

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
23rd & 24th November 2024 – Youth Sunday
The Feast of Christ the King (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.

JESSE TREE SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

CHURCH FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING, this Sunday, 24th November, 10.45am-1.00pm in the Parish

Centre: Many thanks to everyone who has so generously donated gifts for this event (cakes will be gratefully received on the day). Please come along with your family and friends for refreshments, cake and a chat and help raise desperately needed funds for St Joseph's. We have some fantastic prizes in the Main Raffle, Tombola and Bottle Stalls, with lots to interest the children. If you are unable to attend, please support the Parish and buy raffle tickets for the Main Raffle at Church before and after the Vigil Mass on Saturday night. Thanks!

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: At St Joseph's on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm-7.30pm. **This is to be held in the Front Room of the Presbytery** (main door will be open, first room on the left).

FRIDAY MORNING'S MASS: Please note that Mass this Friday, 29th November, will be held at St Benet's School, Ouston, at 9.15am and there will be no Mass in St Joseph's Church that day.

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

The SVP will be making their Christmas Appeal during Mass on Saturday, 30th November 2024

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

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.

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, ETC: will be on sale after Mass from this Saturday, 23rd November. Cash only.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

Next weekend will see the beginning of Advent when our new Lectionaries will be used for the first time at the Saturday Vigil Mass and our Jesse Tree will be dressed at the 10am Sunday Morning Service. 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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP – “CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX” APPEAL:

The cut-off for “Shoe Boxes” is this Sunday, 24th November. However, if necessary, Kevin Haigh would be happy to take any late donations after that date Tel: 0191-4102779. Many thanks to everyone who has already contributed!

RECYCLED SOFT PLASTIC:

The SJ&E Group would like to thank parishioners who have in the past recycled their soft plastic like crisp packets etc in the basket at the back of church. The Group has decided to remove this basket but would like to encourage everyone to continue to recycle these items and take them direct to their local supermarket. You will be amazed at how much soft plastic you can collect in a week from biscuits, fruit, vegetables, ice lollies, crisps, sweets, plastic bags etc.

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 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!

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

Please note that a list of all Pastoral Council Members is displayed at the back of church, along with their photographs. Representation on the CPC should include all sections of the Parish, both young and old. If you feel your group is not represented, why not consider joining the CPC or, with their permission, nominate someone? Alternatively, if you have any ideas or items you would like discussed at the Pastoral Council Meeting, please contact one of the Members and, if appropriate, these will be added to the Agenda of the next Meeting.

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.

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!

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.