

On Wednesday both the Infant and the Junior Mini Vinnies attended St Michaels Church for the Good Shepherds Mass. What a beautiful church it was! Thank you to St Cuthbert's Care who invited us. The children proudly represented our school! ❤️😊 See less



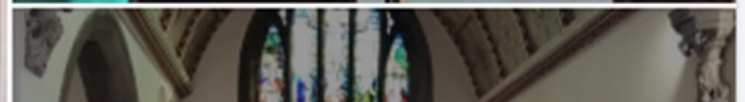


St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Today, our Year 6 children led us beautifully in the Stations of the Cross in church.

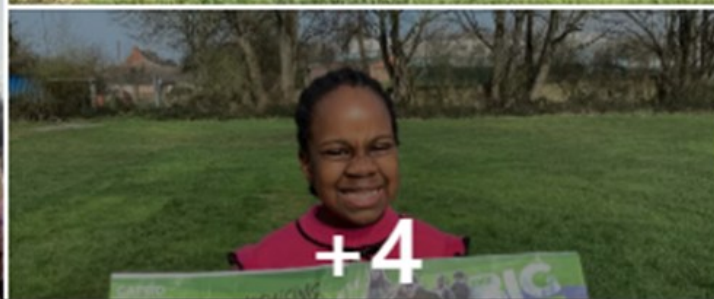
They approached this special time with such reverence, maturity and respect, guiding us thoughtfully through each station. It was clear how much care and understanding they brought to the experience, helping everyone to reflect on its meaning. [See less](#)



Year 4 were delighted to see so many of our parents and carers able to attend our Celebration of the Word this morning. Together we reflected on the life of St. Patrick and the message of faith, courage, and kindness that he shared. We learned and how he used the shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. As a constant reminder, everyone received a little shamrock to attach to their keys, bag or zip. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the celebration so special for the children. **See less**



This morning, we completed our Lenten Walk. The children really pushed themselves to complete as many laps of the field as they could, whilst thinking of how we were supporting the gardeners of the floating gardens in Bangladesh preventing global poverty. Thank you to our families for their generous sponsorship. It really is going to a worthy cause. [See less](#)





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



St. Joseph's community - you have astounded us! We have collected £1,117.50 in sponsorship for the Cafod Big Lenten Walk!

Enormous thanks to you all - this is a tremendous achievement.

Well done to our incredible pupils who smiled, sang and walked all of the way round our fields! You are all superb! 🥰😊 See less





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Centenary of St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School:

We will be celebrating the centenary of St. Joseph's Catholic Infant School, on Monday 12th January 2026 at 10am. Rt. Rev. Abbot Geoffrey Scott OSB, Abbot of Lindisfarne has kindly agreed to celebrate Mass for us as Fr. Martin Wheaton is away. Abbot Geoffrey, the former Abbot of Douai Abbey, attended St Joseph's Infant School as a child so is happy to be returning for this occasion.

We would like to hold a showcase of archive/memorabilia linked to the infant school, in particular. Should you have old photographs/archive material at home, then we would be delighted to 'borrow/scan/photograph' these treasures in preparation for the event. Please email info@sjib.bwcet.com with any details. We will even scan/photograph items while you wait!





On Tuesday, Year 4 visited the Newcastle Reform Synagogue. It was lovely to see the beautiful Torah scrolls and the ark where they are kept, after learning about them in school. We learned so much more about Judaism on our visit and the names of lots of Jewish items. There was a mezuzah on the door with a special prayer inside it. We all wore a kippah on our heads to show respect. Some of us wore a tallit around our shoulders. The fringes had knots in to help remember the prayers. We then went on to the bimah, which is a raised area where the ark and Torah are kept and where readers stand to read from the Torah to the congregation. Above the ark was a beautiful light called the Nir Tamid which means everlasting light and represents God. The curtain had the most beautiful Menorah candle embroidered onto it. We learned that the Jewish holy day is called the Shabbat and starts at sunset on Friday. We also learned that the Jewish celebrate their new year in September, called Rosh Hashanah, and this year the Jewish year is 5786! Our host was so impressed with our knowledge of her faith that she touched her heart and said 'nachas' which meant her heart was full of gratitude.





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What a truly beautiful day for our Year 5 and 6 pilgrimage to Holy Island!



+29

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Fiona Lindsay
How wonderful!

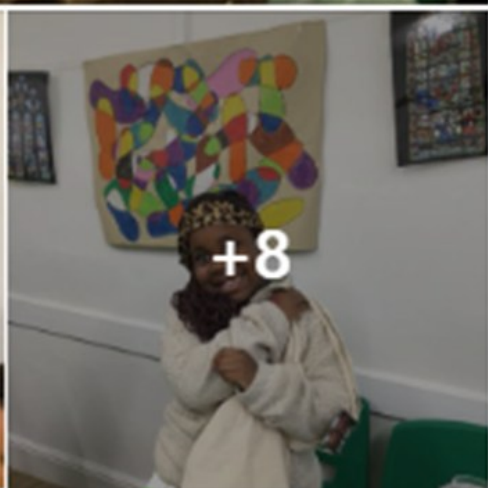




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Today Year 3 were on their own pilgrimage. At Durham Cathedral the children were taken back in time to think about who might have been on a pilgrimage and why. They explored the Cathedral and even found some Northern Saints!





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Year 4 had a great day at Durham Cathedral. We accompanied some pilgrims through time, from St. Margaret in 1240 to Emily Hart, a modern day doctor, and considered the different reasons why people may embark on a pilgrimage. We created some fabulous artwork that represented how we were following in the footsteps of other visitors to the cathedral. We then had a tour of inside of the cathedral and were able to visit the tombs of both St. Cuthbert and St. Bede. It was a really special day.





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Reception have been learning about what it means to be 'welcomed' somewhere. We have made a sign to welcome others into our classroom. We wanted to show you all of the different ways we can welcome someone. We even learned how to sign 'welcome'! 🙌👋



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St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



We've just celebrated a wonderful Harvest Mass! Thank you all for your kind donations! Vinnies will be delighted! 🙏❤️



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Thank you to everyone who has kindly donated to our Harvest Festival. This is a gentle reminder that we are still collecting donations. All donations can be dropped off at either school. ... See more

HARVEST FESTIVAL

**ST JOSEPH'S WILL CELEBRATE HARVEST FESTIVAL ON
FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER IN ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH AT 10AM.
WITH THE PARISH.**

**DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT EITHER SCHOOL,
PREFERABLY IN ADVANCE OF FRIDAY, SO THAT THEY CAN BE
TAKEN TO CHURCH ON THURSDAY, IN ORDER FOR US TO SET-UP
A DISPLAY.**

ANY DONATIONS WILL THEN BE TAKEN TO THE SVP CENTRE.





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Year 2 are creating some beautiful paintings inspired by the story of Creation.





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley

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More Than Dance:

We have taken the opportunity to celebrate the 'Year of Hope and Pilgrims' by inviting a liturgical dance company called More Than Dance into school. They will be delivering a liturgical dance session for each class (in church to rehearse). The classes then come together for a 'sharing', which parents and carers are invited to at the end of the day.

We hope to commence the sharing in church, on Monday 8th September, at 2:30pm, for the Junior School (infant school parents, please do not worry; staff will keep a hold of any siblings, if the sharing overruns slightly and you are worrying about collecting your children in time - but we hope that this will be unlikely).

Tuesday 9th September, at 11:15am, for the Infant School (meaning that our infant school are back in school, in time for lunch).

Please note that pupils do not need to come into school in their PE kit on this day (unless this is their normal, scheduled PE slot.)

The liturgical dance isn't a 'performance' – it's a prayerful way of expressing our love for God. Each school has a separate sharing time so that we can get back to school in time for home time, or lunchtime.

We hope to see you in church.



St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley

...

Reception enjoyed their first visit to Church yesterday! They did a fantastic job at learning a liturgical dance and sharing it with their grown ups. What superstars! 🙌👏



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Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust and 20 others

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Today, the Junior School children were fortunate to welcome Fr Martin, who led a beautiful prayer session and blessed our God's Creation Garden. It was a joyful and reflective occasion, shared by both children and staff. We look forward with hope that Father's blessing will bring us a plentiful harvest to enjoy and share together.

 **Blessing of God's Creation Garden at St. Joseph's Catholic Junior School**
 Tuesday 9th September 2025

Prayer for the Soil:
 Giver of life, thank you for soil in which nature awakens new life. Thank you for the smell of freshly tilled earth, the beauty of a cleanly cut furrow, and a well-ploughed field. Help us to be good stewards of the land. Amen.

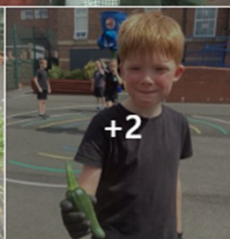
Prayer for Water and Rain:
 Sustaining God, thank you for water. Thank you for the way it cools the earth, and hydrates the land. Thank you for the smell of the earth after the rain has fallen. We ask that the rain come as often as it is needed, so that crops and gardens may flourish. Amen.

Prayer of Blessing on tools and gardeners' hands:
 If you have brought gloves or garden tools, hold them at this time.

Working God, thank you for our hands and the tools we use to till the soil, to plant the seeds and bulbs, to weed our gardens and allotments. May our efforts be to your glory – providing food for the hungry, beauty for our souls, and gardens of calm in our busy world. Amen.



The Mini Vinnies have been busy harvesting their vegetables from God's Creation Garden 🥕
 Enjoy trying your home grown treats 🍅

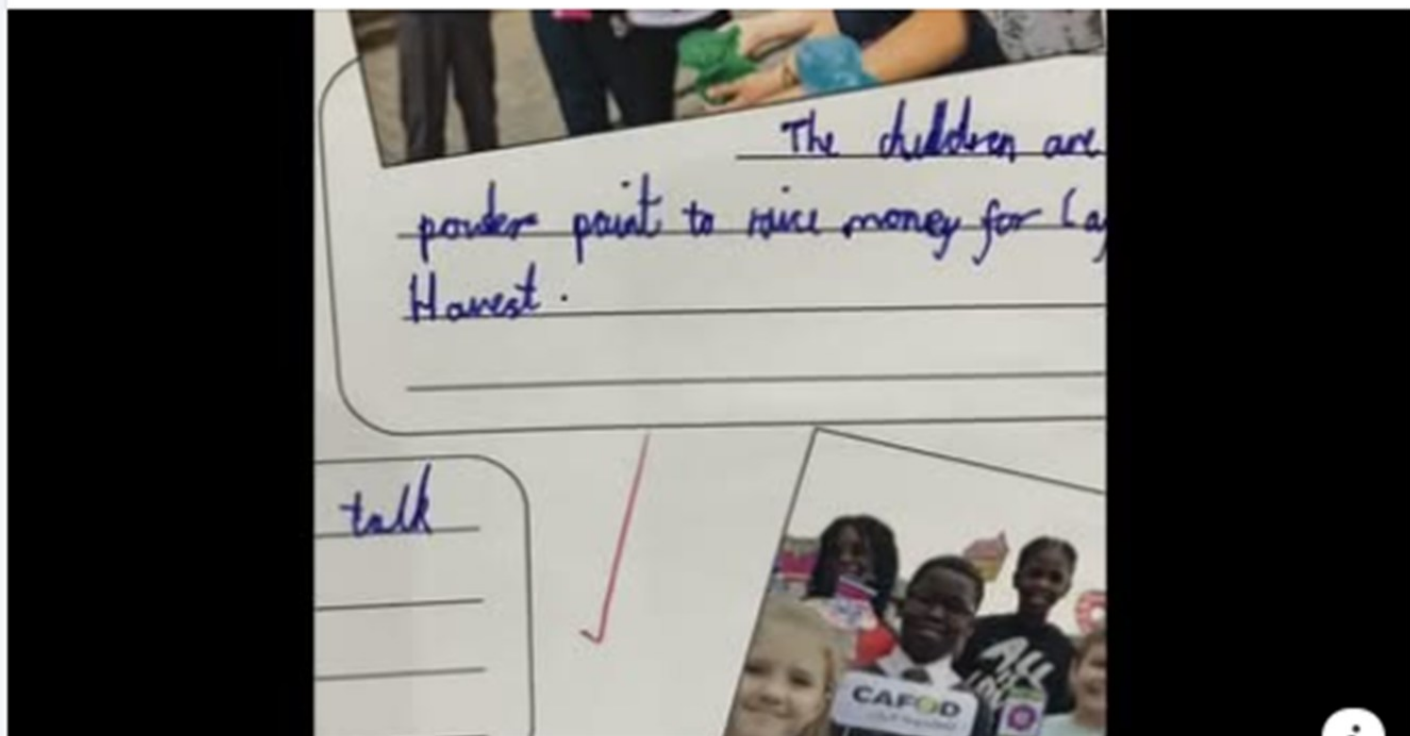




St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



Here's a link to our Religious Education video montage, which outlines our provision and expectations within the subject. Enjoy! 😊👍



YOUTUBE.COM

Religious Education Video



What a tremendous start to the year!

We are very proud of the Year 6s this week who have begun their roles as playground leaders and buddies to the new Year 3s with real pride, showing responsibility, kindness and excellent leadership skills.





St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



We have started off the morning in our house groups. We planned and prepared our worship, yesterday, and today, our pupils facilitated it for their peers. ... See more



YOUTUBE.COM

Collective Worship in House Groups



St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



It was such a pleasure to welcome our Year 6 families to school, today, for our leavers' assembly. We really hope you enjoyed it - we are so proud of each and every pupil in our school. We look forward to seeing you all on Friday morning, for our leavers' Mass 🙏





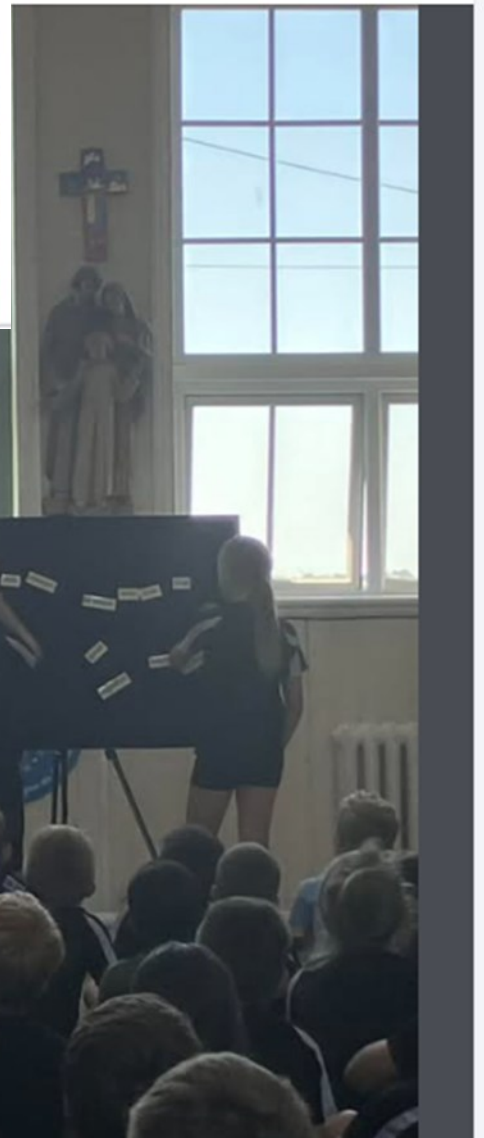
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It's great to have Mr Taylor in school for our Bible story! 🙌



ols, Birtley

e our Biblical memory verses!



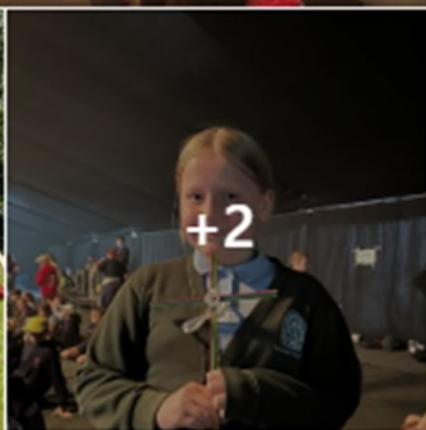


St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley



🎵 Primary Festival 2025 🎵

The Year 6 children had a fantastic time at this year's YMT Primary Festival.



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