

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
16th & 17th November 2024 – World Day of Prayer for the Poor
33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

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 10.00am at St Joseph's Church. Our celebrations will continue with tea and coffee in the Parish Centre

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

- **John Comerford**, died 31st October, 80 years, Requiem Mass Wednesday, 20th November at 10.30am
- **Jean Greenwood**, died 23rd October, 93 years, Requiem Mass Friday, 15th November at 11.15am

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

Dorothy Hattam; Maureen Joyce (nee Casey); 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:

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).

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

23/24 November 2024 – Youth Ministry Trust
Clergy Training Fund Appeal 2024 will remain open until 24th November (in an envelope please)

ROSARY: Prayed for world peace at St Joseph's every Tuesday at 6.40 pm, prior to the evening Mass.

ADORATION & BENEDICTION: At St Joseph's on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm-7.30pm.

MASSES AT ST BENET'S SCHOOL: Mass will be held at St Benet's School, Ouston, on alternative Friday mornings, at 9.15am, as detailed below. Parents, Guardians and Parishioners will be most welcome to attend. There will be no Mass at Birtley on these days.

Friday, 29th November - St Benet's School, Ouston @ 9.15 am

Friday, 13th December - St Benet's School, Ouston @ 9.15 am

CHURCH FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING:

Following the tremendous success of last year's Christmas Coffee Morning to bring parishioners together and raise desperately needed funds for St Joseph's, this year's event will be held immediately after the Sunday morning service on **SUNDAY, 24th NOVEMBER, 10.45am-1.00pm in the Parish Centre**. We would be most grateful for donations of items for the Raffle, Tombola, Bottle and Cuddly Toy Stalls (good opportunity to clear out formerly loved cuddly toys). A box will be available at the back of Church for these items and raffle tickets will be on sale at church this weekend. Cakes will be gratefully received on the day. Many thanks in advance for your support!

MESSAGE FROM DEACON PETER'S FAMILY:

Deacon Peter's family would like to say a great big thank-you for your generous contributions at both his funeral and further on-line donations. The total amount received was over £2,000.00. With special thanks to Cardinal Hume School who held a Coffee Morning for Macmillan in Peter's name, which raised over £500. We are therefore dividing the final amount - £1,000:00 to St Joseph's, which we have asked that this will help purchase the new Lectionaries (a dedication to Peter will be included in one of them) and the remainder to Macmillan. Many thanks again Pauline and family.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, ETC:

Christmas cards, calendars, etc will be on sale after Mass from Saturday, 23rd November. NB: Cash only.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

As usual, the Benedict Partnership will be producing a card listing all services in due course. However, to give you advance notice of services at St Joseph's, there will be a Penitential Service at 7pm Tuesday, 18th December, Christmas Eve Mass at 6pm and a Mass on Christmas morning at 10am. Our Jesse Tree will be dressed at the 10am Sunday Morning Service on the First Sunday of Advent, 1st December 2024.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL:

Following their appeal last weekend, the Social Justice & Environmental Group have placed receptacles at the back of Church for their "Christmas Shoe Box" appeal, which will remain there until Sunday 24th November. Last year was their best year yet. Contributions will be greatly appreciated. Many thanks!

APPEAL FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS:

Many thanks for those who have added their names to the "Be Like Peter Sign Up Sheets", which were discussed at our Church Pastoral Council Meeting on Sunday, 10th November. A member of the CPC will be contacting you direct to point you in the right direction.

DIOCESAN CENSUS OF PARISH VOLUNTEERS:

If you haven't already done so, can parish volunteers please return their forms to the Sacristy as soon as possible (these will now be sent to the Diocese at the end of November). Blank forms are available at the back of church, or use the QR code provided. Thanks!

NORTHERN CROSS:

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

2025 MISSIO- RED BOX CALENDARS:

Calendars are now at the back of church for parishioners to take.

BIRTLEY HERITAGE GROUP – MARIA HAVERTY 1894-1917:

BHG are trying to find descendants of this young lady who was born at Oil Mills, Lamesley, died as the result of munition poisoning (First World War Effort), and was buried in our Church Grounds. Her parents were Peter & Annie (nee Henry) and siblings were Mary Ellen, Bridget Ann, Margaret, John, Catherine, Joseph & Julia. Kindly forward any information to birtleyheritagegroup@hotmail.co.uk or leave a message for Jean Atkinson at Birtley Library. Many thanks!

SVP 200 CLUB: The results from the SVP 200 Club draw for November are now at the back of Church, although there were no winners from St Joseph's this time.

VINNIES (SVP BLACKFRIARS):

Vinnies, St Vincents Newcastle, are looking for support with their Christmas appeals. 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!

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.

MASS INTENTIONS:

If you wish to arrange a special Mass Intention at St Joseph's, "Mass Intention Envelopes" are available at the back of church and in the Sacristy.

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.