

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 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 6TH - 7TH JULY 2024, Year B

Saturday 6th July	St Joseph	5pm	Michael Johnson RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Colin Heslop (RIP anniversary)
Sunday 7th July	St John Boste	9:30am	Lesley Thompson RIP
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Richard (Richie) Gordon RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

First Reading: The Call of a Prophet

Ezekiel 2:2-5

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, 'The Lord says this.' Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them."

Response to the Psalm: Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.

Second Reading: Paul's Weakness and Strength

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, "My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness." So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

The Gospel: (Mark 6:1-6): A Prophet Despised in His Own Country

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, "Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?" And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house"; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

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 8th July 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 8th July	St Bede	10am	Priests Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Fr Graham Williams RIP
Tuesday 9th July St Augustine ZhaoRong	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Mary Maw RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Special Intention (MK)
Wednesday 10th July	St Bede	10am	Margaret & Thomas Banks RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Fr Philip Carroll (NBF)
Thursday 11th July St Benedict	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Bill Hughes RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Harriet Hogan RIP
	St Bede	7pm	Partnership Mass
Friday 12th July St John Jones	St John Boste	10am	Sheila & William Pattison RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Edwin Thomas
Saturday 13th July St Henry	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Private Intention (FM)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	12.30pm	Nuptial Mass: Riccardo Michelle Dunningan & Francesca Maria Valente
	St Joseph	5pm	Fr Tony Duffy RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Margaret Hodgson (CH) (Recently Deceased)
Sunday 14th July	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Linda Harrigan RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	John Barker RIP

By the time you read this, all the shouting will be over and the country will have elected the next UK government. Since Rishi Sunak stood outside 10 Downing Street on 22 May (getting well and truly soaked!), we have been subjected to weeks of political campaigning: manifestos, TV debates, news reports, doorstep canvassing, party political broadcasts and so on - all of this lightly peppered with publicity stunts and the occasional scandal. Each of our political parties has tried to convince the voting public that their policies have the best appeal for the country at this time - and now one of them has come first past the post.

In contrast to these political shenanigans, our readings today focus on the role of the prophet. In scripture, the prophet served as God's representative by communicating God's word to his people. Politicians these days tend to 'toe the party line' on key issues if they are to maintain their positions; but true prophets never spoke on anyone's authority except God's and authentically delivered God's message whatever the consequences. Unfortunately for the prophet, God's message is often about speaking truth to power and challenging the ruling class to focus on justice and care for the poor and marginalised in society. So the life of a prophet was never easy, not even for Jesus who was *'despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'*.

As we stand at the beginning of a new period of government, let us pray that God will inspire our politicians to embrace a prophetic call and work unstintingly for peace and justice for everyone in our country, especially the most disadvantaged. *"The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives"*. (Luke 4:18)

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

Beginning Saturday 6th July, confession will be available at OLQP from 10am-11pm

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 Today, Sunday 14 July 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. We look forward to welcoming back Fr Mark Millward to talk to us about God's love. All are welcome - see you there!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS.

When: 14 July and 11 August @ 4pm.

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

Deacon Frank O'Neill

Special Collection – Next Week - Apostleship of the Sea: It is amazing when we think of it that 80% of our 'white goods' come into this country by sea... and most of us don't have a clue that this happens. When we turn on the kettle in the morning, open the fridge, use the microwave, wash our clothes, dry them and iron them ... all these items arrive by sea. Our seafaring brothers have a really tough life – we need to support them as much as we can.

Sea Sunday, which falls on 14 July this year, let us pray for seafarers, fishers, and the work of Stella Maris. When seafarers and fishers arrive in a foreign port, they are strangers, often thousands of miles from home.

Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors welcome them, listen to their concerns, and help provide what they need. Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors answer Jesus' call to give hospitality to the stranger. Stella Maris is appealing to readers to support its ministry with fishers and seafarers by praying for them on Sea Sunday on 14 July. Donations are requested through its [website](#). For more information, [please click here](#).

Marriage - Let us also pray for all couples preparing for Marriage in the coming Month's; " Riccardo Michelle Dunnigan & Francesca Marie Valente, Adam Michael Gilmartin & Alexandra Cox. & Gabriella Di Giorgio & Kevin Felix Ange Tita." May the Lord's Blessing be upon them all.

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR)

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency(CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative's names are displayed on church notice boards, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or

at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

St Bede's Church - If you know someone who can no longer get to Holy Mass because they are sick or housebound, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Marian Fletcher Tel: 01914174413. We also would like to encourage those from **all our churches** that are no longer able to attend mass to have a **Special Minister** call with **Holy Communion**, Please ask or get in touch with any of our Priests or Deacons.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2-3pm. Each Wednesday morning at St. Bede's 9.15am - 9.50am. & St. Joseph's (until November) each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm. I do encourage as many of you as possible to spend some time in quiet prayer with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration in response to Bishop Stephen's appeal.

Thank you, Fr. Martin Morris

Sunday Devotions at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Sunday 14th July Eucharistic Adoration 4 - 5pm followed by Rosary and Benediction. Why not visit the Church during this time and spend some quiet prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament?

Strawberry Tea - Come and join us for a strawberry tea in the garden and Dryburn Room of St John Boste church at 2pm on Saturday 20th of July. Tickets £3 including refreshments. There will be a craft stall and tombola. All money raised will go to Manzini Youth Care in Swaziland to provide clean water in rural areas.

The 40th St John Boste Walk will take place on Sunday 28th July. The bus will leave at 10.45 and return at approx. 6pm. The walk will start at Waterhouses and follow the route along the Deerness Valley taken by John Boste after his arrest. There will be the opportunity for a well-earned rest and a picnic lunch. Then on to Durham Cathedral for the rosary in the Galilee Chapel at 4.30pm and finally the walk to Dryburn (St Leonard's School) where St John Boste was executed in 1594. The walk is about 9 miles. If, for any reason, you are unable to join us for the walk, we would be delighted to see you for the rosary at 4.30. For a place on the mini-bus add your name to the list at the back of St John Boste Church or telephone 4168693 for further information.

Benedict Partnership - Our Partnership of Parishes is under the patronage of St. Benedict. To mark St. Benedict's Feast Day, and ask the Lord's Blessing on our two communities there will be a Mass in St. Bede's on Thursday July 11th at 7pm. Refreshments in the hall afterwards. All are welcome.

Fr Jim has compiled a short booklet on his pilgrimage in the "**Footsteps of St Paul**" – a trip enabled by the generous donation of parishioners and friends. A small number of the booklets will be available in each church this weekend and it will also be available on the parish website. Additional copies can be made available. needed.

Adoration for Vocations- Bishop Stephen , Writes,

We continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. I am very grateful to the many parishes who set aside a dedicated time of prayer for these intentions. We may all wish to consider a regular publicised time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament praying that the Lord will send labourers into his harvest.

Pilgrimage to Holy Island - Saturday 13th July - A reminder for those who have put their names forward that the coach for Holy Island will leave from Our lady Queen of Peace at 8.30 am prompt. A reminder that if you are walking across the sands as part of the Pilgrim's walk then please ensure you bring additional clothing with you. For those not walking there will be a service held in St Aidan's Catholic Church on the island at 12.00 noon. Mass will be celebrated in St Mary's church at 3.00 pm by Bishop Stephen and Fr Jim O'Keefe. The coach will be departing from Holy Island at 17.30 pm. There are still a few places available on the coach. If you would like to go, please contact Malcolm Bengston on 07746 973132.

St Vincent de Paul Society - You are cordially invited to the 52nd Annual Blessed John Ingram walk, which takes place on Sunday 28 July 2024 led by Fr Luke Wilkinson. Meeting and starting from St Andrew's Anglican Church, the walk will end at St Edmund's Chapel, High Street, Gateshead for an ecumenical service followed by refreshments (non-walkers can meet there at 3.30pm). This event is organised by the St Vincent de Paul Society with the help of clergy and parishioners of both churches. For more information, please [click here](#).

Congratulations to Ann Marshall from St Joseph's, Birtley, who received a "Lifetime Achievement Award" for "outstanding services to the community", in Gateshead Council's Awards Ceremony at the Marriott Hotel, Metrocentre, on Wednesday 26th June. The Award was mainly for Ann's continuous commitment for 52 years as a Founder Member of St Joseph's Young Mothers Guild. Additionally, over the years, Ann has been greatly involved with organising the Annual Church Fayre, Raffles, Celebratory Picnics in the Church Grounds, was a prominent member of the Guiding organisation in the past and is presently a volunteer for Macmillan Cancer Support, where she helps individuals faced with Cancer, offering them an understanding listening service. Well done Ann!

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Washington

From September, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will be offering 30 hour nursery places for children who are three years old with either an eligible voucher code or paid 30 hour places. Further information and application forms can be obtained by contacting the school office. The school newsletter can be found [here](#).

Priestly Ordination— Please pray for Deacon Joe O'Brien who will be ordained to the Priesthood in St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 20th July.

What is the Lord Calling Us to Be and Do?: Engaging with the Synodal Vision for the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle **Modelling Spiritual Conversation Workshop:**

Wednesday 10 July, Washington - Location: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Village Lane, Washington, NE38 7HS. **Time:** 6.30pm – 7.45pm. Please arrive early for refreshments.

Booking link: Please [click here](#). **Cost:** Free.

Other News

"What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him?" A priest recognises that all that he does is because of the power of the Lord working in and through him. Might God be calling you to discern serving Him as a priest? If you would like more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

Would you like to take part in the Great North Run for CAFOD? If so, we'd love to invite you to take on the challenge. The Great North Run happens on Sunday, September 8th in Newcastle and is the biggest Half Marathon in the world! If you'd like a place to run for CAFOD, please follow this link here: [Great North Run](#) or [click here](#).

World Day for Grandparents - 'Loneliness' at heart of Pope's theme for 4th Grandparents Day. On Sunday 28 July, Catholics around the world will be invited to take time to reflect on the great heritage and wisdom passed on by their grandparents and the elderly. The Pope has chosen the theme, "Do not cast me off in my old age" (cf. Psalm 71: 9). According to a press release from the Dicastery, it is meant "to call attention to the fact that, sadly, loneliness is the bitter lot in life of many elderly persons, so often the victims of the throw-away culture." Read more about this [here](#).

Peace vigil for Palestine and Israel - Since January a small group from different faith backgrounds hold a vigil for peace every Saturday morning from 9.30am until 10.00am outside Hexham Abbey. Stand in silence for peace for Palestine and Israel in particular, but not exclusively. We stand outside the abbey. We are not shut away inside nor totally away from the abbey either. We are in a doorway space, a sacred and inclusive space. Working for justice and peace requires contemplation and action. You are very welcome to join us, even if it is just for 5 minutes.

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen](#) [14th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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.**

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