

**ST JOSEPH'S NEWS**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C)**  
**Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope**

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:**

Children's Liturgy will now be celebrated at our main Vigil Mass at 5.00pm each Saturday.

**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 IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:**

Maureen Joyce (nee Casey), Bob Fish, Valerie Waggott and Lin McDonnell

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**

**22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> February – SVP (St Joseph's)**

**CONFIRMATIONS – ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY**

Bishop Stephen will be coming to celebrate Confirmations at St Joseph's on Tuesday, 15th July, at 7 p.m. Letters are available at the back of church and at Cardinal Hume, St Leonards and St Robert's Schools. Alternatively, to register for the preparation programme, please scan the QR Code on Page 3, Column 2, of the Main Parish Newsletter, or click on the link provided.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:**

If anyone is interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please speak with Fr Martin Wheaton. The diocese is running another course in March of this year. The dates and times are given below :-

**Venue: St Patrick, Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Durham DH7 8JJ**

- Session 1: Wednesday 19 March 2025 (Evening session) 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Session 2: Wednesday 26 March 2025 (Evening session) 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Session 3: Saturday 29 March 2025 (Day session) 10.30am – 3.15pm

**Venue: St Hilda, The Kings Road, Sunderland SR5 2JD**

- Session 1: Tuesday 25 February 2025 (Evening session) 7.00am – 9.00pm
- Session 2: Tuesday 4 March 2025 (Evening session) 7.00am – 9.00pm
- Session 3: Saturday 8 March 2025 (Day session) 10.30am – 3.15pm

**JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE – POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER:**

A special prayer has been composed for this Jubilee Year and will be recited after the Vigil Mass each Saturday evening at St Joseph's. Prayer cards are available at the back of church so you can say it regularly at home too during the week.

**PARISH LENTEN MISSION 17<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025:**

If you haven't already picked up your copy of our Parish Lenten Mission programme, led by internationally acclaimed Sr Briege McKenna and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani, please do so today. You will find interesting reading about Sr Briege, in particular how she was miraculously and instantaneously healed and received the gift of healing, along with Fr Pablo's interesting background. There are plenty copies available for you to take extra copies as invites to distribute among your family, friends and neighbours.

**NEW OFFERTORY PROCESSION ROTA:**

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to take part in the Offertory Procession Ministry for the coming year. The new Rota is now available at the back of Church – if you haven't already done so, please take your own copy.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PRAYER PARTNERS:**

There is a list of prayer partners on the notice board at the back of church. Thank you to those who have agreed to do this. All that is asked is that you pray for your partner and in return they will pray for you. Thank you for your continued support for the children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion.

**PIETY STALL:**

Please note that there is a new stock of cards and rosary beads available – why not take a look? Money can be placed in the clearly marked wall-safe near the main church door.

**(WOMEN'S) WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025:**

Birtley Churches Together invites you to join them in the WDP service at St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Birtley Lane, Birtley, DH3 2PJ, on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm, with refreshments afterwards. Everyone welcome! This year's service has been prepared by the Christian Women of the Cook Islands and the same service will be celebrated in over 120 countries and islands throughout the world, with some 6,000 services taking place in the UK.

**RECYCLING OF CRISP PACKETS & BATTERIES:**

Many thanks to those who, in the past, have brought crisp packets and batteries to church for recycling. Please note that we are no longer offering this facility but would ask you instead to take them yourself to a local supermarket please, where you will find appropriate receptacles. As well as these items, you can also recycle soft plastic bags and wrappers, cling film, sweet papers, plastic coverings from bread, fruit and vegetables, etc. You will be surprised how much you will collect each week, once you get into the habit of recycling them - just a small way for you to help save our planet!

**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).

**NORTHERN CROSS:**

February edition of the Northern Cross now on sale at the back of 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 of the February draw for the SVP 200 Club have now been posted at the back of Church. There were no winners from St Joseph's although there was one from the Partnership.

**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:**

The deadline for entry is midday the previous Wednesday. Please send by email to [cath.tumelty@btinternet.com](mailto: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. These notices can be submitted by clicking the link on the main Parish Newsletter.