

### 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 16<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.

### 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.

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

**Join us in the hall after 10.00am Mass for mince pies, alcohol free mulled wine, tea, coffee, hot chocolate, biscuits and company.**

### BOOK CLUB Christmas Edition

**No reading necessary – come along and enjoy the event on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm**

All 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.

### 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

**Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30am**

**Meeting for Parents** and anyone interested in finding out a little more about this programme.

The meeting will be held downstairs in the presbytery, please come to the door at the front of the building accessible from High West Street

### 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

Resumes in the New Year

### 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.

### St Joseph's Piety Stall

If you would like anything from the stall please ask  
We have 2025 Catholic diaries at a cost of £3.30  
Pack of 5 Christmas cards £4.50

### '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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 mix, crumble mix, tinned fruit & vegetables, custard. We are also grateful for used rucksacks or large bags.

### DATES for YOUR DIARIES

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December School Carol Services in Church – St Wilfrid's @ 1.30pm and St Joseph's @4.00pm  
 Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 9.00am **Big Church Clean**  
 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

#### 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.

**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.

#### Christmas Mass Times

**St Wilfrid's – 5.00pm 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Eve**  
**St Joseph's – 8.00pm 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - Christmas Eve**  
**9.30am 25<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Day**  
**(Latin) 11.00am 25<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Day**

#### 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.

#### 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

#### St Wilfrid's collection: 07.12.24

Mass £123 Gift Aid packets £62

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: 08.12.24

Mass £335 Gift Aid envelopes £85

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

#### Church Christmas Decorating

A very big thank you to:-

**Emmanuelle, Alan, John, Bernadette, Katie, Paula, Carl** and Shauna

for taking the time this afternoon to decorate the Christmas tree and ready the church for Christmas.

#### Raffle Ticket Winners

The raffle was drawn this afternoon and the winning tickets are:-

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – White 490  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Red 37  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Red 180  
 4<sup>th</sup> Prize – White 461  
 5<sup>th</sup> Prize – Red 11  
 6<sup>th</sup> Prize – Red 61  
 7<sup>th</sup> Prize – White 68  
 8<sup>th</sup> Prize – White 87  
 9<sup>th</sup> Prize – White 43  
 10<sup>th</sup> Prize – Red 302

#### School Carol Services

All parishioners are invited to join our parish schools in **Church** for these festive events on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December**

**St Wilfrid's at 1.30pm**  
**St Joseph's at 4.00pm.**

Please come along to support our parish schools

Prizes can be collected from the John Ingram Room – please speak to Bernadette, Canon Michael or Shauna before claiming your prize – Thank you.

## Blessed Urban V's Story

In 1362, the man elected pope declined the office. When the cardinals could not find another person among them for that important office, they turned to a relative stranger: the holy person we honour today.

The new Pope Urban V proved a wise choice. A Benedictine monk and canon lawyer, he was deeply spiritual and brilliant. He lived simply and modestly, which did not always earn him friends among clergymen who had become used to comfort and privilege. Still, he pressed for reform, and saw to the restoration of churches and monasteries. Except for a brief period he spent most of his eight years as pope living away from Rome at Avignon, seat of the papacy from 1309, until shortly after his death.

Urban came close, but was not able to achieve one of his biggest goals—reuniting the Eastern and Western churches.

As pope, Urban continued to follow the Benedictine Rule. Shortly before his death in 1370, he asked to be moved from the papal palace to the nearby home of his brother, so he could say goodbye to the ordinary people he had so often helped.

Feast Day December 19<sup>th</sup>

franciscanmedia.org

### 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)

### Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, and the theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". It will be a year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation and we'll be opening the Jubilee Year in our Diocese with celebrations at our 2 Jubilee Hub Churches on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen will be celebrating Mass and opening the Holy Door at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.30am and at St. Joseph's Hartlepool at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

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)

Third Sunday of Advent 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

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

DAY	DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00pm	Mona Richardson
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> December		
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Anne Southern
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup> December		
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup> December		
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> December		
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	Priest's Intention
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	5.00pm	

**Confessions:** Before Mass on Saturdays

**Sanctuary Candle:** Bobby & Mary Shaw

St Joseph's Mass Times and Other Services

DAY	DATE	TIME	INTENTION
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am (EF)	Maureen Mcgrahan
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00am	People of the Parish
		12.00pm (EF)	Priest's Intentions
Monday	16 <sup>th</sup> December	16.00hrs	
Tuesday	17 <sup>th</sup> December	12.05pm	Margaret Finn
Wednesday	18 <sup>th</sup> December	12.05pm	Harry Craig
Thursday	19 <sup>th</sup> December	12.05pm	Thanksgiving
Friday	20 <sup>th</sup> December	12.05pm	Winifred Rainbow
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> December	11.00am (EF)	Zoe Trainor
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.00am	People of the Parish
		12.00pm	For Andrew, Alex & Jonathon

(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:** Intentions of S.E.D