

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

3rd & 4th May 2025 – 3rd 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

03/04 May – First Holy Communion Programme

10/11 May – Little Sisters of the Poor

17/18 May – Christian Aid

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

ST BENET'S SCHOOL MASS: Please note that this Friday's Mass, 9th May, will be held in St Benet's School, Ouston, at 9.15am so there will be no Mass at Birtley that day.

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

- Garret (Gee) Mitchell of Ouston, died suddenly aged 43. Please keep his wife Lisa and parents John & Anne in your prayers.
- Anthony (Tony) Watson, Requiem Mass at St Joseph's on Friday, 9th May at 1.30pm followed by committal at Birtley Crematorium.

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 Telephone No. to Fr Martin Wheaton or contact Anne Welsh (07801 481021).

DIOCESAN VISION:

In his recent Pastoral Letter Bishop Stephen said: "My hope is that parishes and partnerships will reflect together on the draft Diocesan Vision". To enable us, as a parish, to respond to the Bishop's request there will be a series of meetings where we can prayerfully reflect on the four strands of the Diocesan Vision. On Tuesday (6th May) the second of these meetings will be held in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm (after evening Mass). Don't worry if you did not attend the first meeting as each meeting stands alone and is looking at a different topic. The meeting will end no later than 9.00pm - everyone welcome.

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 JOSEPH'S CHURCH PASTORAL COUNCIL:

The next CPC Meeting will be held at 7pm on Sunday, 11th May, 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.

CHRISTIAN AID:

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.

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.

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!

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:

May edition 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.

LIVE-STREAMED SERVICES:

You will see on the main Parish Newsletter that all live-streamed services from Washington have been temporarily suspended. For the past few weeks, St Joseph's live-streaming has encountered problems. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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.

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. **Please give as much notice as possible if you want to pick a particular day – we already have bookings many months in advance.**

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.