



□ Glenn, Father Saji and Stephen. Photo: Paul Perry.

Thank you Glenn and Stephen for 50 years of service to the SVP

ON SUNDAY, November 17, the congregation gathered in St Matthew's Church, Jarrow, pleased to take part in celebrating and honouring the achievement of St Vincent de Paul Society members Glenn Duggan and Stephen Smith who have been members for 50 years, writes Monica Johnson.

Kevin Harbinson, president of Jarrow District Council, presented Glenn and Stephen with their certificates and

medals in church after Mass.

The pair's many years of service are a true testimony to their tireless work and dedication to the Society of St Vincent de Paul and the parish, and they are truly valued for their contribution to both.

Celebrations continued in the church hall after the presentation where Glenn and Stephen shared their celebration cake with Fr Saji and the fellow parishioners.

Pilgrims of hope welcome this Year of Jubilee!

POPE Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year with the theme pilgrims of hope, writes Margaret Doyle.

Jubilee years happen every 25 years.

Bishop Stephen opened the celebrations on Sunday, December 29 with Mass and the opening of Holy Doors in two Jubilee churches in our diocese – St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle and St Joseph's in Hartlepool.

There is a year-long calendar of events in Rome and plenty of things happening in our diocese, too, with the chance for everyone

to be involved at our two Jubilee churches, in your own parish and online.

Both churches offer a space for everyone to visit throughout the Holy Year, with opportunities for people to come and pray and celebrate. There will be Masses and prayer stations, and the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation.

On the feasts of St Cuthbert and St Joseph there will also be special celebrations.

The year will be a chance for people across the diocese to join in prayer and pilgrimage.

Parishes, schools and groups are invited to plan pilgrimages to the churches, and to think about making a social action pledge.

There will be more detail about specific activity throughout the year, with events and news on the diocesan website and in Northern Cross.

It is also a chance to celebrate our people and our communities – and to invite everyone to look at our Diocesan Vision.

● Turn to page 4 to find out more about the Jubilee Year in Hexham and Newcastle.

World's oldest Catenian lives in our diocese

FRANK Sarginson, pictured right, was surprised to learn recently that at the age of 102 he is now the oldest Catenian in the entire international organisation.

Read Frank's remarkable story on page 3.



Carefully crafted crib takes pride of place at St Paul's, Alnwick

PARISHIONERS at St Paul's Church, Alnwick, wanted to share this Advent image with Northern Cross readers.

Children from St Paul's Catholic Primary collected natural materials including driftwood, sea glass, wool

and fabric from the closed Middle School and used them to create a beautiful nativity scene which was displayed inside a Christmas tree in the church.

The photograph was taken by Mini Vinnies leader Mrs Potts.

Musical magic raises cash for Little Sisters of the Poor

EVEN December's Storm Darragh didn't discourage people filling the chapel to capacity at St Joseph's Home in Newcastle to enjoy an evening of seasonal music at the Sounds of Christmas concert by the Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Ladies Choir, writes Gerry Latimer.

The audience was more than happy to add their voices to those of the performers for the Christmas carols.

Terry O'Brian of the Male Chorus, in the red jacket, took the opportunity of a break in their performance to present Mother Kathleen Mary and Sr Brigitte of the Community of the Little Sisters of the Poor with a cheque from Tynemouth Catenians.

All donations will help towards replacing some of the medical equipment so essential to the sisters' being able to ensure safe care for their residents.



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle
VICARIATE FOR FAITH & MISSION
**Celebration of
Marriage and Family Life**
Faith, Hope and Love



Saturday 8 February 2025

12:00pm Mass

Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle, NE1 6HH

Principal Celebrant: Bishop Stephen Wright

Everyone is welcome to join us

No booking required

If you are celebrating a special anniversary and would like a certificate, please scan the QR code or visit:
<https://bit.ly/2HVMarriageMass>

