

### Calling All Altar Servers

Come and celebrate the Feast of St Stephen, Patron Saint of Altar Servers on the 26<sup>th</sup> December.

Serve at the 10.00am Mass and enjoy refreshments in the hall afterwards.

All those already enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen will receive certificates of thanks for their continued commitment; all those who have served for a while but are not yet members of the guild will be enrolled on that day, receiving their medals and enrolment certificates.

**PLEASE reply to your invitation as soon as possible and certainly no later than 15<sup>th</sup> December.**

Email [shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk)

Please let me know if you will be coming along to this celebration in order that we can cater for everyone with cassocks and cottas etc. as well as refreshments.

### Christmas Party – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2.00pm – 5.30pm

**If you would like to come along you MUST register before 5<sup>th</sup> December**, in order that we know for how many we are catering and to ensure adult to child ratios conform to the diocesan safeguarding guidelines.

**Parents please register your child by emailing [shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk)** with your child(ren)s names and ages and stating whether or not they have any allergies, dietary requirements or if there is any other medical information of which we ought to be aware – asthma, diabetes, epilepsy etc. **Or fill in a form available at the back of church.**

**If your child would like to perform at the talent show please let me know what they will be doing. Thank you for your co-operation.**

Watch this space for more activities/events/information regarding our younger parishioners.

### Baptism

If you have a child you would like to be baptised please speak to Canon Michael and fill in an application form.

### Good Shepherd Programme

The Missionaries of Charity are taking up the reins of this programme at St Joseph's.

If you would like your child aged 3yrs – 7yrs to be included in this wonderful, hands-on Catechetical programme please fill in a form available from the office

The Sisters will be holding a meeting shortly for any parent wanting to learn a little more about the Good Shepherd and for those wishing to enroll their children please watch this space for further information.

### First Holy Communion Preparation 2025

If you have a child aged 7+ who would like to make his/her first Holy Communion please fill in an application form, available from the office. Your child's name will be added to the waiting list for the next series of classes to be held.

### Current First Holy Communion Class

Classes continue on WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm

### Altar Servers

If you are aged 7 or over and would like to become an altar server please speak to Canon Michael, Shauna Devitt or Peter Armstrong.  
We are always keen to have more young servers.

### Remember in Your Prayers

John, Isobel, Freya, Dominic and Chris who are preparing to make their first Holy Communion.

**Pray for:** - Justice, Truth, Honesty, Compassion, Integrity, Reconciliation, Understanding and Mercy to be at the heart of all conversations, all meetings and all interactions at every level of society.

During the month of November in particular we remember those who have died "Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them Oh Lord"

Keep in your prayers all those who are ill or suffering at this time especially those who have asked for our prayers and those for whom there is nobody else to pray for them.

### DATES for YOUR DIARIES

Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup> December	1.30pm	decorate Christmas tree, Raffle draw, mulled wine and mince pies
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	9.00am	Big Church Clean
Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup> December	2.00pm – 5.30pm	Christmas Party for 4-16yr olds
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00pm at St Wilfrid's, 8.00pm at St Joseph's	carols followed by Mass
Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am (OF) 11.00am (EF)	Christmas Day Mass at St Joseph's
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	St Stephen's Day Mass especially for ALL altar Servers – certificates of service to be awarded and new members enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Social</b></p> <p><b>Every Sunday after the 10.00am Mass</b> refreshments are served in the hall, this is a free social occasion to bring parishioners together in a relaxed warm safe and friendly environment. Please come along to support each other and the parish.</p>	<p><b>Raffle Draw and Tree Decorating</b> Come along to St Joseph's on <b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> at 1.30pm to help decorate the Christmas tree and enjoy mulled wine and warm mince pies as we draw the raffle. If you intend to come along please let Father know in order that we cater according to</p>
<p>If you would like to volunteer for any role within the parish please collect and fill in application forms. The names of two referees are required, one of which must not be a parishioner or known through church activities. Family members cannot act as referees.</p>	<p><b>Sanctuary Candles Intentions</b> if you would like the Sanctuary candle lit for your intentions or those of a loved one please put these in an envelope along with £5 donation and hand it in to Canon Michael or place it on the collection plate.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOOK CLUB Christmas Edition</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>No reading necessary – come along and enjoy the event on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>All Welcome</b></p>	<p>From the reaction so far it seems that 10pm is not a popular time for <b>Christmas Eve Mass</b>. It is therefore proposed to move the time forward to 8pm</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THANK YOU</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Canon Michael writes: “A very big thank you to all who contributed to buying me a new alb. It is being made by J &amp; M Sewing of Newcastle who says it will be ready before Christmas. There is still a substantial amount left so I will be looking to buy a cotta too”.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NATIVITY</b></p> <p>A huge thank you to the anonymous benefactor who has provided a new home for the annual Nativity scene at the front of the church. It is wonderful to know our parish will, for years to come, continue to bring the story of Christmas to all those who pass by on a cold winter's evening, hopefully warming their hearts with the hope and promises Christmas brings.</p>
<p><b>Raffle Prizes</b> If you have anything you would like to donate as a raffle prize please hand it in to either Bernadette Hirst or Shauna Devitt</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>'Joe's Place'</b></p> <p>Please consider donating some traditional mince pies to be served throughout the Christmas season and especially at the <b>Christmas dinner</b> which will be held on <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>.</p>
<p><b>St Joseph's Christmas Raffle</b> Tickets are on sale now - £1 a strip – don't miss out on your chance to win one of our fabulous hampers, or one of the many other prizes on offer.</p>	<p>Hats, socks, scarves, gloves and other items of warm clothing would be gratefully accepted along with other goods fitting for a Christmas gift, chocolates etc to be given out to each person who attends the Christmas dinner.</p>
<p><b>Mass Intentions</b> Sometimes it takes a long time for a Mass intention you have requested to be said. This is particularly true for Mass requests for Saturday evening or Sunday morning. This is because a priest may only take one stipend a day; Saturday night and Sunday morning are considered as one day. There is a backlog. On the other hand requests for Masses to be said on weekdays are usually fulfilled very quickly. Please be patient: requested Masses will be said but a request for Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday morning may take a while unless you ask for a specific date.</p>	<p><b>Open Church – on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> Joe's Place clients will be welcomed into church to light a candle and spend some time in prayer and/or reflection. If there are any parishioners who could help at this event by being present in church to guide and welcome those for whom it is an unfamiliar setting and to keep watch that all goes well throughout the time please let Canon Michael or Bernadette Hirst know. The event will begin at 11.30am and finish at 1.30pm.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>St Joseph's Piety Stall</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">New stock has arrived, including Catholic diaries for 2025</p>	<p>Donations may be left in the box at the back of church; the following items are regularly needed: Potatoes-tinned or dried, tinned meats or tuna, dumpling dumpling mix, crumble mix, tinned fruit &amp; veg, custard. We are also grateful for used rucksacks or large bags.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Table Top Sale</b></p> <p><b>Thank you for all those who supported this event a total of £110 was raised for church funds; this will help to fund the children's Christmas party</b></p> <p><b>We will be holding another sale in the spring.</b></p>	

## Saint John Damascene's Story

John spent most of his life in the Monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem, and all of his life under Muslim rule, indeed protected by it.

He was born in Damascus, received a classical and theological education, and followed his father in a government position under the Arabs. After a few years, he resigned and went to the Monastery of Saint Sabas.

He is famous in three areas:

**First**, he is known for his writings against the iconoclasts, who opposed the veneration of images. Paradoxically, it was the Eastern Christian emperor Leo who forbade the practice, and it was because John lived in Muslim territory that his enemies could not silence him.

**Second**, he is famous for his treatise, *Exposition of the Orthodox Faith*, a summary of the Greek Fathers, of which he became the last. It is said that this book is for Eastern schools what the *Summa* of Aquinas became for the West.

**Third**, he is known as a poet, one of the two greatest of the Eastern Church, the other being Romanus the Melodist. His devotion to the Blessed Mother and his sermons on her feasts are well known.

Feast Day December 4<sup>th</sup>      [franciscanmedia.org](http://franciscanmedia.org)

### Gift Aid

Remember if you are a tax payer you can, at no extra cost to yourself, add 25p in every £1 you donate to the church just by gift aiding your donation

**St Wilfrid's collection: 23.11.24**  
Mass £111.75 Gift Aid packets £77

If you would like to make a donation by BACs the details are: -

Account Name: DHN Gateshead St Wilfrid  
Sort Code: 40-34-18  
Account No: 01164120

**St Joseph's collection: 24.11.24**  
Mass £347 Gift Aid envelopes £100

If you would like to make a donation by BACs the details are: -

Account Name: DHN Gateshead St Joseph  
Sort Code: 40-34-18  
Account No.: 31164066

### FLAME 2025

Flame 2025 takes place on Saturday 15th March, the theme is: -

**'UNSTOPPABLE FAN; THE FLAME OF HOPE'**

It is open to anyone from school year 9 to University/young adult age, those under the age of 18 must be part of an organised group. Please talk with your school chaplain, catechist or parish priest if you would like to come along.

Two years ago, over 700 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take a large number of young people (up to 1,000 including accompanying adults).

COST: £45 per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. For further information contact: - [mary.hughes@ymt.org](mailto:mary.hughes@ymt.org)

**Vocations Discernment** Men aged 18+, who think God might be calling them to serve in the as a Priest, are invited to explore their vocation with the Diocesan Priestly Vocations Team. These meetings take place each month, between 6pm and 8pm, at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley on: Tuesday 3rd December.

### Holy Family Guild upcoming events to which ALL families are invited

**22nd December:** Carol Singing see poster on notice board for further details and use link to RSVP

**5th January:** Epiphany Party at St. Joseph's, Gateshead More details to follow.

**16th March:** Stations of the Cross at Osmotherley

If you would like to have the newsletter emailed to you please email your address to: - [shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shaunadevitt@yahoo.co.uk)

Access the newsletter via the website, scan the QR code on the poster at the back of church, or access via [www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk](http://www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk)

St Joseph's Catholic Church  
High West Street  
Gateshead  
NE8 1LX



Our Lady & St Wilfrid's Catholic Church  
Sunderland Road  
NE8 3QR

Parishes of the John Ingram Partnership

**Parish Priest: Canon Michael Brown**

St Joseph's Presbytery, High West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1LX

Tel: 0191 4771631

Email: [cnmichaelbrown@gmail.com](mailto:cnmichaelbrown@gmail.com)

Parish website: [www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk](http://www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk)

First Sunday of Advent 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Our Lady and St Wilfrid's Mass Times and Other Services

DAY	DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	5.00pm	Priest's Intention
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> December		
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.00am	McDonack & Butler families
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> December		
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> December		
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> December		
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Bell & Cantwell families
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00pm	Priest's Intention

**Confessions:** Before Mass on Saturdays

**Sanctuary Candle:** Maria Bell

St Joseph's Mass Times and Other Services

DAY	DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	30 <sup>th</sup> Nov	7.00am (EF)	
Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> December	10.00am	People of the Parish
		12.00pm (EF)	Mar Family
Monday	2 <sup>nd</sup> December	16.00hrs	
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> December	12.05pm	James Cawthorne
Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup> December	12.05pm	Maureen McGrahan
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> December	12.05pm	Requiem for Hugh McConville
Friday	6 <sup>th</sup> December	12.05pm	Priest's Intention
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>7.00am (EF)</b>	Intentions of LMS
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	People of the Parish
		12.00pm (EF)	Adrian Barnes

(EF) = EXTRAORDINARY FORM OF THE MASS IN LATIN ACCORDING TO 1962 ROMAN MISSAL

**Confessions: Saturday 12-12.30 and Wednesday after Mass**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Thursday 11.00 – 11.55  
Saturday 7.00am (led by CMUK/St Joseph's Men)**

**Sanctuary Candle: Andy & Betty Hirst**