

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
22nd & 23rd March 2025 – Third Sunday of Lent (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:

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.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

29th & 30th March – SVP (St Joseph's Parish)

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

FIRST CONFESSIONS:

In Church on Thursday, 27th March 2025 from 5.30pm.

CANCELLED FOR THIS WEEK ONLY – Stations of the Cross & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Unfortunately, these services have had to be cancelled this week due to First Confessions. They will resume as usual on Thursday, 3rd April 2025.

PARISH MISSION:

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Parish Mission last week with Sr Briega McKenna and Fr Pablo Escriva de Romani, which proved to be a tremendous success. Mission Services were live-streamed and saved so, if you were unable to attend in person, these can now be viewed on either the Parish YouTube or Church Services TV links on the main Parish Newsletter. These services were around 1½ hours long but you can move through the recordings to hear the main Mission messages - Fr Pablo spoke after the Gospel Reading and Sr Briega spoke at the end of the Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

Maureen Joyce; Bob Fish; Valerie Waggott; Lin McDonnell; Peggy Finnigan; Nancy Loughlin; Margaret Whitley;
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).

RED MISSION BOXES:

John Stewart will be at Church at Mass on Thursday 20th & 27th and Saturday 22nd & 29th March for parishioners to bring their mission monies.

DIOCESAN VISION:

In his Pastoral Letter, read out at Mass last weekend, Bishop Stephen said: "My hope is that parishes and partnerships will reflect together on the draft Diocesan Vision". To enable us, as a parish, to respond to the Bishop's request, there will be a series of meetings where we can prayerfully reflect on the four strands of the Diocesan Vision. These meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month in April, May, June and July. The meetings will be in the Parish Centre after the Tuesday evening Mass, starting at 7.30pm and finishing no later than 9.00pm. There will be a leaflet available next weekend with more information but please make a note of the dates now.

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 or mobile 07774 768578.

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.

NORTHERN CROSS:

March edition now on sale at the back of the Church, where you will find details of the Visitation of the Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis to this area from 26-30 March, prior to Carlo's canonisation in April. You can also see photos of the beautiful wooden altar, reredos and panelling, formerly located in the Bishop's private chapel at Bishop's House, Denton Hall, now installed in St Aidan's Church, Holy Island. Please place money in the wall safe at the side of the entrance door – beside the choir loft stairs.

SAFEGUARDING - THE ONLINE UPDATE SERVICE – EMAILS FROM DBS:

The Update Service is a free online subscription service that allows you to keep your enhanced DBS certificates up to date. It enables the Diocese, with your consent, to complete your three yearly DBS check. Your Update Service subscription requires an annual renewal. When this is due, you will receive an email from DBS which will help you to do this. If you do not renew your subscription it will lapse and subsequently, when your DBS is due for checking, a full application will need to be completed, including identity verification. If you need any further information regarding this, please speak to Pauline Lavery, your Parish Safeguarding Representative.

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:

Cancelled at St Joseph's this week but back to normal next week.

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.

SVP 200 CLUB:

The results of the March 2025 draw are now at the back of church. Congratulations to Ann Marshall who was successful in the draw.

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 (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.