



On September 14, Bishop Stephen Wright visited our most northern parish – Our Lady and St Cuthbert's, in Berwick upon Tweed – where five young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation writes Clare McGregor. It was such a joyous occasion for them, their families and the whole parish. Thank you to parish priest Fr Shaun O'Neill and parishioners for organising such a lovely event and gathering after the service.

Our pilgrimage of hope to Adoremus 2024

by Alison Rebello

HEXHAM and Newcastle pilgrims of all ages journeyed to the National Eucharistic Congress – Adoremus 2024 – at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham, on September 14-15.

Timed to coincide with 53rd International Eucharistic Congress in Quito, Ecuador, the spiritually nourishing weekend enabled the universal Church to come before the Lord in the blessed sacrament, in preparation for the momentous Jubilee Year of 2025.

More than 30 people from our diocese made

the pilgrimage, including Fr Martin Morris of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Penshaw, and Fr Jonathon Bowes, the parish priest of St Teresa Church, Heaton, St Lawrence, Byker and St Anthony of Padua, Walker.

Two Newcastle parishes also responded to the universal call to hold eucharistic adoration on Sunday, September 15, with the parish of St Lawrence, Byker, holding a eucharistic procession, while eucharistic adoration took place at St Aidan's Benton.

■ Turn to pages 14-15 to read more about Adoremus 2024.



Fr Shaun Purdy with Raffaello Moscardini and his Papal Blessing.

Papal Blessing for centenarian Raffaello

ON SATURDAY, September 7, family, friends and parishioners from Stanley, Dipton and Byermoor gathered in St Joseph's Church, Stanley, to celebrate the forthcoming 100th birthday of Raffaello Moscardini on September 9.

Fr Shaun Purdy celebrated a Mass in thanksgiving for Raffaello, then, at the end of Mass, presented Raffaello with a Papal Blessing from Pope Francis. That was followed by a gathering with tea and cake in the meeting room.

Staff and children at his former school – St Joseph's Catholic Primary – also welcomed Raffaello last month when he visited with some family members and showed the children his card from the King and Queen and his very special birthday message from Pope Francis.

The children asked him questions about the war, his time in the army and the differences between school then and now.

When asked what his secret to a healthy life was, Raffaello told them: "Listen to your teachers, read lots of books and eat well."

Head teacher Mrs Urwin said: "We have Raffaello's three great-grandchildren in our school, which makes it even more special. It was wonderful for Raffaello to celebrate in his old school."

■ Turn to page 3 to read more about Raffaello's remarkable life.



Pupils past and present – members of the very first Reception class at St Oswald's Catholic Primary, South Shields, in 1964, were warmly welcomed back this summer by its 2024 students for worship and a host of celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary since the school's doors opened. Turn to page 4 to read all about it.