

Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph, Birtley



Incorporating: **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate**, Washington;
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw; **St Bede**, Usworth;
St John Boste, Oxclose; **St Joseph**, Birtley
 Fr Martin Morris, Parish Priest, Tel: 01916498257
 Administrator: Audrey Huntley tel: 0191 4163583
 (Tuesday & Wednesday 8am—1pm, Thursday 11am—4pm & Friday 12– 5pm)
 Email: sj23office01@gmail.com



In the Partnership of Benedict

Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Penshaw, Sacriston, Washington

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, 25TH - 26TH MAY 2024, Year B

Saturday 25th May Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	People of the Parish People of the Parish
Sunday 26th May The Most Holy Trinity	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	Louise Tobin Davies RIP Alfie Cruddas RIP Margaret Wanless (nee Fagan) & Gerard Fagan & Deceased Members of Fagan Family

First Reading: The God of Love

Deuteronomy 4:32-34. 39-40

Moses said to the people, "Put this question to the ages that are past, that went before you, from the time God created man on earth: Was there ever a word so majestic, from one end of heaven to the other? Was anything ever heard? Did ever a people hear the voice of the living God speaking from the heart of the fire, as you heard it, and remain alive? Has any god ventured to take to himself one nation from the midst of another by ordeals, signs, wonders, war with mighty hand and outstretched arm, by fearsome terrors - all this that the Lord your God did for you before your eyes in Egypt? Understand this today, therefore, and take it to heart: The Lord is God indeed, in heaven above as on earth beneath, he and no other. Keep his laws and commandments as I give them to you today so that you and your children may prosper and live long in the land that the Lord your God gives you forever."

Response to the Psalm: Happy the People the Lord has chosen for His own.

Second Reading: Son, Father and Spirit

Romans 8:14-17

Everyone moved by the Spirit is a son of God. The spirit you received is not the spirit of slaves bringing fear into your lives again; it is the spirit of sons, and it makes us cry out, 'Abba, Father!' The Spirit himself and our spirit bear united witness that we are children of God. And if we are children we are heirs as well: heirs of God and coheirs with Christ, sharing his sufferings so as to share his glory.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; the God who is, who was, and who is to come. Alleluia!

The Gospel: Baptism into the Trinity

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

Fr Martin Morris	0191 649 8257	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Peter Lavery	0730 505 9297
Fr Luke Wilkinson	0191 649 8257	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 27th May 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 27th May St Augustine of Canterbury	St Bede	10am	Vocations to Priesthood & Consecrated life
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Fr Michael McKenna RIP
Tuesday 28th May	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Violet Styles
	St Joseph	7pm	Michael Hughes RIP
Wednesday 29th May St Paul VI	St Bede	10am	Margaret Hodgson RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Fr Patrick Kennedy RIP
Thursday 30th May	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Emily Andrew
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Brian Twycross RIP
Friday 31st May The Visitation of the BVM	St John Boste	10am	Margaret Hodgson RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Norah McKenna RIP
Saturday 1st June St Justin	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Christopher Gonzales RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Cathy Lawton RIP
	St Bede	5pm	The Medjugorje Pilgrims
Sunday 2nd June Corpus Christi	St John Boste	9:30am	Louise Tobin Davies RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Norah & Owen Haggan

Feast of the Holy Trinity

Saying goodbye to those that we truly love can be very emotional, especially when we know that they are anxious about what the future may hold for them. Parents, waving goodbye to their son or daughter at the train station as they go off to university or at the airport as they set off on foreign travel, may well understand the emotions that are evident in today's Gospel.

In this final chapter of St Matthew's gospel, Jesus takes the eleven disciples, his closest friends, back to their special place – the mountain in Galilee where he had first revealed his glory to them in the Transfiguration. He wished to say his final farewell to them but, once again, the disciples fell to the ground full of fear and confusion. Knowing that he was soon to return home to his Father, Jesus expressed his great confidence and trust in them, giving them a powerful commission: 'Go, make disciples of all the nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

In our own Baptism the Father lavishes the gifts of his Holy Spirit upon every one of us – equal in measure but with different gifts for each one of us and the Holy Spirit consecrates us as beloved daughters and sons of the Father.

Jesus has great confidence in each one of us – perhaps a lot more than the confidence we have in ourselves and he solemnly commissions us to 'go out and bear fruit, fruit that will last.' He knows that at times we will be torn between faith and doubt – just like the disciples - but he tells us time and again 'Do not be afraid' and he reassures us that 'I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

Therefore, let us dare to believe how gifted we truly are and let us be, as Pope Francis calls us to be, alive with the power of the Holy Spirit and become missionary disciples bringing the Joy of the Gospel to everyone that we meet - always full of confidence and full of trust 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'

Deacon Peter

Masses are live-streamed daily at 10am everyday, except Monday when Mass is live-streamed at 7pm

Please click the link <https://www.churchservices.tv/penshaw> to view from one of our Churches.

In addition, we live-stream Mass from St Joseph's, Birtley on: Tuesday at 7pm; Thursday at 12 Noon; Saturday at 5pm.

To access live streaming from St Joseph's Birtley, please click the link <https://www.churchservices.tv/birtley>.

What's On in the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church is open on Friday from 2pm - 3pm for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now available in all of our Churches:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass

St Joseph - Thursday after noon Mass

St John Boste - Friday morning, after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning, after Mass.

St Bede's - Saturday after Vigil Mass.

OLOF - Please note, the club is on a Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome!

Each Wednesday morning there will be silent Eucharistic Exposition at St Bede's before Mass. From 9.15am - 9.50am. A time for quiet prayer with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

NEW SONG!

Join us for our next family-friendly New Song prayer event at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church on Sunday 9 June at 4pm. We'll give praise to our loving God, be inspired by praying and reflecting on God's Word and build friendship and community with others. This time our Diocesan Youth Ministry Team will be sharing their reflections on HOPE. All are welcome!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS.

When: 9 June, 14 July and 11 August @ 4pm.

Email: newsongne@gmail.com, Instagram: @newsongne

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The Novena will take place each Thursday evening at 7pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, beginning 2 May - 27 June. A petition box will be at the back of Church each week. Personal petitions may be placed in the box, and at the end of the Novena will be taken to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. After the Resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the descent of the Holy Spirit. A Novena echoes this prayer of waiting and is a traditional way of coming together to pray. Together with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we too pray to God, in thanksgiving, in petition and in praise. It is good to pray, it is important to pray, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, "...with one heart all the apostles joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus." All welcome to make the Novena. *Fr Martin Morris*.

From the Bishop

Dear Sisters & Brothers, in order to grow as a synodal Church it is important that we all have a chance to pray and discern how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to grow in mission in our parishes and communities. To facilitate this, I together with others, offer an initial Diocesan vision for your prayerful reflection. Our discerned Diocesan commitments are: To Walk with Jesus and Enable Others to Encounter Him; To grow as One Diocesan Family- Rebuilding Relationships; Forming and Developing People for Mission; Living Justly and Caring for Our Common Home. Each of these commitments are developed in the vision. It is not my

intention to impose this vision. It is offered for further reflection and I invite all of our parishes and communities to prayerfully reflect on them. We offer accompanying resources and support to enable this reflection. Please contact your parish office if you would like hard copies of these materials which are all available on the diocesan website.

With assurances and prayers + **Stephen**

The partnership development group will reflect further on the Bishop's vision, at their next meeting, and plan further opportunities for prayerful reflection of the text. For all who may be interested.

I would like to thank everyone who helped prepare for Bishop Stephen's visit last weekend. Everything went so well, and Bishop Stephen commented how much he enjoyed visiting some of our Churches. Bishop Stephen will visit Our Blessed Lady Immaculate and St Bede's for their weekend Mass early in 2025. Thankyou, *Fr Martin Morris*.

Re-homing Event

At 1.30pm on Saturday 22 June the Social Justice and Environment Group will be holding a free re-homing event in the parish rooms at Our Lady's Church in Washington Village. We would welcome donations of children's books and toys, kitchen items, DIY tools and gardening tools. (We cannot accept mains electrical goods or sharp kitchen knives.) Small donations can be brought to your churches. For larger amounts ring Chris on 07815 162153 to arrange a delivery directly to the parish rooms for storage. Please ensure items are complete and in an acceptable condition. Your excess items could really help a family in need.

Catholic maritime charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is very grateful for this parish's prayer and financial support of its work on Sea Sunday last year. To report back on the use of those funds, it invites parishioners to join an online update and thank you webinar on **Tuesday 28 May from 7:30pm to 9pm**. You will hear about the impact of your generosity on the lives of seafarers, fishers, and their families over the last year. Its CEO and chaplains will share inspiring stories of how they have helped seafarers and fishers through your support. To register for this virtual event, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/thankyou2024

Criminal Justice Bill Amendments - Abortion

The House of Commons will vote on important amendments to abortion law on Tuesday 4 June and people can email their MPs easily using this link to the CBCEW website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/take-action-on-proposed-abortion-law-change/>. Please consider writing to your MPs regarding these very important matters.

St Bede's Toddler Group

Several of our children have moved on to nursery school since Easter so we have places available for new members. If you would like to book a place, please contact Joan Formosa. Mobile number: 07504 579591.

To all members of the SVP 200 Club through St Joseph's, Birtley

The SVP would like to thank you for all the help that you have given to Vinnies during 2023-2024 through your membership. Subscriptions are now due for 2024-2025 from 1 June 2024 which will be £12 per number. To renew, please contact Peter Monaghan on 0191 410 8103.

Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday 2 June 2024

A reminder to all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion the annual recommitment of promises takes place at Mass on this day. There will also be a Eucharistic Holy Hour on this Feast day, 2 June at 4pm at St John Boste. All welcome. Thankyou.

Faith Schools

I am sure that you will have seen the press reports about a government consultation on lifting the 50% cap on faith-based admissions criteria alongside proposals on opening special faith-based academies. Here is a link to the press release on the DfE website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-lift-cap-on-faith-school-places>

The link to the consultation can be found here:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/faith-schools-policy-team/faith-school-designation-reforms/>

As you will be aware the Catholic church has been pressing for many years for the lifting of the 50% cap. We have also been working for some considerable time with officials at the DfE to bring about a change in policy to allow for the Catholic non-maintained special schools to be able to become academies which will be possible if the consultation allowing the opening of special faith-based academies is successful. Clearly these changes would be great news for Catholic education. You will see the response from Bishop Marcus in the DfE press release as follows:

“These proposals are welcome. Dioceses are well placed to respond to differing local educational demands around the country, including the provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities. Parents can welcome this also.

Catholic education not only provides a high performing school sector and promotes the formation of children in values and virtues; it is more ethnically diverse than other schools, educates more pupils from the most deprived backgrounds, and builds social cohesion within our communities.”

The CES has filed on-line response to the consultation and the responses to the substantive parts of the consultation are contained in the attached document. In addition, a simple e-action response has been developed which provides for an email response to be submitted with very little input on the part of the respondent. The e-action response is now available on the Bishops’ Conference website and can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/>.

Other News

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2024-2025

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The 2024-2025 CCRS course programme is now available on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/professional-development-and-formation/#ccrs>. If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk.

“Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations” Today the message of Jesus is to make disciples of all the nations. Is God inviting you to consider fulfilling this mission as a priest? Come and See! We invite men aged 18+ who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. The next Discernment Evening is on 11 June at St Joseph’s Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL between 6pm - 8pm There will be a time of Prayer, talk/discussion, followed by a meal together If you would like to attend, or for more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or click [here](#)

Refugee Week event at St Mary’s Cathedral.

Our Home: “stretch your tents curtains wide” Isaiah 54: 2

An event to welcome and celebrate refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to our Diocese at St Mary’s Cathedral, Newcastle on Tuesday 18 June at 6.30pm. This event will celebrate the richness of our Diocesan family by bringing together people of different nationalities who make their home here in the North East of England. We will have the opportunity to listen to people’s stories, celebrate their talents and recognise that we are better off when we welcome the strangers and make them our friends. We will hear what the Diocese has to offer and also see the gifts and talents of our new neighbours. During the event Bishop Stephen will receive, on behalf of the whole Diocese, a Lampedusa Cross donated by CAFOD. This will then be housed in the cathedral as a sign of our commitment and welcome to those who are enriching life in our Diocese.

Everyone is welcome to join in this celebration organised by the Vicariate for Caritas.

Reflections

Diocesan Weekly reflections can be found by [clicking here](#).

Examen -Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go

[Saturday Examen The Holy Trinity](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

For the Newsletter, [click here](#).

Prayers - If you would like to request prayers from the parish community for someone who is sick, or recently deceased, please click on the links below and complete the necessary forms. This will enable their names to be included in private prayer and during various Masses.

[For Prayers for the Sick](#)

[For Prayers for the Deceased](#)

or ring 0191 4163583

Finance - Standing Order forms and Gift Aid forms are available by clicking on the following links:

[For St John XXIII](#)

[For St Joseph’s](#)

or ring 0191 4163583.

Sick and Recently Deceased -

To view the sick and recently deceased list [please click here](#). To amend the information on the list [click here](#).

Parish Newsletter If you have any comments you wish to make about the Parish Newsletter, [please click here](#).

For the latest information, please go to any of the following Websites:

[Parish of St John XXIII](#)

[Parish of St Joseph’s](#)

[Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle](#)

All the Links you will ever need!



Please [click here](#) or Scan the QR Code with your mobile phone to go to a site containing All the Links You’ll Ever Need.

[To post a notice on this Newsletter, please click here](#)