

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS
5th & 6th April 2025 – Fifth 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

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 will be the last service this Lent.

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 Briega 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.

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).

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 have a Gift Aid agreement 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.

EASTER MASSES AND SERVICES: The Easter Triduum will be as follows:

Holy Thursday: 7.00pm St Joseph's
7.00pm St Bede's, Washington, followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight
Good Friday: 3.00pm St Joseph's, Our Blessed Lady Immaculate & Our Lady Queen of Peace
7.00pm Stations of the Cross at St John Boste
Easter Vigil: 5.00pm St Joseph's
7.00pm St John Boste
Easter Sunday: 9.00am St Joseph's
9.30am St John Boste
10.00am Our Lady Queen of Peace
11.00am Our Blessed Lady Immaculate
11.00am St Bede's, Washington

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.

NORTHERN CROSS:

April edition now on sale at the back of the Church. Please place money in the wall safe at the side of the entrance door – beside the choir loft stairs.

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.

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.

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.