

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
8th & 9th March 2025 – First 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.

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.

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

8th & 9th March - SVP (St Joseph's)

15th & 16th March - CAFOD Lenten Fast

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

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – FRIDAY, 14TH MARCH:

In readiness for this special day, CAFOD envelopes will be available from church this weekend for collection next weekend. In addition to this, our parish schools will be taking part in the Big Lent Walk for CAFOD and we will share the link to their fundraising pages ASAP. Our CAFOD representative, Rachel Prior, is also keen to organise a parish Big Lent Walk for anyone to join in - families, couples and individuals. Details to follow very soon.

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, 9th 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, 9th 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.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION 17TH–19TH MARCH 2025:

If you haven't already picked up your copy of our Parish Lenten Mission programme, led by internationally acclaimed Sr Brieghe 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. In addition to this programme, please see this week's main Newsletter, Page 3, Column 1 "Eucharistic Exposition, Rosary & Benediction" 4-6pm Sunday, 16th March, Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, when Sr Brieghe and Fr Pablo will join us for this prayer time.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025:

Many thanks to everyone who attended the ecumenical service at St John's, Birtley, this week. This was an excellent way for members of all four Birtley Churches to come together in praise and St Joseph's was very well represented.

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.

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.