

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

21st-28th February 2026 – 1st Sunday of Lent (Cycle A)

Fr Martin Wheaton 07709 961040

MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BIRTLEY				
DAY	DATE	FEAST	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	21 February	Vigil: 6 th Sunday of Year	5.00 pm	Michael Ryder RIP
Tuesday	24 February		7.00 pm	Betty Gilfillin RIP
Thursday	26 February		12 noon	Bill & Kathleen Burlinson RIP
Friday	27 February		10.00 am	Vera McAvoy RIP
Saturday	28 February	Vigil: 2nd Sunday in Lent	5.00 pm	Pat McAdam RIP

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Children's Liturgy is celebrated at our main Vigil Mass at 5.00pm each Saturday.

SPECIAL RETIRING COLLECTIONS

21st February – SVP

28th February – * CAFOD Lenten Fast Collection

Throughout Lent, Lenten Alms can be placed in the wall safe near the entrance door

*CAFOD envelopes are at the back of church

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT: Stations of the Cross will be held on a Thursday at 11:30 before the 12 noon Mass. Various groups in the parish will be asked to lead the stations each week

ROSARY: Prayed for world peace at St Joseph's every Tuesday at 6.40 pm, prior to the evening Mass. If you would like to help lead the Tuesday night Rosary at St Joseph's, please come along any Tuesday evening and join in with our small group to help share this vital prayer vocation.

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.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Held in the front room of the presbytery during winter months each Thursday evening 6.30pm–7.30pm. You are welcome to sit with the Lord in silence for a few minutes or the entire hour. Fr Martin will also be available should anyone wish to go to confession at this time.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

Bob Fish; Pat Lamb; Mick Davison; Ursula Duru; Claire Avery; Beverley Homes

Please let Fr Martin know of any sick or housebound within the parish who would like to see a priest.

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

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).

LOURDES YOUTH SPONSORSHIP:

The Group have arranged a **Race Night on Saturday, 28th February**. Tickets on sale after mass and **Afternoon Tea from 2-4pm on Sunday, 22nd March** (Gifts for the Raffle would be appreciated) both in the Parish Centre. Please support them if you can.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – FRIDAY, 6TH MARCH

“Birtley Churches Together” invites you to join them at Birtley Community Church, Edward Road, Birtley, on **Friday, 6th March at 2.00pm** for this year’s World Day of Prayer service prepared by the Christian Women of Nigeria. The same service will be celebrated in over 146 countries and islands throughout the world, with some 6,000 services taking place in the UK. Refreshments afterwards – everyone welcome.

DISCONTINUATION OF THE SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE AT ST JOSEPH’S:

Unfortunately, the 10.00am Sunday Morning Celebration at St Joseph’s of The Word, Prayer and Music, including a Children’s Liturgy, has had to be cancelled following instruction from the Diocese, due to it detracting from various Sunday morning Masses in nearby churches.

Congratulations and thanks must be given to the parishioners who have prepared these excellent services in the recent past and have pulled together our community of all ages on a Sunday morning. We pray that the gifts and talents they have provided will be used for God’s glory in our parish in the future and not be lost.

*In the short-term, until the Parish Centre closes at the end of March, a coffee morning will continue in the Parish Centre each Sunday morning, at **10.30 am**, which will not only bring parishioners together, but will help raise funds for various charities. Hopefully, once the Old Parish Hall is renovated, this coffee morning can be reinstated.*

NORTHERN CROSS:

The February edition now on sale at the back of the Church. There are always extra copies left over each month so please support the publication by buying a copy. Please place money in the wall safe at the side of the entrance door – beside the choir loft stairs.

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.

VIGIL MASS-OFFERTORY PROCESSION - NEW ROTA

Many thanks to everyone who agreed to be included in the new Offertory Procession Rota, commencing 7th March 2026. Will those concerned please collect their own copy of the Rota from the back of church.

ARTICLES FOR ST JOSEPH’S NEWS – NEW ARRANGEMENTS:

In future, if you wish to include an item in St Joseph’s News, please send it direct to Pauline Lavery laverypauline9@gmail.com (it is easier to cut and paste!) or phone 0191-4102530 or text 07906906559. The deadline for entry is midday the previous Wednesday. 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.