

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



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 3RD - 4TH AUGUST 2024, Year B

Saturday 3rd August	St Joseph	5pm	Harriet Rowntree RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Cath Beavers RIP
Sunday 4th August	St John Boste	9:30am	Lesley Thompson RIP
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	David Bentham RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

First Reading: Manna from Heaven Exodus 16:2-4.12-15

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, "Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!" Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not. I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, 'Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God.'" And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, "What is that?" not knowing what it was. "That," said Moses to them, "is the bread the Lord gives you to eat."

Response to the Psalm: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Second Reading: A New Creation in Christ Ephesians 4:17.20-24

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!

The Gospel: The Bread of Life John 6:24-35:

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered, "I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?" Jesus gave them this answer, "This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent." So they said, "What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat." Jesus answered, "I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said, "give us that bread always." Jesus answered, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst."

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 5th August 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 5th August The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary	St Bede	10am	Holy Souls (OH)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Private Intention (FM)
Tuesday 6th August The Transfiguration of the Lord	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Gerard McCabe & Deceased Relatives
	St Joseph	7pm	Special Intention (MK)
Wednesday 7th August Ss Sixtus II & Cajetan	St Bede	10am	Michael & Nellie Cosgrove and deceased relatives
	St John Boste	7pm	Fr Graham Williams RIP
Thursday 8th August St Dominic	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Carl Poulter (Poorly)
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Harriet Hogan RIP
Friday 9th August St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	St John Boste	10am	Ross & Keith Irwin RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Blaise Lentchou Kouayer RIP
Saturday 10th August St Lawrence	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Jim Walker RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Conceicao Lucas Gonclaves RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Pat and Jim Keerie, Dennis Craig and the Craig Family
Sunday 11th August 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Vincent Kelly RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Dorothy Sweeney RIP

Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel is truly one of the finest passages in John's Gospel. Parts of it are integral to our collective spirituality and really sing to our souls... It is also key to how Jesus seeks to make this raggle - taggle crowd of humanity (then and now) understand the enormity of what He is. That spiritual revolution St Paul is demanding of the backsliding Ephesians in the Second Reading boils down to really embracing *this* Gospel.

The Gospel follows up on the night before: the feeding of the five thousand. After the miraculous display of food aplenty, the crowd is keen for more and follow in boats across the lake to Capernaum. They are embracing the idea of this Jesus but wondering what the cost is: the eternal dictum – there's no such thing as a free meal. "What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?" John poses the response of Jesus in words of aching simplicity: "You must believe in the one he has sent." They demand more, of course, *a sign* – not content with the miraculous feast of the night before. That's feckless humanity for you – always pushing it. Misquoting Moses as the provider of manna in the desert for the wandering Israelites as we hear in the Exodus narrative of the First Reading, Jesus is quick to disabuse them – not Moses but my Father. Even the great Moses was only a lightning rod of the divine. The miracle on offer is Jesus doing the work of being the bread of life, for both soul and body. We are simply required to "come to him" and develop and nurture our relationship with him. We are called **to believe**.

The final verse of today's Gospel is the first of the seven "I am" affirmations in John's Gospel. "I am the bread of life"

He who comes to me will never be hungry;

he who believes in me will never thirst."

Moving towards Jesus and believing in him. Let us ponder on the implications of this with the crowd at Capernaum.

Angela Nichols

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.

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!

OLOF Mystery Trip - Seats are available (£10), please contact Stewart for more details. Phone 07758:934818.

NEW SONG! Join us for the **NEW SONG GARDEN PARTY!** on Sunday 11 August 12.30 pm in the church grounds behind the Emmaus Room. Bring a picnic with beverages of your choice and something to sit on: games, music, raffle, fun and, most of all ... guaranteed sunshine!! Look forward to seeing you there!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS.

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

Deacon Frank O'Neill

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 Representatives 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.

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 may be available in each church this weekend and it is also available on the parish website [here](#). Additional copies can be made available.

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](#).

Strawberry Tea

Manzini Youth Care trustees would like to thank everyone who helped to organize or support the Strawberry Tea event at St John's. We raised an amazing £742!! Every penny raised will be used to help bring much needed water into communities in rural areas of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland).

Mass Intentions

Please be aware that there are a significant number of Mass Intentions already allocated and any request for a specific date may not be possible due to an Intention previously received and allocated to the Mass on that date. If the date requested is already filled, then the intention will be allocated to the first available Mass in the preferred church which could be a few weeks after the requested date.

St Bede Toddler Group

The toddler group is now full so we have opened a waiting list. However, we will have places from September as there are several children leaving to go to nursery. Please contact Joan Formosa on 07504 579591 if you wish to add a name to the waiting list. Joan will contact you when a place becomes available.

Other News

Prayer Vigil at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre

(DIRC) - We started to hold in person prayer vigils at the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, Medomsley on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm. It is a powerful witness; we have between 25 and 35 people attending each month. **Our next vigil will be this Sunday 4 August 2024 at 3pm at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, Medomsley DH8 6QY.** It would be wonderful if you could join us there, but if not, perhaps you would consider joining us in prayer from home. The revised prayer vigil booklet can be found [here](#). Please contact Liz Archibald by [clicking here](#) if you would like more information.

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst." The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. Might God be calling you to discern a vocation to the priesthood in which you bring Christ to others through the Holy Eucharist. For more information, speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

What is the Lord calling us to Be and Do? One of the commitments in our Diocesan vision is: 'Forming and Developing People for Mission'. It is central to our faith that we all recognise our own calling and giftedness and that we step up to continue to learn, grow and give. Over the last year I have been working with colleagues across the country and Liverpool Hope University to co-design a formation programme that provides a strong foundation for people involved in ministry in the Church. This new online course in Catholic Pastoral Leadership is designed for those who are involved or who want to be involved in parish ministry. It will cover key teaching of the Church and an exploration of how this teaching is applied to today and our own parish reality. This two-year course is offered at two levels – as personal formation or as a postgraduate certificate (60 credits). It is designed to be studied in your own home, mainly at a time that suits yourself. Find out more by clicking [here](#). **Amy Cameron.**

A Year of Prayer - In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. Please visit our Diocesan Year of Prayer [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

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.

Volunteer as a Marriage Preparation Course Facilitator

Are you a confident communicator? Would you like to help prepare couples for the Sacrament of Marriage? The Diocese is looking for volunteer couples and individuals who would like to train with Marriage Care in this role. For more information please contact Moira Graham at marriage_care.tyneside@gmail.com.

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 10am 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 five minutes.

Living the Rosary Led by the Minsteracres team - Saturday 10th August 2024 from 11am to 3pm. 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 2pm**. For more information, [please click here](#).

The Joy of the Gospel. The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's cross, constantly invites us to rejoice. Jesus himself "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit" **Luke 10: 21**. Evangelii Gaudium, the Joy of the Gospel, looks at the new evangelisation for the transmission of the faith and has chapters on the following subjects: The Church's Missionary Transformation; The Crisis of Communal Commitment; The Proclamation of the Gospel; The Social Dimension of Evangelization; Spirit-Filled Evangelizers. The full text of Evangelii Gaudium can be downloaded [here](#). Quick Link: [Sharing the Faith](#).

We Dare to Say: A resource for faith-sharing groups on the Lord's Prayer - We Dare To Say is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The connection of the Our Father with the sacraments and the devotional life is explored, and wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. '*This single short prayer of Christ has everything that needs to be said about God, his kingdom, his life, about all of us*' - Fr Alexander Schmemmann. You can access the 'We Dare to Say' resource by [clicking here](#).

Exploring Spiritual Accompaniment - Spiritual Accompaniment has been part of the Christian tradition and a ministry in the Church since the days of the early Church. It is often called Spiritual Direction, although we prefer the term 'accompaniment' because it suggests walking alongside someone in their spiritual/faith journey, rather than telling them what to do! Spiritual Accompaniment is not about solving problems so much as exploring our relationship with God, through prayer and reflection on our experience of faith and life. Maybe you feel called to this ministry or know someone who might be interested. St Antony's Priory in Durham offers training. Sr Sheila McNamara RSCJ, the Diocesan Lead on Spiritual Accompaniment, is part of the training team for the two-year course. [Read more](#).

Could you be a CAFOD Schools Volunteer? Volunteers are wanted to help children/ students learn about the work of CAFOD. Could you help your local school deliver assemblies and/or workshops that encourage young people to put faith into action to help others? It would only require a few hours of your time each term and you would be assisting your local community to work together for the Common Good. No experience is necessary, and full support and training will be given. Find out more [here](#).

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following roles: Parish Finance Officer, full-time, on a two-year fixed-term contract. The role will be based in the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle, with travel throughout the Diocese. Closing date for applications: 13 August.

Cleaner, St Charles, Gosforth – 5 hours a week. Closing date for applications: 16 August. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 18th 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.

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