

St Joseph's R.C. Parish Birtley
(Part of the Benedict Partnership of Parishes)

Father Tony Duffy (410-2923)

Deacon Peter Lavery (410-2530)

www.stjosephs-birtley.co.uk

MASS TIMES AND FEAST DAYS

4th Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Sat 6.00pm – C	Joseph & Mary Finnigan	S Neale & B Bailes
Sun 8.15am – C	People of the Parish	P Monaghan & A Welsh
10.00am – C	DM of the CWL	B Jaques J Sexton

Monday – St George

Tuesday of the 4th Week in Eastertide

7.00pm – C Dennis Welsh

Wednesday – St Mark the Evangelist

9.00am – BS Edmund & Rosanna Booth
6.30pm - C

Thursday of the 4th Week in Eastertide

12.05 pm – C Private Intention

Friday of the 4th Week in Eastertide

9.00am – JS Edmund & Rosanna Booth

Saturday of the 4th Week in Eastertide

5th Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Sat 6.00pm – C	People of the Parish	P Pestell & T McEnaney
Sun 8.15am – C	Dennis Welsh	C Brennan & W Thompson
10.00am – C	Thanks for 60 years	P Lavery & T Wilson

KEY: C: Church BS: St Benet's School JS: St Joseph's Junior School

Reconciliation Saturday (11.00-12.00noon)

Please see notice at back of church for times in nearby parishes

Sick Bernard Brennan, Teresa Brooks, 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.

Hospital Chaplains Please ask the Ward Sister for the on-call RC Chaplain if you want a hospital chaplain to visit one of your family in hospital. The chaplain's telephone numbers are: Durham: (0191)-333-2333, Gateshead: (0191)-482-0000 and Newcastle: (0191)-233-6161

Father Tony Duffy

After nearly fifty-five years in the priesthood and thirty years after he was appointed as parish priest to St Joseph's Birtley Father Tony Duffy will retire at the end of this month, after celebrating the Masses over the weekend of 28th & 29th April.

Although Father Tony will be moving out of the presbytery he will remain a member of the parish family as he will be living in retirement in Birtley.

Bishop Seamus is extremely grateful to Father Tony for the long and dedicated service in both St Cuthbert's Grammar School and his thirty years here in Birtley.

Looking to the future all the other parishes in the Benedict Partnership will be affected by Father Tony's retirement and this focuses our attention on the need to work together in true partnership. We will be looking closely at the implications for the parish and the partnership including the number and timing of Masses.

In the short term the parish will be served by the priests currently in the partnership, Father Mark Millward, Father Jim O'Keefe, Father Chris Jackson, Father Bill O'Gorman and hopefully another priest that the Bishop asks to come to Birtley.

PASTORAL COUNCIL AGM – on Tuesday 1st May, the Feast of St Joseph the Worker at 7.45pm in the Parish Centre. The agenda will include a discussion about the number and timing of Masses in the Benedict Partnership.

PASTORAL COUNCIL – Special Meeting with the clergy from the Benedict Partnership 2.00pm on Saturday 5th May in the Presbytery.

The next routine meeting will be on Sunday 13th May.

THIS WEEK

Monday 23rd CWG – Meet as usual in Parish Centre
Tuesday 24th Parish Centre Finance Meeting
Wednesday 25th YMG
Thursday 26th SVP – meet second Thursday of the month
at 8.00pm in the Presbytery
Friday 27th

JOURNEY OF FAITH – Nine candidates from the programme will be baptised / confirmed and received into Full Communion during Mass in church this Wednesday (25th April) at 6.30pm. Please come along and welcome this group into our parish family.

CYCLE OF PRAYER – During Eastertide we are asked to pray for new members of the Church, Vocations. The right use of the media, the church and human work.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS - This Sunday 22nd April, an opportunity for everyone to reflect upon on their own unique calling to discipleship and to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

PRAYERS FOR BIRTLEY - The next session of Prayers for Birtley will be held at the Community Church at 10am on Tuesdays, and will run from April 24th until May 29th.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE – Meeting this Sunday 22nd April at 7.00pm in the Presbytery

OFFERTORY - Many thanks for last week's collection. There will be a special collection after all Masses this weekend for the Little Sisters of the Poor

MISSION APPEAL – Many thanks for the generous response to Father Archie's appeal on behalf of the Xaverian Missions, you can put gift aid envelopes in with the collection this weekend.

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE – Bishop Seamus invites everyone to join him in St Mary’s Cathedral on Saturday 5th May to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage. More information on the poster at the back of church or contact Deacon Peter.

ROSARY ON THE COAST - On Sunday 29th April people around the coast of the British Isles have been asked to pray the rosary at 3.00pm. The prayers are offered for peace, the sanctity of life and for a re-flourishing of faith across the British Isles. There are groups meeting at 2.45pm at South Shields (on the beach behind Coleman’s Seafood Temple), and at Sunderland Pier at 2.50pm. If you would like more information or you would like to see other locations around the area then please check the website: www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk

If you are unable to make any of the places please could you say the rosary at home.

PARTNERSHIP WALK - Another Partnership walk is being organised for the early May Bank Holiday – Monday 7th May. More details and lists to sign up are at the back of church.

PARISH BULLETIN - We are looking to assemble a team of people who are willing to be on a rota to produce the parish bulletin. The task takes little more than an hour each week and requires only basic word processing skills, “many hands make light work” – if you can help please give your name to Mick Davison (4106823) or Deacon Peter.

DIOCESAN FESTIVAL 2018 – Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th June at the Emmaus Youth Village, Consett. Activities for everyone, adults, families, young people and children. Full details and booking forms in the leaflets at the back of church.

SOCIAL NIGHT IN AID OF CAFOD - Friday 27th April – fantastic live band “Second Wind” – Tickets £5 (available from Kevin Haigh and Jim Tumelty)