

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
29th & 30th March 2025 – Fourth 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.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME: Reminder that British Summer Time begins at 1.00am this Sunday, 30th March when the clocks go forward one hour.

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)

5th & 6th April – NBF Sick & Retired Priests (see note on main Newsletter regarding this collection)

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Will be held during Lent at 6pm Thursday evening, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. If you haven't yet attended Stations of the Cross this Lent, there will only be two more services available.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Thursday evenings from 6.30-7.30pm in Church, immediately after Stations of the Cross during Lent. Following on from Sr Briege and Fr Pablo's powerful talks on personally speaking with Jesus during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, this is a wonderful opportunity to spend a few minutes or an hour in silent prayer.

ST BENET'S SCHOOL MASS: Please note that this Friday's Mass, 4th April, 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.

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

Elizabeth Donnelly (former Parishioner) died 26th March 2025 at Ingleby Care Home, Ingleby Barwick, Stockton

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

Maureen Joyce; Bob Fish; Valerie Waggott; Lin McDonnell; Peggy Finnigan; Nancy Loughlin; Margaret Whitley; Molly Peter. 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 Mass on Sat. 29th March for parishioners to bring their mission monies.

DIOCESAN VISION: In his recent Pastoral Letter 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. The first of these meetings will be in the Parish Centre next Tuesday, 1st April, at 7.30pm (after evening Mass). There are leaflets available at the back of the church with more information about these meetings.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: The new Offertory envelopes are at the back of the church for collection. If you have a Gift Aid agreement in place your envelopes (1-50) will have your name on the box. If you do not Gift Aid please take a set of envelopes from the other box (51 and above). If you do not have a Gift Aid agreement but are a UK taxpayer, please consider signing a Gift Aid form as this will enable the parish to claim back from the Government 25p for every £1 you give to the parish. If you want to know more about the Gift Aid scheme please contact Mick Davison (mdavison.1953@gmail.com or 07774-768578)

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The next CPC Meeting will be held at 7pm on Sunday, 6th April, 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.

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – NORTHUMBERLAND STREET, NEWCASTLE: Anointing Fire Catholic Ministries (AFCM) invites everyone to walk with them during the Stations of the Cross on **Saturday, 5th April, 10-11am**, Northumberland Street, Newcastle. They will meet at Five Guys (bottom of the street). For more information ring 07545 861400 or 07931 136243.

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.

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 phone 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: (3RD) FIRST FRIDAY - 4TH APRIL 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".