

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

14th & 15th February 2026 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

Fr Martin Wheaton 07709 961040

MASSES AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, BIRTLEY				
DAY	DATE	FEAST	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	14 February	Vigil: 6 th Sunday of Year	5.00 pm	George Smith RIP
Tuesday	17 February		7.00 pm	John Lee RIP
Wednesday	18 February	Ash Wednesday (extra Mass)	12 noon	People of the Parish
Thursday	19 February		12 noon	Enid Crossan RIP
Friday	20 February		10.00 am	St Joseph's School *
Saturday	21 February	Vigil: 1 st Sunday in Lent	5.00 pm	Michael Ryder RIP

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN: We welcome our First Holy Communion Children and their parents or guardians at our Vigil Mass this evening.

SPECIAL RETIRING COLLECTIONS

14th February – No Special Collection

21st February – SVP

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

* **FRIDAY 20th FEBRUARY:** St Joseph's School Children will be celebrating Mass in church.
Everyone is welcome

ASH WEDNESDAY: PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WEDNESDAY IS ASH WEDNESDAY, THE START OF LENT AND A DAY OF FASTING AND ABSTINENCE FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE. THERE WILL BE MASS AT ST JOSEPH'S THAT DAY AT 12 NOON.

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. (Not this week.) 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).

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, initially at 10.00 am, but this time may change if more convenient, 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.

LOURDES YOUTH SPONSORSHIP:

Many thanks for your kind generosity in last week's special collection.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.