

# Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph, Birtley



Incorporating: **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate**, Washington;  
**Our Lady Queen of Peace**, Peshaw; **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](mailto:sj23office01@gmail.com)



## In the Partnership of Benedict

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

### THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 20TH - 21ST JULY 2024, Year B

Saturday 20th July	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Brian &amp; Susan Towns RIP</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Bede	5pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Sunday 21st July	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Rita &amp; Jim Kirkwood RIP</b>
<b>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Joan Fairweather</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Nancy &amp; Bernard Hodgson RIP</b>

#### First Reading: The Lord will Shepherd Israel

##### Jeremiah 23:1-6

“Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered - it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds - it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them any more; not one shall be lost - it is the Lord who speaks! See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.”

#### Response to the Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

#### Second Reading: The Unity of Believers

##### Ephesians 2:13-18

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God. In his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

#### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!

#### The Gospel: Gathering to be Fed

##### Mark 6:30-34

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, “You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while”; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

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 22nd July 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 22nd July <b>St Mary Magdalene</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Priest's Intention</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>Alfie Cruddas RIP</b>
Tuesday 23rd July <b>Ss Bridget of Sweden, Philip Evans &amp; John Lloyd</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>David Barry RIP Birthday Anniversary</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>David Scullion RIP</b>
Wednesday 24th July <b>St Sharbel Makhoul</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Cecelia &amp; Joe Stephenson</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Fr Cornelius O'Connor RIP</b>
Thursday 25th July <b>St James</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Fr Philip O'Brian RIP</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>In Thanksgiving (Isabel)</b>
Friday 26th July <b>Ss Joachim &amp; Ann</b>	St John Boste	10am	<b>Fr Graham Williams RIP</b>
	St Joseph	10am	<b>Lourdes Pilgrimage</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	12 Noon	<b>Nuptial Mass for Alexandra Cox &amp; Adam Michael Gilmartin</b>
Saturday 27th July <b>Vigil</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>For the repose of the soul of Catherine Naughton</b>
	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Cathy Lawton RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Norman Lamb &amp; Kevin Marriner RIP</b>
Sunday 28th July <b>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Anne Defty RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Tom &amp; Tina Lamb RIP</b>

### The Good Shepherd

The image that dominates our readings on this 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday is the image of the shepherd.

In the reading from the prophet Jeremiah, God is angry with those who are failing to care for his people "Disaster for the shepherds who loose and scatter the sheep of my pasture", in our much-loved Psalm 22 we hear that "The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want" and in Mark's gospel the Good Shepherd is portrayed in action as we hear that "he took pity on the people because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at great length." (Mark 6:30-34)

This image of the shepherd would have been so powerful to the community in which Jesus lived because the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep was extraordinarily close:

1. The shepherd didn't just go out in the morning or the evening to look after the sheep. He stayed with them throughout the day, sharing all of their hardships.
2. At night-time, he brought them into the sheepfold, every single one of them, in order to protect them from harm.
3. He didn't drive them, he led them by example. He walked in front of them, leading them to safety and, with complete confidence in him, they faithfully followed him.
4. He knew every one of them by name and if one went missing, he would go back out to search for the lost sheep and then bring it home with great rejoicing.
5. So the relationship between the shepherd and his sheep was one of knowledge, trust, protectiveness, concern and dependence.

When Our Lord talks about being Our Shepherd, he's using this beautiful pastoral image to tell us that he knows us intimately, leads us gently, cares for us tenderly, protects us faithfully, and no matter what happens, he is with us every day in the good times and especially in the most difficult times - "I am the Good Shepherd .... I lay down my life for my sheep" (John 10:14-15).

Through our own Baptism, Jesus has called and commissioned each one of us to follow him and, in our own lives, to provide Christ-like pastoral care for each other - "Feed my lambs... Feed my sheep" (John 21:15-17)

#### Gospel Acclamation:

*Alleluia, alleluia!*

*The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord.*

*I know them and they follow me.*

*Alleluia!*

**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 each Friday 2-3pm;

St Bede's each Wednesday 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

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

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass and

Saturday morning from 10am-11am.

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 (Our Lady's Over 50's Club)** - Please note, the club is on a Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome! **Note** - There will be no meeting on Tuesday 30th July.

**NEW SONG!** Join us for our next family-friendly New Song prayer event at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church, Sunday 11 August 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.

**Email:** [newsongne@gmail.com](mailto:newsongne@gmail.com) **Instagram:** [@newsongne](https://www.instagram.com/newsongne)  
Deacon Frank O'Neill

**Let us also pray** for all couples preparing for Marriage in the coming Month's; 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](mailto: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.

**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.

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 is also available on the parish website by [clicking here](#). Additional copies can be made available.

**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](#).

**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](#).

**SVP 200 Club** - The July draw for the July winner of the SVP 200 Club has now been made. We again have a winner from our partnership – congratulations to Teresa Brooks from St Joseph's, Birtley.

### 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](#).

## Other News

**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.

**Staycation at the Emmaus Village:** If you are looking for a staycation in the Derwent Valley, whilst supporting the work that YMT do for the young people of the Diocese, the Emmaus Village is the place for you. For more information and booking rates please [click our website link](#). Please [click this link](#) to download the Emmaus Village brochure.

**“He took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd.”** There are many in society searching for meaning and purpose in their life. Might God be calling you to discern a vocation to the priesthood in helping those who find themselves lost and without a shepherd? If you would like more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

**Newman Tyneside Circle** invites you to a **guided tour of St Mary’s Cathedral, Newcastle** (with particular attention to the stained glass windows, including the new Kevin Nichols window). The tour will take place on **Tuesday 6 August, at 2pm** and will be followed by discussion, refreshments and an extraordinary general meeting of the circle.

**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](#).

**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. Working for justice and peace requires contemplation and action. You are very welcome to join us, even if it is just for 5 minutes.

**New Dawn in the Church** - We are delighted to announce that registration is open for the annual New Dawn Walsingham Catholic Pilgrimage. Come and join us at the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham from Monday 5 to Friday 9 August 2024. The full programme will be available shortly, but you will be joined by the Apostolic Nuncio for Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia, Michelle Moran and Fr Cliff Fumbelo among others. Wednesday afternoon will be dedicated to Blessed Carlo Acutis with a special visit to the pilgrimage of his Pericardium Relic. For more information, please [click here](#).

**Love’s Urgent Longings Led Gillian Coxhead** - £190 Friday 19th July 2024 from 6:30pm to Sunday 21st at 2:00pm. St John of the Cross wrote; 'I looked at your Cross, O Christ, and there read the song of your love.' On this retreat we will have the opportunity to explore what it is to be 'fired by loves urgent longings', to go out into the 'Night', to sing Christ’s song of love in the World. For more information, [please click here](#).

**Northumbrian Water – Local Action, Washington** - Here's your chance to find out what we have been doing and what our plans are to regenerate your local environment and rivers. We will be making some big investments in your water and wastewater system in the years ahead. This is your chance to ask questions and find out more about what it will mean for your community and your local environment. There is also an opportunity to take a tour of the treatment works (tour must be booked). Pop in to talk with some of our experts at our Local Action community information event at **Northumbrian Water, Leat House, Pattinson Road Washington, NE388TE** between **3.00pm and 7.00pm**, on **Tuesday 23 July, 2024**.

**Living the Rosary Led by the Minsteracres team** - £ Donation Saturday 10th August 2024 from 11:00am to 3:00pm. A wonderful opportunity to gather in honour of Mary, Mother of God in this very prayerful and sociable day, which also provides the opportunity to take in the peace and ambiance of Minsteracres. Please bring a packed lunch. The day will commence with the celebration of the **Mass at 12 noon followed by the Rosary rally and Benediction from 2.00pm**. For more information, [please click here](#).

**Holy Island Camps** - The camp on Holy Island has been run by the St Vincent de Paul Society since 1954. The aim of the camp is to provide an enjoyable and affordable holiday for children from a variety of backgrounds, in a safe and caring environment and within a Christian ethos. For the first 16 summers, the camp was simply a number of tents in a field. The success and popularity of the camp led to a building programme which saw the first dormitories open in the summer of 1970. This was followed by the completion of the remaining dormitories and the dining room. This was all made possible thanks to the hard work of a number of volunteers who gave up numerous weekends to travel to Holy Island and help build the camp as we now know it. Many more improvements have been made since then, and today the children are accommodated in eight dormitories, each with four bunk beds for eight children. **Dates currently available for school years 5 – 7 inclusive:** Week 3: Saturday 3 August – 10 August 2024; Week 5: Saturday 17 August – Saturday 24 August 2024; Week 6 Saturday 24 August – Saturday 31 August 2024 **Download the information booklet for parents** [here](#) to find out more or [click here](#) to visit the SVP Camp website. The cost for a week at camp is a donation of £150.

## Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 15th 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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