

**+THE PARISHES OF SAINT JOSEPH AND SAINT WILFRID+
GATESHEAD**

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF HEXHAM & NEWCASTLE REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1143450

PARISH PRIEST: CANON MICHAEL BROWN

PRESBYTERY: ST JOSEPH'S HIGH WEST STREET GATESHEAD NE8 1LX

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MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS AND SERVICE TIMES

	JAN		SAINT WILFRID'S		SAINT JOSEPH'S
Saturday	20	5.00pm	Celebrant's Intention		
Sunday	21			10.00am	People of the Parish
			<i>Extraordinary Form (Latin)</i>	12 noon	Thomas & John Reece
Monday	22	10.00am	Intentions of Jovita Udeh		
Tuesday	23			12.05pm	George Dodds and deceased of Robson family
Wednesday	24			12.05pm	NO MASS
Thursday	25			12.05pm	Adrian Barnes
Friday	26	10.00am	Priest's Intention	12.05pm	Health of Michelle Howells
Saturday	27	5.00pm	Priest's intention	11.00am EF	Repose of souls of Doona and Dolan families
Sunday	28			10.00am	People of the Parish
			<i>Extraordinary Form (Latin)</i>	12.00noon	Molly Scott

CONFESSIONS ST. JOSEPH'S Wed after 12.05pm Mass and Saturday 12noon-12.30pm.
ST WILFRID before 5.00pm Mass Saturday

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday 11am to 11.55am

COLLECTIONS: St Wilfrid's Collection £210 Gift Aid £57 SPUC £21
St Joseph's Collection Figure not available.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION Classes will resume as soon as possible. We apologise for the delay and remain hopeful for first Holy Communion to take place in the late spring/early summer.

FIRST COMMUNICANT'S TASK FOR 20th/21st January

- Continue following all the instructions you have been given so far.
- Listen carefully to the Gospel, try to read along, after Mass talk to your parents about what you have understood, perhaps read it again at home.

ALTAR SERVERS` If anyone, young or old, male or female, would like to become an altar server for either parish please speak to Canon Michael.

BOOK CLUB. It is proposed to have the next meeting on Monday 29th January at 7pm if this is convenient. We will be discussing *The Chemist of Catania* by Fr Alexander Lucie Smith which is available on Amazon for £5.40. All welcome.

ST JOSEPH'S

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

The books have been removed to check for damage and to be repaired or removed as necessary. If you have any suitable books which you no longer use please consider donating them, leave them in the office. If anyone has a forward facing book case they no longer need it would be gratefully received.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is kept burning day and night in our church to remind us that the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle. It is a symbol of Christ's everlasting love for us and a reminder to us to give loving adoration in return. The Sanctuary Lamp may be sponsored and lit in memory of a loved one or for a particular intention. A new candle will be lit every Sunday and will burn for a week.

The minimum donation is £5, and proceeds will go towards the cost of candles in church. The Sanctuary Lamp Intentions will be displayed in our Weekly Newsletter, and on the Notice Board at the back of church.

A list of dates will be available in the Office, together with envelopes for donations. It may be that several intentions are given for particular dates.

DONATIONS APPEAL – your Parish needs you.

Both St Wilfrid's and St Joseph's are in debt to the diocese. St Wilfrid owes £37,665.83 and St Joseph's owes £166,890.99. The amounts cannot be paid back through the regular weekly contributions which are needed for day to day finances to run the parishes. We have managed at times to raise small amounts through fund raising, but this is not proving very successful and so I am appealing directly to you all – please consider if there is anything you can do to help our parishes. I appreciate there are those who struggle financially and I don't want anyone to stretch themselves beyond their means only give what you can spare.

Perhaps you may consider leaving a legacy to the parish in your will; this used to be a traditional practice which has sadly gone out of fashion in more recent times.

ANNUAL WHITE FLOWER APPEAL Many thanks to all who contributed to the appeal. St Joseph's raised about £350 and St Wilfrid's £21

MESSAGE FROM HOLY ISLAND SVP CAMP:

Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2024? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island. They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sandcastle building, swimming and scavenger hunts.

Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs a donation of £150 and can be paid in installments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/>

Parishes of Saint Joseph & Saint Wilfrid Gateshead

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B (OF)

3rd Sunday after Epiphany (EF)

20th/21st January 2024

The Conversion of Saint Paul

Saint Paul's entire life can be explained in terms of one experience—his meeting with Jesus on the road to Damascus. In an instant, he saw that all the zeal of his dynamic personality was being wasted, like the strength of a boxer swinging wildly. Perhaps he had never seen Jesus, who was only a few years older. But he had acquired a zealot's hatred of all Jesus stood for, as he began to harass the Church: "...entering house after house and dragging out men and women, he handed them over for imprisonment" (Acts 8:3b). Now he himself was "entered," possessed, all his energy harnessed to one goal—being a slave of Christ in the ministry of reconciliation, an instrument to help others experience the one Saviour. One sentence determined his theology: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:5b). Jesus was mysteriously identified with people—the loving group of people Saul had been running down like criminals. Jesus, he saw, was the mysterious fulfilment of all he had been blindly pursuing.

From then on, his only work was to "present everyone perfect in Christ. For this I labour and struggle, in accord with the exercise of his power working within me" (Colossians 1:28b-29). "For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and [with] much conviction" (1 Thessalonians 1:5a). Paul's life became a tireless proclaiming and living out of the message of the cross: Christians die baptismally to sin and are buried with Christ; they are dead to all that is sinful and unredeemed in the world. They are made into a new creation, already sharing Christ's victory and someday to rise from the dead like him. Through this risen Christ the Father pours out the Spirit on them, making them completely new.

Feast of the Conversion of St Paul is on 25th January.

Father Greg Friedman, OFM www.franciscanmedia.org/