

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

26th & 27th April 2025 – Divine Mercy Sunday (Cycle C)

Jubilee Year 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Children's Liturgy is now 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

03/04 May – First Holy Communion Programme
10/11 May – Little Sisters of the Poor
17/18 May – Christian Aid

POPE FRANCIS' FINAL PUBLIC ADDRESS: A printed copy of Pope Francis' final public address which was read out on Easter Sunday, is available at the back of Church for anyone who would like a copy.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Held in Church each Thursday evening 6.30pm – 7.30pm.

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

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).

CHRISTIAN AID: This year, to try to raise extra funds for Christian Aid, Birtley Methodist Church is holding a "Tea Party" on Thursday, 1st May, at 2.00pm with refreshments and a raffle. Everyone invited, donations welcome.

This is Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary year and "Christian Aid Week" is between 11-18 May. Gift Envelopes will be delivered to our Church before then for collection 18th May. In the past, Birtley Churches Together used to arrange door-to-door collections throughout Birtley but now just collect within Morrisons on the Friday/Saturday of that week between 10am-3pm and volunteer collectors are needed. If you are able to help, please contact Catherine Barrett (Email: chog1956@gmail.com, Mobile: 07922 505494) or speak with Sandra Neal.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: If you haven't already collected your Offertory Envelopes, new boxes are available at the back of church. For those who have a Gift Aid agreement in place, your envelopes (1-50) will have your name on the box, otherwise 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. For further information about the Gift Aid scheme, please contact Mick Davison (mdavison.1953@gmail.com or mobile 07774-768578)

NORTHERN CROSS: April edition 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:

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.

NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS: (4TH) FIRST FRIDAY - 2ND MAY 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....

O 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....

O 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....

O 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".