

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

CORPUS CHRISTI, 1ST - 2ND JUNE 2024, Year B

Saturday 1st June Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	Cathy Lawton RIP The Medjugorje Pilgrims
Sunday 2nd June Corpus Christi	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	Louise Tobin Davies RIP People of the Parish Norah & Owen Haggan

First Reading: God's Covenant with his People. Exodus 24:3-8

Moses went and told the people all the commands of the Lord and all the ordinances. In answer, all the people said with one voice, "We will observe all the commands that the Lord has decreed." Moses put all the commands of the Lord into writing, and early next morning he built an altar at the foot of the mountain, with twelve standing-stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he directed certain young Israelites to offer holocausts and to immolate bullocks to the Lord as communion sacrifices. Half of the blood Moses took up and put into basins, the other half he cast on the altar. And taking the Book of the Covenant he read it to the listening people, and they said, "We will observe all that the Lord has decreed; we will obey." Then Moses took the blood and cast it towards the people. "This", he said, "is the blood of the Covenant that the Lord has made with you, containing all these rules."

Response to the Psalm: The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's name.

Second Reading: The Blood of Christ. Hebrews 9:11-15

Now Christ has come, as the high priest of all the blessings which were to come. He has passed through the greater, the more perfect tent, which is better than one made by men's hands because it is not of this created order; and he has entered the sanctuary once and for all, taking with him not the blood of goats and bull calves, but his own blood, having won an eternal redemption for us. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer are sprinkled on those who have incurred defilement and they restore the holiness of their outward lives; how much more effectively the blood of Christ, who offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to God through the eternal Spirit, can purify our inner self from dead actions so that we do our service to the living God. He brings a new covenant, as the mediator, only so that the people who were called to an eternal inheritance may actually receive what was promised: his death took place to cancel the sins that infringed the earlier covenant.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia!

The Gospel: A New Partnership. Mark 14:12-16.22-26

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said to Jesus, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, 'The Master says: Where is my dining room in which I can eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches, all prepared. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them, and prepared the Passover. And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them. "Take it," he said. "This is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, "This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God." After psalms had been sung they left for the Mount of Olives.

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 3rd June 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 3rd June St Charles Lwanga	St Bede	10am	Fr Philip Carroll RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	In Loving Memory of Dennis Wilson
Tuesday 4th June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Catherine Naughton RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Maureen Lewis RIP
Wednesday 5th June St Boniface	St Bede	10am	Fr John McElhone RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Margaret Hodgson RIP
Thursday 6th June St Norbert	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Priest's Intention
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Deceased members of the Young Mothers Guild
Friday 7th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	St John Boste	10am	John Twine (RIP)
	St Joseph	10am	Holy Souls
Saturday 8th June Immaculate Heart of Mary	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Nancy & Cyril Bunting & Deceased Relatives
	St Joseph	5pm	Pat Hogan RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Thanksgiving (MF)
Sunday 9th June 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Margaret (RIP) & Joe Hodgson
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Mary Maw RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

The Feast of Corpus Christi

The feast of Corpus Christi was established eight hundred years ago. It came about at the insistence of a young girl named Juliana, Juliana of Mont-Coenilon.

Juliana was born in the thirteenth century in Belgium. After her parents sudden death when she was only a few weeks old she was taken by a village woman to the abbey of Mont Cornillon near Liege in Belgium. There she would grow up under the care of the canonesses, the religious woman of the same priory. They cared for her and educated her. And Juliana grew up determined to follow in their footsteps and become a canoness.

Canonesses didn't follow a monastic rule but a semi-monastic rule. That is, they spent half of their time praying and the rest out of the abbey going into the surrounding villages to help the poor and preach the Gospel.

Juliana had a profound attachment to the Blessed Sacrament, praying before it at every opportunity. Then she began to have a recurring dream. A vision of a moon would appear to her, but there would always be a gap in it, a piece missing. Then in a mystical encounter she was told that the moon represented the Church and the gap represented the lack of a feast day that the Lord wished for the Blessed Sacrament. She was commissioned by the vision of an angel to lead the petition for a feast day devoted to the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

After many trials and obstacles she finally managed to have it accepted as a local feast day and several years after Juliana's death in 1264 Pope Urban IV issued a Papal Bull making it a feast day for the entire universal Church. In 1869, seven hundred years after her death, Juliana of Mont-Coenilon would be officially recognized as a saint by Pope Pius IX and popular acclamation. We have a little orphan girl from the middle ages to thank for this great feast. She saw her Lord and saviour in that small piece of wafer bread and fell to her knees in adoration. She set an example for us to follow.

Saint Juliana of Mont-Coenilon, pray for us.

Fr Martin Wheaton

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 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 at 7pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, beginning 2 May - 27 June. A petition box will be at the back of Church each week for personal petitions to be inserted. At the end of the Novena it 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**

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.

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.

Today is the Feast of Corpus Christi. All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are invited to renew their annual promises during Mass. The priest will call you forward after the 'Sign of Peace.' This afternoon at 4pm there is a Eucharistic Holy Hour at St. John Boste. All welcome.

Congratulations to all our children who will be making their first Holy Communion beginning this weekend and over the next few weeks. We pray for them and their families, may they always treasure the gift of Jesus in every Holy Mass.

Fr Martin and a small group of Parishioners, together with a larger group of pilgrims travel to Medjugorje this weekend. They promise to keep us all in their prayers during the coming week. Thanks.

St Bede's would like to thank all parishioners who have donated to our ongoing Water Aid project. Although Ukraine fades from the news headlines from time to time there is still a huge need for clean water. We have collected and donated £3000 which will provide clean water filters for 200 families. They were picked up from a local manufacture and taken to the Ukraine border by Aide4Ukraine and distributed by reliable contacts. Thank you all and God Bless.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Missio Red Boxes.

Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and many of our parishioners very kindly support it with their Red Boxes. Due to various problems the boxes have not been collected at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate for quite a while. If you have a Red Box and want to donate the contents please collect a Missio envelope from Winifred Waite or Lisa Armitage at the back of Our Lady's church on Sunday 9 or 16 June at 11am Mass. You can empty your Red Box contents into the envelope and return it the following Sunday at Mass. If you are unable to do this or need any help with donations please contact Winifred Waite Tel 0790 3565306 or Email sj23volww@gmail.com and I'll be pleased to help. Thank you so much for your very generous support of Missio. Last year in England & Wales Red Box donations raised £2.3 million to help the world's poorest children and helped fund the training of 2,854 seminarians. Today the need has never been greater!

The family of Margaret Hodgson wish to thank you for the tribute paid to her at her recent requiem Mass, and for all the kind donations made to Dementia UK, enabling us to donate an incredible £900 to the charity.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the financial upkeep of our Parish. Whether this is through the Gift Aid, scheme standing orders, offertory envelopes or private donations. Your generosity is so appreciated in the maintenance of our buildings and grounds, and the support of the Clergy and staff. Thank you. It seems an appropriate time, now that we have reached the ten year anniversary of St. John XXIII parish, to have a general update and appeal regarding the financial status of our parish and projected future costs that will be incurred. Members of the finance committee will speak at all Masses on the weekends of 30 June or 7 July to share with us our annual financial report and to promote the Gift Aid scheme, especially for any newcomers to the parish. Once again, thank you for your generosity and support. Fr Martin F. Morris.

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.

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.

"This is my body... this is my blood" One of the greatest privileges of being a priest is celebrating the Eucharist with the people of God. A reminder that God is very close to each of us. Is God inviting you to discern a vocation to the priesthood? **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 **Tuesday 11 June at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL from 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](#)

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen Corpus Christi](#)

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](#)