

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS

21st & 22nd December 2024 – The 4th Sunday of Advent

28th & 29th December 2024 – The Holy Family (Cycle C)

MESSAGE FROM FR MARTIN WHEATON:

Before all else, Christmas is a time of Hope. Celebrated with our families, Christmas also reminds us that our love for them is an eternal, everlasting love. With this in mind, we should especially remember those who are experiencing their first Christmas without a loved one. We think especially of Deacon Peter's family, Pauline and their children. Please keep them, and all those suffering bereavement this Christmas, in your prayers. Also, thank you all for your hard work, especially those filling the many gaps left in the Parish after Deacon Peter's death. I hope you all have a well-deserved, happy and blessed Christmas. (See also Fr Martin Morris's Christmas message on Page 3 of the main Newsletter.)

SUNDAY MORNING CELEBRATION IN ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY

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.

Sunday, 22nd December - Carol Service followed by refreshments & mince pies in Parish Centre

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

- **Richard Miley**, died 27th November, 92 years, Funeral Service, Monday, 9th December at 11.15am

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR PARISH WHO ARE SICK:

Dorothy Hattam; Maureen Joyce (nee Casey); Bob Fish and Valerie Waggott

NB: 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 Tel. No. to Fr Martin Wheaton or contact Anne Welsh (07801 481021).

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

21 & 22 December - Collection for Christmas Flowers

"Advent Alms" will remain open throughout Advent – wall safe near church entrance door

MEMORY TREE: If you would like to remember deceased loved ones at St Joseph's this Christmas, please complete a card and place it on our Memory Tree at the front of Church.

CAROL SERVICE AT ST JOSEPH'S: Sunday, 22nd December, 10.00am followed by refreshments & mince pies.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR MASS TIMES AT ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY:

6.00 pm Christmas Eve – Tuesday, 24th December (Carols from 5.30 pm)

10.00am Christmas Day – Wednesday, 25th December

(no Mass Tuesday, 31st December)

11.00am Mary Mother of God – Wednesday, 1st January 2025

(all other Mass times remain as normal)

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, ETC: Available at the back of Church.

BENEDICT PARTNERSHIP CHRISTMAS CARDS:

Available and include details of the Partnership Advent Services and all of the Christmas Mass Times. There are enough cards for every family who attend Mass but, as the card extends a welcome to people who do not regularly attend Mass, you are asked to take cards for family, friends and neighbours who do not attend Mass and may respond to the invitation to "Come home for Christmas".

ROTA FOR BIDDING PRAYER WRITERS:

New 2025 rotas are available for Bidding Prayer Writers to collect from back of Church.

NORTHERN CROSS:

A few copies of the December Northern Cross are on sale at the back of the Church, price £1.50. Please place money in the wall-safe at the side of the entrance door – beside the choir loft stairs.

ROSARY:

Prayed for world peace at St Joseph's every Tuesday at 6.40 pm, prior to the evening Mass (excluding 24th & 31st December).

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:

Thursday evenings from 6.30pm-7.30pm, held in the Front Room of the Presbytery (main door will be open, first room on the left).

SVP 200 CLUB:

The December draw has been made for the SVP 200 Club and the results are at the back of Church. There were no winners from either the Parish or Partnership.

MASS INTENTIONS:

If you wish to arrange a special Mass Intention at St Joseph's, "Mass Intention Envelopes" are available at the back of church and in the Sacristy.

ST JOSEPH'S NEWS:

In the short-term, Catherine Tumelty will produce the St Joseph's News with the deadline for entry midday the previous Wednesday. Please send by email to cath.tumelty@btinternet.com (it is easier to cut and paste!) or m. 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 and should be submitted by clicking the link on the main Parish Newsletter.