

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
7th & 8th December 2024
The Second 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.
ADVENT LITURGY & CAROL SERVICE, 22ND DECEMBER, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FRIDAY MORNING'S MASS: Please note that Mass this Friday, 13th December, 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. Parents, Guardians and Parishioners will be most welcome to attend. A schedule of Ouston Masses for the next School Term will be announced in January.

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
- **John Comerford**, died 31st October, 80 years, Requiem Mass Wednesday, 20th November at 10.30am

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

7th December 2024 – SVP Birtley Christmas Collection (following last weekend's appeal)
"Advent Alms" will remain open throughout Advent – wall safe near church entrance door

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. The Partnership Advent Reconciliation Service at St Joseph's will be held on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.00pm.

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.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

The Benedict Partnership Christmas Cards are 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."

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.

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.

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.

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.

SHOE BOX APPEAL:

Please see Page 3, Column 2 of the main Parish Newsletter for more details.

PARISH FUNDRAISING COFFEE MORNING

Two prizes remain unclaimed, both sold on the day, green 152 & green 338, so please check your tickets. To claim prizes, please ring 4104289.

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.

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.