

MASS TIMES & FEAST DAYS

C - Church, BS - St Benet's School, IS - St Joseph's Infant School, JS - St Joseph's School,
PC - Parish Centre, P - Presbytery, SC - Saltwell Crematorium

SAT	Weekday 1st Sunday of Advent, Year B 6.00 pm - C	Holy Souls	J. Mulcahy, P. Pestell
SUN	8.15 am - C 10.00 am - C	People of the Parish Harry White	W. Thompson, A. Blankley S. Tweedy, D. Tweedy
MON	St Osmund		
TUE	Weekday 7.00 pm - C	Joe Brooks	
WED	St Nicholas 9.00 am - BS	Tom Callaghan	
THU	St Ambrose 12.05 pm - C	Gloria Davey	
FRI	The Immaculate Conception 9.00 am - JS	Jack Sables	
SAT	St John Diego 2nd Sunday of Advent, Year B 6.00 pm - C	Mary & William Elliott	S. Neal, B. Bailes
SUN	8.15 am - C 10.00 am - C	People of the Parish Gloria Davey	P. Monaghan, A. Welsh T. Wilson, P. Lavery

Reconciliation Saturday (11.00 am - 12 noon). Please see notice at the back of church for extended times in nearby parishes.

Sick Paul Younger, Terry Gorman, David Tanner, Cliff Burton, Ron Fryer, Margaret Cookson, Jordan Daniels, Louie Lonsdell, Margaret Whittleton, James Ruddick, Doris Hunter, Mary Elston, Shirley Ward, Deidre Turner, Dennis Duffy, Godfrey Keefe, Arthur Wardle, Betty Green, Mary Brennan, Millie McCormack, Molly Menim, Sarah Sables, Christopher Browne and all our long-term sick and housebound.

Baptisms George Blake-Mitchell

Marriages

Deceased

Hospital Chaplains Please ask the Ward Sister for the ON-CALL Roman Catholic Chaplain if you want a visit for one of your family in hospital. The chaplains' new telephone numbers are:

Durham 0191 333 2333, Gateshead 0191 482 0000 Newcastle 0191 233 6161

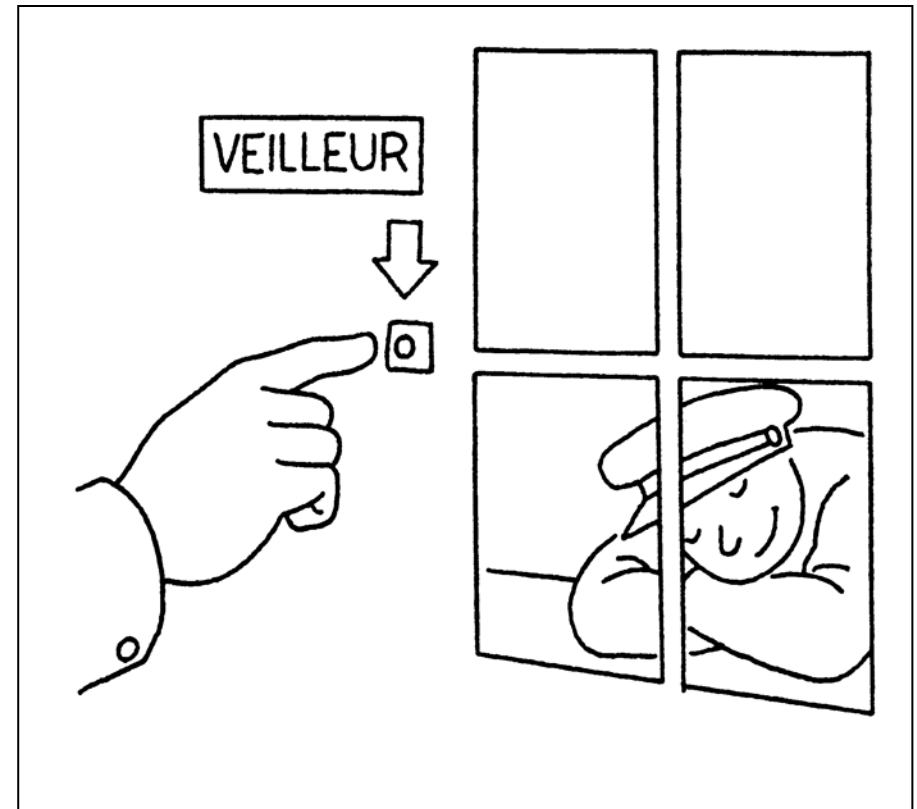
ST JOSEPH'S R.C. CHURCH, BIRTLEY

(Part of the St Benedict Partnership of Parishes)

Rev. Fr Tony Duffy 0191 410 2923

Deacon Peter Lavery 0191 410 2530

<http://www.stjosephs-birtley.co.uk>



NEWSLETTER - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR B

03 DECEMBER 2017

MON	04 Dec	CWG	Meet as usual.
TUE	05 Dec	CMS	Making Christmas Decorations.
WED	06 Dec	YMG	Business & Bingo.
THU	07 Dec	SVP	Meet at 8.00 pm every second Thursday of the month in The Presbytery.
FRI	08 Dec	PM CLUB	Meet as usual.

OFFERTORY Many thanks for last week's collection. Next week there will be a special collection for the SVP.

ADVENT We are asked to pray for openness to the word of God, migrants and refugees and expectant mothers. This weekend is a day of special prayer for migrants and refugees. Advent reflections are available on the Diocesan web site (rcdhn.org.uk) and printed copies are available each week at the back of church. You can take them home for family use and Eucharistic Ministers way want to take them to the sick and housebound.

PRAYERS FOR BIRTLEY Birtley Churches Together have organised "Prayers for Birtley" every Monday morning at 9.30 am until Monday 18 December in the church of St John the Evangelist.

PIETY STALL The Piety Stall will be open at the back of church for at Masses this weekend, 02/03 December.

JAZZ IN BIRTLEY In the parish centre from 8.00 until 11.00 pm on Thursday 07 December. Music by The Mississippi Dreamboats. £3.00 for guests and £2.50 for members. Trad Jazz at its best so don't forget your dancing shoes!

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION Cancelled.

COMMUNITY RAFFLE Many thanks for buying and selling tickets. The draw will take place in Birtley Library at 12 noon on Saturday 09 December; all are welcome to attend. The total raised will be announced when all monies are returned and there will be a list of winners at the back of church and in the parish centre.

RED BOXES The next collection will be held in the parish centre after the 10.00 am Mass next Sunday, 10 December.

CONFIRMATIONS 21 March 2018. Everyone, from School Year 9 and above to adults who have not been confirmed - and would like to be confirmed, is invited to an Information Evening in the parish centre at 5.30 pm on Sunday 10 December.

PARISH COUNCIL The next meeting will be held on Sunday 10 December 2017 at 7.00 pm in the presbytery. At the November meeting a new chair and secretary were put in place. Information about progress in St Benedict's Partnership was given while several parishioners had also come forward in response to the Call to Discipleship a few weeks ago. Confirmations would take place on 21 March 2018 and a list of Advent and Christmas Services was compiled.

HOLY HOUR There will be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 3.00 pm on Sunday 10 December followed by afternoon tea in the parish centre. All are welcome.

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN We will soon begin to train new altar servers. If you have made your First Holy Communion and would like to serve on the altar at St Joseph's please give your name to Michael Davison (0777 476 8578) or Deacon Peter.

SVP The St Vincent de Paul Society has opened a community café, **Vinnie's**, at the Blackfriars Support Centre in New Bridge Street, Newcastle. It is open every Tuesday from 10.00 am until 2.00 pm and offers a wholesome meal, free of charge, to those in need. To run successfully Vinnie's needs volunteers. If you can volunteer please contact Helen Haywood (0748 426 8356 or Helen.m.haywood@btinternet.com) or Fiona Murray (fionam@svp.org.uk)

POSADA This is an invitation to take part in the Parish Posada during Advent. A representation of Mary and Joseph, travelling to Bethlehem, is taken from home to home. A short liturgy is shared and then refreshments, perhaps tea and biscuits. Please leave your details on the list at the back of church if you would like to participate. For more information contact Margaret Taylor or Christine Johnson.

CAFOD A generous donation of £200 has enabled us to send a cheque for £1 000 for the CAFOD Yemen Appeal, in addition to £1 629.40 for the CAFOD Harvest Fast Appeal. Many, many thanks!

ADVENT SERVICE Please remember Birtley Churches Together Advent service here in St Joseph's at 6.00 pm tonight (see below.)

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS In 2016 the government promised to lift the 50% cap on faith admissions for new religious schools in England as this was unfair to Catholics. The Conservative Party even committed to this in its manifesto. This promise is in danger of being broken and our bishops have asked Catholics to contact the Secretary of State for Education urging her not to do this. If you wish to safeguard Catholic education in the future you can write online to the Secretary of State (and your local MP) by going to the link: catholiceducation.org.uk

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2017

03 December at 6.00 pm.

**Birtley Churches Together
Advent Service in St Joseph's.**

07 December at 2.00 pm.

Jesse Tree Service in church.

17 December at 5.00 pm.

**Parish Service of Reconciliation in
Church (this is the third Sunday of
Advent.)**

18 December at 6.00 pm.

**School Nativity Play in
Church.**

21 December at 6.30 pm.

Carol Service in Church.

Masses on Christmas Day will be at 00.00 (midnight), 8.30 am and 10.00 am.

(Please note that from the First Sunday of Advent (03 December) the lectionary readings are from Year B.)