

Calling All Altar Servers

Come and celebrate the Feast of St Stephen, Patron Saint of Altar Servers on the 26th 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 16th December.

Email 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.

Altar Servers

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

Christmas Party – Monday 23rd December – has been CANCELLED with apologies.

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.

Parish Social

Every Sunday after the 10.00am Mass 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.

Teas, coffees, hot chocolate, juice, biscuits and mince pies all served with a smile.

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 reigns 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

Last class until after Christmas on **WEDNESDAY 11th December** at 6.00pm

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.

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.

Raffle Draw and Tree Decorating

Come along to St Joseph's **NEXT Saturday 14th December** 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 numbers.

DATES for YOUR DIARIES

Saturday	14 th December	1.30pm	decorate Christmas tree, Raffle draw, mulled wine and mince pies
Saturday	21 st December	9.00am	Big Church Clean
Tuesday	24 th December	5.00pm at St Wilfrid's, 8.00pm at St Joseph's	carols followed by Mass
Wednesday	25 th December	9.30am (OF) 11.00am (EF)	Christmas Day Mass at St Joseph's
Thursday	26 th 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

St Joseph's Piety Stall

New stock has arrived, including Catholic diaries for 2025 and Fair Trade goods

BOOK CLUB Christmas Edition

No reading necessary – come along and enjoy the event on Friday 20th December at 7.00pm

All Welcome

Sanctuary Candles Intentions 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.

Mass Intentions

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.

Table Top Sale

Thank you for all those who supported this event a total of £110 was raised for church funds. We will be holding another sale in the spring.

St Wilfrid's school carol service in church Thursday 19th December at 1.30pm – all are welcome.

Children's Library

Donations of suitable children's books will be gratefully accepted, please see if you have any with which your own children have finished and consider giving them to the church. All donations should be left in the office to be vetted for suitability. Thank you.

Adult Library

We have been given some new titles so please do have a look and see if there is anything you would like to borrow.

Please remember if you have a book you wish to donate to the library it must be vetted first by Canon Michael before being put on the shelves.

LAST CHANCE to buy RAFFLE TICKETS THIS WEEKEND

Tickets are £1 a strip, don't miss out on your chance to win.

From the reaction so far it seems that 10pm is not a popular time for **Christmas Eve Mass**. It is therefore proposed to move the time forward to **8pm**

NATIVITY

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.

Thank you also to those who helped to clean the statues and return them to position.

'Joe's Place'

Please consider donating some traditional mince pies to be served throughout the Christmas season and especially at the **Christmas dinner** which will be held on **Wednesday 18th December**.

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.

Open Church – on Wednesday 11th December

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.

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 & veg, custard. We are also grateful for used rucksacks or large bags.

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The feast in honour of [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#) goes back to the 16th century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story.

A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning December 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honor of Our Lady.

Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma.

On December 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

Feast Day December 12th

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: 30.11.24

Mass £164 Gift Aid packets £70 Donation £10

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: 01.12.24

Mass £323.70 Gift Aid envelopes £345.10

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

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

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

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

Parish website: www.stjosephscatholicchurchgateshead.org.uk

Second Sunday of Advent (OF) Feast of The Immaculate Conception (EF) 8th December 2024

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

DAY	DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	7 th December	5.00pm	Priest's Intention
Sunday	8 th December		
Monday	9 th December	10.00am	Betty Meldrum
Tuesday	10 th December		
Wednesday	11 th December		
Thursday	12 th December		
Friday	13 th December	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Saturday	14 th December	5.00pm	Mona Richardson

Confessions: Before Mass on Saturdays

Sanctuary Candle: Jacky & Cathy Bell

St Joseph's Mass Times and Other Services

DAY	DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	7 th December	7.00am (EF)	
Sunday	8 th December	10.00am	People of the Parish
		12.00pm (EF)	Adrian Barnes
Monday	9 th December	16.00hrs	
Tuesday	10 th December	12.05pm	Alan Robinson
Wednesday	11 th December	12.05pm	NO MASS
Thursday	12 th December	10.00am	Francis Xavier – school Mass all are welcome
Friday	13 th December	12.05pm	Repose of Soul of Sandra R.
Saturday	14 th December	11.00am (EF)	Maureen McGrahan
Sunday	15 th December	10.00am	People of the Parish
		12.00pm	Priest's Intention

(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: Louella Lleses