

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
14th & 15th December 2024
The Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday (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.
Sunday, 22nd December - Carol Service followed by refreshments & mince pies in Parish Centre

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

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

"Advent Alms" will remain open throughout Advent – wall safe near church entrance door

ST JOSEPH'S JUNIOR SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH: Tuesday, 17th December - 2pm

PARTNERSHIP ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE AT ST JOSEPH'S: Wednesday, 18th December at 7.00 pm

CANDLELIT VIGIL & BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: Friday, 20th December at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Vigil 6.00pm-9.00pm incorporating at 8.30pm the Blue Christmas Service, in which we remember our loved ones who have passed away.

MEMORY TREE: If you would like to remember deceased loved ones at St Joseph's this Christmas, please complete a card and place it on our Memory Tree at the front of Church.

CAROL SERVICE AT ST JOSEPH'S: Sunday, 22nd December, 10.00am followed by refreshments & mince pies.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY:

6.00 pm Christmas Eve – Tuesday, 24th December (Carols from 5.30 pm)

10.00am Christmas Day – Wednesday, 25th December

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).

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

BENEDICT PARTNERSHIP CHRISTMAS CARDS:

Available 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".

NORTHERN CROSS:

The December 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.

NEW ROTA FOR BIDDING PRAYER WRITERS:

Christine Brennan is presently drawing up a new 2025 rota for those who write the weekend Bidding Prayers. If you would like to become more involved in the Parish and take a turn to write the Bidding Prayers (once every 7 or 8 weeks), please contact Christine on 07894 215991 as soon as possible but definitely before Monday, 16th December. New rotas for 2025 will be available for Bidding Prayer Writer to collect from Church from Friday, 20th December.

SVP 200 CLUB:

The December draw has been made for the SVP 200 Club and the results are at the back of Church. There were no winners from either the Parish or Partnership.

VINNIES (SVP BLACKFRIARS):

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Christmas appeal over the past few weeks – your help is greatly appreciated. Should anyone have a last-minute donation, please contact Margaret Taylor.

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.