joseph's this week, the family would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all who made this week such a celebration of Peter's life and ministry. We were so touched and humbled by the incredible turnout at the church at both Tuesday's reception service and at the requiem mass - and the hundreds of cards and messages we've received - which is testament to all the lives Dad touched with his kindness, compassion, and gentle leadership. Special thanks to the Music Group and Men's choir and to the stewards at both services who really showcased the parish community to many returning friends and new visitors.

For those who missed the service, it was recorded and broadcast on the 'Parish of St Joseph's' Facebook page and can be accessed there to watch again. There are also additional printed copies of the Order of Service and these will be at the back of church for anyone who would like one. Also at the back of church are 'Be Like Peter: sign-up sheets' created by the family to invite anyone inspired by Peter's dedication and ministry to this parish to volunteer to help in a number of ways, from decorating, gardening and many practical roles, to welcoming, reading, and helping produce this newsletter. Please volunteer in any way you can.

Finally, the collection at the end of the funeral raised an incredible £1,000 for the Parish fund and for Macmillan Nurses. For those who asked for an opportunity to add to the collection or were perhaps unable to attend the services this week, there is a JustGiving page to direct more donations in Dad's memory to Macmillan Cancer Support. Here's the link to make a donation: www.justgiving.com/page/peter-lavery-macmillan-nurses

Thank-you. Pauline, Helen, Michael & Rachel

CHURCH HYMN BOOKS: We seem to have lost a good number of Hymn Books at Church. If anyone has borrowed a copy or accidentally taken one home, would you please return them as soon as possible. Thanks! Incidentally, you will find Prayers of the Mass, especially the Nicene Creed, on pages 4-10 of our Hymn Books.

SUNDAY MORNING CELEBRATION IN ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY

Every Sunday, there is a Service of The Word, Prayer and Music, including Children's Liturgy, at 10.00 am at St Joseph's Church. Our celebrations will continue over tea and coffee in the Parish Centre.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED, MAY THEY REST IN PEACE:

- **Deacon Peter Lavery**, died 27th Sept, 73 years, Body into Church 15th Oct, Requiem 16th Oct at 10.30am
- **Margaret Gaffney**, died 24th Sept, 94 years, Requiem St Wilfred's Gateshead, 15th Oct at 2pm Fr MW Celebrant

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

John Comerford; Dorothy Hattam; Maureen Joyce (nee Casey); Jean Greenwood; Bob Fish and Valerie Waggott
NB: Please let Fr Martin W know of anyone within the parish who is sick or housebound and would like to see a priest.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND: We would like to update our Holy Communion lists. If you know of any parishioners who are unable to get to mass and would like holy communion brought to them at home, please give their name, address and Tel. No. to Fr Martin Wheaton or contact Anne Welsh (07801 481021). Thank you.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

19th & 20th October - **World Mission Sunday (APF)** – Envelopes available

26th & 27th October - **Clergy Training Fund** – Will remain open throughout October by using special envelope provided

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL COLLECTION – WORLD MISSION SUNDAY: We live in a privileged part of the world. Throughout the year we are reminded that we are not meant to be a 'cosy' local Catholic Community but have to look to support our fellow Christians throughout the world who witness to their faith in very difficult circumstances. Some people reckon that 1 in 10 Christians are persecuted throughout the world. This Collection helps us to help others to continue witnessing to the Lord in very poor parts of the world.

DIOCESAN CENSUS OF PARISH VOLUNTEERS: The Diocese is currently carrying out a "volunteer census" in our parish. This is to ensure we identify all of our volunteers, to offer support and appropriate training and recognition for the important part all play in the life of our parish. DESPITE CONFUSION LAST WEEK, WHETHER OR NOT YOU ALREADY HAVE DBS CLEARANCE - if you volunteer within the Parish/School/Diocese, please complete one of the forms which will be available at the back of church or complete your details via the QR code on Page 3 of the main Newsletter.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE: Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". It is hoped that many people in the Diocese will take the opportunity of celebrating the Jubilee Year by joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. You are invited to a presentation about the Lourdes Pilgrimage in St Joseph's Parish Centre Birtley at 7.45pm on Tuesday 22nd October. (There is a 7pm Mass in St Joseph's if you wish to attend Mass before the presentation.) We extend a particular invitation to young people in years 11-13 to come along and hear about the Youth Section of the Pilgrimage. There will be young people who were on the 2024 pilgrimage who will talk about their experiences on this year's pilgrimage.

NORTHERN CROSS: The October edition of the Northern Cross is now on sale at the back of the Church, price £1.50. Please place money in wall safe at the side of the Entrance door – beside the choir loft stairs.

HOLY COMMUNION FROM THE CHALICE: Due to the present rise in COVID infections and other viruses in the area, with effect from Saturday, 5th October 2024, Holy Communion will be distributed to the congregation in one form only, i.e. the Host, without the precious blood.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE: In his recent letter to the whole world, the Holy Father is encouraging us to pray the Rosary throughout the month of October for the gift of peace in our world. Rosary is prayed at St Joseph's every Tuesday at 6.40 pm, prior to the evening Mass.

ADORATION & BENEDICTION: As part of our Partnership-wide worshipping schedule, an hour of Adoration & Benediction will continue in St Joseph's on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm-7.30pm indefinitely, as the response has been quite positive. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend a few minutes or an hour in silent prayer with our Blessed Lord. If any older person wants to come but is concerned about the dark nights or cold, if they make it to church, Fr Martin has offered to take them home in his car.

JOURNEY OF FAITH – RCIA: For those who have already registered, this year's programme is being held in the Meeting Room at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington Village, NE38 7HS on a Tuesday evening at 7.00pm. Please contact Fr Martin Wheaton if you require any further information: martinwheaton1@gmail.com / 07709 961040.

VINNIES ANNUAL SLEEPOUT: On Friday 18th October Sophie Taylor will be joining Vinnie's for the annual sleepout. We will be taking to the streets of Newcastle to spend just one night in the cold - without the luxury of a bed to sleep in and a roof over our heads. We are sleeping out for ONE night for those who sleep out EVERY night. We are raising vital funds to support our project, all money raised will come directly to the centre to help pay for emergency food parcels, our free meal service and essential items for homeless people such as sleeping bags, underwear and backpacks. You can donate to support the cause by using the JustGiving link which will stay live for the next few weeks: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/vinniesnew-newcastle-1726490687951>

VINNIES (SVP BLACKFRIARS): Vinnies, St. Vincents Newcastle, are looking for our support with their Christmas appeals (know it's only September sorry!) There are several ways that you could help :-

- For £6.50 you could sponsor a Vinnies 4 course Christmas dinner and a gift.
- Donate Christmas hamper items – there is a list of suggestions on the poster.
- Give a gift or toy for children of all ages, teens, a young adult, lady or gent.
- Complete the Reverse Advent Calendar, set up a box at home or work and add an item every day.

Donation boxes are at the back of church and there is more information on the posters on display. Many thanks!

SVP 200 Club: The results from the SVP 200 Club draw for October are now at the back of Church. Congratulations to Maureen Laverick who was one of the winners.

SVP Summer Raffle: The results from the SVP Summer Raffle are now at the back of Church. Although there were winners from the North East, there were none from St Joseph's.

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS: In the short-term Catherine Tumelty will produce the St Joseph's News with the deadline for entry midday the previous Wednesday. Please send by email to cath.tumelty@btinternet.com (it is easier to cut and paste!) or m. 07512 101206. Fr Martin Wheaton will approve a draft copy before printing. Please note that "Sick & Recently Deceased" notices must have the approval of a family member and should be submitted by clicking the link on the main Parish Newsletter.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: At St Joseph's, Birtley, directly after Thursday's 12.00 noon Mass. Please see main Newsletter for details at other St John XXIII parishes.

(Insufficient room for "Mass Intentions" and "First Holy Communion 2025" notices but will be repeated next week.)