

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
30th November & 1st December 2024
The First Sunday of Advent (Cycle C)

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 THIS SUNDAY, 1ST DECEMBER, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ADVENT LITURGY & CAROL SERVICE, 22ND DECEMBER, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LAST SUNDAY'S COFFEE MORNING – TOTAL RAISED FOR PARISH FUNDS £1,553

Fr Martin Wheaton would like to thank everyone concerned for this fantastic contribution towards Church Funds, particularly Ann Marshall, who instigated the event, her organising committee, everyone who donated gifts or helped in any way, and finally everyone who came along to support the event, which was both a social and financial success. A list of the Main Raffle prize-winners is displayed in the Church Porch. Two prizes remain unclaimed, both sold on the day, green 152 & green 338, so please check your tickets. To claim prizes, please ring 4104289.

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

- **Richard Miley**, died 27th November, 92 years, Funeral Service, Monday, 9th December, time to be advised
- **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

As usual, "Advent Alms" will remain open throughout Advent – wall safe
7th December 2024 – SVP Birtley Christmas Collection

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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Thursday evenings from 6.30pm-7.30pm, held in the Front Room of the Presbytery (main door will be open, first room on the left).

MASSES AT ST BENET'S SCHOOL: Mass will be held at St Benet's School, Ouston, on alternative Friday mornings, at 9.15 am where Parents, Guardians and Parishioners will be most welcome to attend. The next Ouston Mass will be on Friday, 13th December - there will be no Mass at Birtley that day.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, ETC: On sale at the back of Church again this weekend - cash only.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

The Benedict Partnership Christmas Cards are available this weekend and include details of the Partnership Advent Services and all of the Christmas Mass Times. There are enough cards for every family who attend Mass but, as the card extends a welcome to people who do not regularly attend Mass, you are asked to take cards for family, friends and neighbours who do not attend Mass and may respond to the invitation to "Come home for Christmas." In addition to these services, please note our Sunday Morning Jesse Tree Service and Advent Liturgy & Carol Service listed above. The Penitential Service at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 18th December and not Tuesday, as previously advertised.

ST JOSEPH'S INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL NATIVITY PLAY & CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH:

Tuesday, 10th December - 10am & 2pm - Nativity Play, Infant School's Years 1 & 2
Tuesday, 17th December - 2pm - Carol Service, Key Stage 2

Similar to last year, our Christmas nativity events are not ticketed. If you feel able to make a voluntary contribution towards our school fund to enable us to renew resources (for example, the beautiful new reading areas which were bought from the money raised at the summer fayre for four classes) then you can opt to make a voluntary entrance donation either on the day, or via Arbor (in the 'school shop', if you have a relative in school). We thank you in advance for your generosity. All are welcome.

PARTNERSHIP "CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX" APPEAL:

Many thanks to all those who gave donations for the shoe box appeal. It has been a great success again this year and Birtley St. Joseph's has certainly kept our end up with many gifts. The completed boxes were wrapped with care and love. All of the gifts are being sorted and assembled in the Emmaus Room at Our Lady's, Washington Village. The boxes will be distributed next week to all those in need, especially to Food Banks and St. Dominic's SVP Distribution Centre in Newcastle. All in time for Christmas.

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.

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 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.

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.