

## ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

**1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 – 8<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.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Please note that there will be a Mass at 12 noon at St Joseph's on Ash Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, when Ashes will be distributed. Fr Martin W will be attending St Joseph's and St Benet's Primary Schools that day where a simple liturgy is being prepared for the children which will include ashes for each child.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Will be held during Lent at 6pm each Thursday evening, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, as usual, from 6.30pm - 7.30pm.

**ST BENET'S SCHOOL MASS:** Please note that this Friday's Mass, 7<sup>th</sup> March, will be held in St Benet's School, Ouston, at 9.15am so there will be no Mass at Birtley that day.

**FIRST FRIDAY NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS:** Please see details at the end of this News Sheet.

### **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**

**8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> March - SVP (St Joseph's)**

**15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March - CAFOD Lenten Fast**

**Lenten Alms will remain open throughout Lent - please place donations in wall safe near main door**

**(WOMEN'S) WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025:** Birtley Churches Together invites you to join them in the WDP service at **St John's Anglican Church, Birtley, 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.

**ST JOSEPH'S LOURDES YOUTH GROUP:** For those who already have tickets, St. Joseph's Lourdes Youth Group are holding their annual Afternoon Tea, Raffle and Tombola on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm-4pm in the Parish Centre. Many thanks for your support!

**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The next CPC Meeting will be held at 7pm on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> March, in the Presbytery. If you would like the Council to discuss a particular subject relating to St Joseph's, please speak with a Council Member prior to the Meeting – names can be found on the notice board at the back of Church.

**CONFIRMATIONS – ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY:** Bishop Stephen will be coming to celebrate Confirmations at St Joseph's on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 Briega McKenna and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani, please do so today. There are plenty copies available for you to take extra copies as invites to distribute among your family, friends and neighbours.

**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 at St Patrick's, Langley Moor, are given below. The course held at St Hilda's, Sunderland, started 25<sup>th</sup> February and will finish 8<sup>th</sup> March.

**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

**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.

**PARISH REPRESENTATIVE ON THE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GROUP (PDG):** We are looking for a representative from St Joseph's Parish to join the Partnership Development Group. The PDG meets about five times each year at one of the churches in the Benedict Partnership to discuss, plan and organise activities and events that are appropriate to Partnership level rather than Parish level. For more information please contact Mick Davison on [mdavison.1953@gmail.com](mailto:mdavison.1953@gmail.com) or mobile 07774 768578.

**PARISH CENTRE MEMBERSHIP:** Annual membership of the Parish Centre is now due for renewal. For members under the age of 65 the annual subscription is £5, for those 65 or over honorary membership is free. Subscriptions can be paid by leaving payment with staff in the Parish Centre. Honorary members must collect their membership stickers to retain their membership.

**NORTHERN CROSS:** March edition 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.

**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 6.30-7.30pm in Church, immediately after Stations of the Cross during Lent. A wonderful opportunity to spend a few minutes or an hour in silent prayer.

**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.

### **NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: (2<sup>ND</sup>) FIRST FRIDAY - 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025**

To mark the Holy Year of Jubilee, you are invited to follow a Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus each First Friday of every month from February to October 2025. This will be recited after our First Friday morning Mass (including any School Masses which may fall on a first Friday of a month). The Novena is printed below so that if anyone is unable to attend Mass that day, they could say the Novena at home.

**1.** O my Jesus, you have said: 'Truly I say to you, ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you.' Behold I knock, I seek and ask for the grace of..... *(here name your request)*

Our Father... . Hail Mary... . Glory Be to the Father... .

**Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.**

**2.** O my Jesus, you have said: 'Truly I say to you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.' Behold, in your name, I ask the Father for the grace of..... *(here name your request)*

Our Father... Hail Mary... . Glory Be To the Father... .

**Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.**

**3.** O my Jesus, you have said: 'Truly I say to you, heaven and earth will pass away but my words will not pass away.' Encouraged by your infallible words I now ask for the grace of... *(here name your request)*

Our Father... . Hail Mary... . Glory Be to the Father...

**Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in you.**

**O Sacred Heart of Jesus,** for whom it is impossible not to have compassion on the afflicted, have pity on us miserable sinners and grant us the grace which we ask of you, through the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, your tender Mother and ours.

**Conclude by saying the "Hail, Holy Queen" and add: "St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus, pray for us".**