

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

19th & 20th April 2025 – Easter Sunday (Cycle C)

Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

HAPPY EASTER:

Wishing everyone a happy and holy Easter with a particularly warm welcome to those who were received into the Church at the Easter Vigil Service. Many thanks to everyone who helped make the services so special, including the altar servers, choir, readers, flower arrangers, church cleaners and anyone else I may have missed. Fr Martin W.

EASTER SERVICES AT ST JOSEPH'S:

The Easter Vigil Service at St Joseph's will commence at 5.00pm when 5 of the 19 people from our two parishes who have followed the Journey in Faith Programme will receive the Sacraments at this time. Please keep them in your prayers. There will be an additional Mass at St Joseph's on Easter Sunday morning commencing at 9.00am.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

19th & 20th April - SVP (St Joseph's)

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

Elizabeth Donnelly, aged 89 years, died 26 March at Ingiby Barwick, Requiem 16 April, 10am, St Therese TS17 OPZ

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

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

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:

Held in Church each Thursday evening 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

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 mobile 07774-768578)

NORTHERN CROSS:

April edition now on sale at the back of the Church where you will find, on the front page, a group photo with Bishop Stephen taken at the John Paul II Award Ceremony earlier this year. **Jade** (who helped with the Sunday morning Children's Liturgy and refreshments afterwards), **Daniel, Sophie** and **Esther** (who printed the bulletin last year) are all in the back row. Please place money in the wall safe at the side of the entrance door – beside the choir loft stairs.

SVP200 CLUB:

The April draw for the SVP 200 Club has been made and the result are at the back of church. There were no winners this month from the Parish or Partnership.

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.

ALPHA COURSE:

An established introductory series of talks exploring Christianity for those who have little background in our faith or who have been away from church for a while, is beginning after Easter, as detailed below. Please share this information if there is someone you know who may be interested or would like more information.

CURIOUS ABOUT FAITH?

The parish of St. John XXIII invites **YOU** to our **Alpha Course**
Join a series of conversations that explore the Christian Faith in an open friendly group
at

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Parish Rooms
(beside St Joseph Primary School Washington Village)

Tuesday 29th April 2025

6.30-8.00pm for 10 weeks

Please register via the parish website or parish administrator

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.

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.