

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

24th & 25th May 2025 – 6th Sunday of Easter (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

31 May/1 June – World Communications Day (see info on main Newsletter)
7th/8th June – Lay Training Fund

ROSARY: Prayed for world peace at St Joseph's every Tuesday at 6.40 pm, prior to the evening Mass.

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION – THURSDAY, 29TH MAY: Mass at St Joseph's will be at 12noon. Other Masses within the Parish are: Wednesday, 28th Vigil at St John Boste; Thursday, 29th: 10am OLQP Penschaw; 7pm OBLI, Washington Village.

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

SERVICE FRIDAY, 30TH MAY: Please note that there will be a Eucharistic Service at St Joseph's at 10.00am on Friday, 30th May, led by Deacon Tony Joy, in lieu of Mass (Fr Martin has a funeral service at Birtley Crem that morning).

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

- Peggy Finnigan, aged 95, died 12th May, Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Tuesday, 27th May at 1.30pm
- Keith John Slater, aged 73, died 7th May, Funeral Service Birtley Crematorium Wednesday, 28th May at 11.00am
- Valerie Evelyn Waggott, aged 85, died 30 April, Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Friday 16 May at 10.00am.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

Maureen Joyce; Bob Fish; Lin McDonnell; 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 Telephone No. to Fr Martin Wheaton or contact Anne Welsh (07801 481021).

MAINTENANCE GROUP: We are hoping to set up a Maintenance Group for St Joseph's Parish. The members of this group will be asked to support Father Martin in identifying maintenance tasks that need doing in the church and presbytery and arranging for the works to be done as necessary. If you have any experience in building and property maintenance and are willing to help, please give your name and contact details to Father Martin.

ST BENET'S SCHOOL, OUSTON, 50TH ANNIVERSARY: On Monday 2nd June 2025, St Benet's shall celebrate their 50th Birthday. The school have a variety of celebrations planned to mark this occasion; however, they would like to invite any members of the parish to attend a **special Mass at St Benet's on Friday 6th June 2025**. A warm welcome will be received by all and, as the school look forward to a new building in the very near future, let us all celebrate the many wonderful memories that have happened at St Benet's since 1975. Mass shall start at 9:15am and tea & coffee will be served in Caroline's Library afterwards. In addition, the school is creating a memory book. As our parish serves many families who previously attended St Benet's, if anyone has a memory that they would like to share, please email it to stbenets@stbo.bwcet.com before Friday 23rd May. Many thanks!

CORPUS CHRISTI – EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION & ADORATION AT USHAW: On Sunday 22nd June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, and starting at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees will be available after the service. You do not need a ticket for this event, but please sign up on the sheet available at the back of church, to help Ushaw to estimate numbers. Please indicate if you are bringing a car: this will help Ushaw to manage car parking requirements. If anyone who does not have transport would like to go, please put your name on the list stating "would need transport" or "WNT" and we will see if someone could offer you a lift. Private bus hire is very expensive but this could be investigated if necessary.

LAUDATO SI: Bishop Stephen will celebrate 10 years of Laudato Si with mass in St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 24th May at 10am. All are welcome.

SVP MASS FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND: St Joseph's Annual Mass for the Sick and Housebound will be celebrated at 2.00pm on Saturday 21st June, 2025. Individual letters for Eucharistic Ministers giving further details are available at the back of the Church. Any parishioners who are not being visited by a Eucharistic Minister and who would like to come, would also be very welcome and should either contact Peter Monaghan on 0191 4108103 or speak with any member of the SVP.

SVP 200 CLUB MAY DRAW: The results of the May draw are displayed at the back of the church. We have two winners from our SVP 200 Club who are both from the St John XXIII parish – congratulations to Elizabeth Kelly and Margaret Humphreys.

SVP 200 CLUB: The SVP would like to thank all members of the SVP 200 Club for the help that you have given to Vinnies during 2024-2025 by your membership. Subscriptions are now due for 2025-2026 starting on 1st June, which will be £12 per number. Please either contact Peter Monaghan on 0191 4108103 or see him at the back of church after Saturday Mass during May. Shirley Ennis will be available to take subscriptions for those who attend the Sunday Liturgy. Anyone willing to join this worthwhile enterprise will be most welcome and can contact Peter for more information.

NEW SUNDAY MISSAL: If anyone would like to order a Sunday Missal with the new lectionary translation, price £18, please add your name to the list at the back of Church or see Pauline Lavery.

LIVE-STREAMED SERVICES: Unfortunately, we are still encountering problems with live-streamed services from St Joseph's. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

The Partnership Development Group will soon be providing details of plans for the "Year of Jubilee" but in the meantime, here are a few dates for your diary:-

- Friday, 11th July, Feast of St Benedict, St Mary's Cathedral, 11.15am, Prayers, Process through Holy Door, Mass.
- Sunday, 20th July, Walking Pilgrimage to Durham Cathedral (non-walkers to meet there)
- Saturday, 6th September, Walking Pilgrimage (2 legs) with refreshments 4pm Birtley, prior to 5pm Mass (option)
 1. St Bede's, Sacriston, walking via St Cuthbert's to St Joseph's
 2. OLQP Peshaw, walking via OBLI, St Bede's & St John Boste, to St Joseph's
- Saturday, 13th September, Holy Island, CAFOD/Romero Pilgrimage (2 coaches from 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.

NORTHERN CROSS: There are a few remaining copies of the May issue of the Northern Cross (new copies out first Sunday in June). If you haven't already bought your copy, can we please encourage you to do so. Each month we receive 16 copies of the NC for sale but lately 4-5 have been left unsold and if this continues, to save waste, we will need to reduce our supply in future.

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 Mass Intention at St Joseph's, special envelopes are available at the back of Church and in the Sacristy. We already have bookings many months in advance so, if you want to pick a particular day, please give as much notice as possible to save disappointment.

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.