

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: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk
Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 15TH - 16TH FEBRUARY 2025, Year C

Saturday 15th February	St Joseph	5pm	Henry & Susan Roy RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Kathleen Nattress RIP
Sunday 16th February	St John Boste	9:30am	Josie O' Leary RIP
The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	David & Elizabeth McCourt & Deceased Family

First Reading: A Curse and a Blessing, Jeremiah 17:5-8

Thus says the Lord: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.'

Response to the Psalm: Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Second Reading: A People of the Resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20

Brothers and Sisters: If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia!

The Gospel: The Beatitudes, Luke 6:17, 20-26

At that time: Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.'

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

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 17th February 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 17th February The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order	St Bede	10am	Celia Stephenson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Funeral Service Joseph Barron
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm *	Carl Poulter
Tuesday 18th February	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am *	Christopher Groark RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Peter Robinson RIP
Wednesday 19th February	St Bede	10am *	Jennifer Webber RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Josie O'Leary RIP
Thursday 20th February	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am *	Private Intention
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Veronica & Ray Walker & Jones Family
Friday 21st February St Peter Damian	St John Boste	10am *	Michelle Edmundson and her family
	St Joseph	10am	Chris, Bill & Hilda Baggot
Saturday 22nd February St Peter's Chair	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am *	In Thanksgiving - Chris Walker
	St Joseph	5pm	Fred Farrar & Baby Oscar
	St Bede	5pm	Billy Bowdon RIP anniversary
Sunday 23rd February The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am *	Raymond Michael Enright RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Edward Stephenson

Newsletter Reflection for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel we are invited to reflect on the Beatitudes – a passage which is familiar to many of us. Jesus describes a series of blessings and woes that challenge our conventional understanding of happiness and success.

He announces, "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours" and he continues by blessing those who are hungry, weeping, and persecuted, promising them future consolation and reward. On the other hand, he declares woes upon the rich, the satisfied, and those who are well-spoken of, warning them of hardships to come.

In a world that often equates success with wealth, comfort, and acclaim, Jesus emphasises the blessedness of those who endure hardship and remain faithful. He promises eternal reward to those who trust in God's providence and place that relationship above material possessions or societal approval.

The Beatitudes challenge us to embody these teachings in our daily lives. How do we reach out to those who are marginalised? How do we offer support to those in need? How do we stand firm in our faith during times of trial?

Let us pray for the grace to align ourselves with the values of God's kingdom and bear witness to the transformative power of God's love. May we always seek to be instruments of God's peace and mercy in the world.

Frank O'Neill

Masses are generally live-streamed daily at 10am every day, except Monday, streamed at 7pm, and alternate Sundays when Mass is live-streamed at either 10am or 11am. An * on the Mass table indicates streamed Masses.

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: 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:

St. Joseph's each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm, held in the front room of the Presbytery (main door will be open, first room on left). I do encourage as many of you as possible to spend some time in quiet prayer with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.

Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2-3pm.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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) -Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome!

First Friday devotions - Now that we are in a Holy Year, Pope Francis' suggestion of praying the First Friday devotion is one that we will be offering from February - October. The First Friday Masses will move to a different church in our parish every second month. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.15pm - 6.50pm before each Mass. The twelve promises given by Jesus to St Margaret Mary concerning this devotion are a great encouragement to the Christian life. Google "Twelve promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - EWTN."

The Parishes are planning a Lenten Mission 2025, 17 March - 19 March. The Mission will be led by Sr Briega McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escrava De Romani. Sr Briega and Fr Pablo have many years experience of worldwide retreats and missions, and this will be an ideal way in keeping the Lenten season special.

Sr Briega and Fr Pablo are very much looking forward to visiting our Parishes during the second week of Lent. In the coming weeks our Clergy will begin promoting the Mission and asking all parishioners to take some Mission Leaflets as invites to distribute among our families, neighbours and friends. Please keep the success of the Mission in your prayers. Thank you, Fr Martin Morris.

"Living Faith" Books are now available from the back of Church. These excellent booklets are a great help to the spiritual life, which includes various prayers for each day, along with a relevant reflection for each day of the week on the daily Gospel. Cost £1.50.

Safeguarding - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is a priority in every parish and diocesan organisation. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is fully committed in the church and operates a zero-tolerance approach. The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. We adopt and implement fully the policies and procedures

of the Catholic Church of England and Wales, which is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact a safeguarding officer in any of our churches - their details are on the noticeboard in the porch. Details of our Diocesan policy can be found by [clicking here](#).

Looking for an Adventure? The Guides and Scouts of Europe, a Catholic scouting movement with 73,000 members across 27 countries, offers exciting opportunities for boys and girls aged 6-17. Our Gateshead group is growing, with spaces available for Beavers (boys and girls), Wolf Cubs, Scouts, and soon Wolves and Guides for girls. Join us on this adventure! Contact Paul Hammond at paul.hammond@gseuk.org or 07973 192324 or speak to Fr Luke, who is our religious adviser or collect a flyer from the back of church. <https://gseuk.org>

Confirmations St. Joseph's Birtley

Bishop Stephen will be coming to celebrate confirmations on Tuesday 15 July at 7pm. Please use the QR code to register for the preparation programme. Letters will be available at the back of church and at Cardinal Hume, St Leonard's and St Robert's Schools.



Scan the QR Code with your mobile phone or click [here](#).

Stations of the Cross. During Lent at OLQP, commencing Wednesday 12 March at 12 noon, and every subsequent Wednesday during Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be said followed by a simple lunch of soup and bread, any donations will be gratefully accepted and the chosen charity this year will be St Benedict's Hospice. Everyone is welcome.

Bingo & light refreshments in St Bede's Hall, Monday 17 February, in aid of Wateraid. All welcome.

Live-Streaming on a Sunday - Please note that from Sunday 2 March 2025 our live streaming will alternate between Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church with Mass at 11am and Our Lady Queen of Peace Church with Mass at 10am. All other times remain the same. Keep an eye on our Mass Schedule which will indicate which Masses are being streamed using an Asterix (*). Thank you.

Other News

Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp - Volunteering is a Work of Heart. Holy Island Children's Camp is looking for new volunteers to help in their Holiday Centre on Holy Island. They are in need of young adults to help the children have a great week's holiday on the island in Summer 2025. Full training and support will be given and would suit someone wanting to give back to the Community by helping 9-12-year-olds have fun for a week.

They are also keen to attract people who would like to help by volunteering in the Kitchen/Dining room and with caretaking. Term Time Camps need lots of volunteers if they are to survive. If you could find a few days in term time to help out with serving meals, prepping salads and washing dishes they would be truly grateful. By running term time camps, Summer Vinnies Holidays for children can be sustained. Further information can be found at <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or if you'd like to chat about the role please email BarbaraT@svp.org.uk

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor". Do you listen to the voice of truth, the voice of Jesus Christ? Maybe he is inviting you to discern a vocation to the Priesthood. For more information, speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or click [here](#).

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear Tony Flannery speak about The Bible, history or myth? Why it is important to know. The talk will be given twice at Holy Name Parish Hall, Jesmond, Newcastle, on Tuesday 11 March at 2.30pm and again at 7.30pm.

Irish Night Fundraiser in aid of the Little Sisters of the Poor. Saturday 29 March at 7pm. Eat, Drink and be Merry! Dance the night away to the Ceilidh Band, enjoy the Irish Dancers whilst feasting on Irish stew, soda bread and a dessert (alternative choice for vegetarians). Licensed Bar, Tickets £10 each. Little Sisters of the Poor, St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle, NE4 7QA. Tel: 0191 2731279.

Lourdes Pilgrimage. Would you like to register as a helper for the Hexham and Newcastle 2025 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? The pilgrimage will take place between Friday 25 July and Friday 1 August 2025. Adult and Youth section volunteer registration forms are now open and live until 31st March 2025. Please register via one of the following links. Thank you very much for registering your help and support.

Existing Appointed Registered Helper. If you are an existing, appointed registered helper and volunteered on the Diocesan Pilgrimage in 2023 or 2024 please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/bdNSkV8HvK>

New Adult Volunteer Registration Form. If you wish to register as a volunteer for 2025, please click here: <https://forms.office.com/e/PbtE9Jd6aS>

Youth Section Registration Form. The Youth Section of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is for those aged 16-21 (on the date of travel) or in full-time education.

Please click here to register: <https://forms.office.com/e/m1MQfReuZD>

Please see the Tangney Tours website for prices of travel and accommodation.

<https://www.tangney-tours.com/.../diocese-hexham-newcastle/>

If you would like any more information about becoming a registered helper on the pilgrimage, please email: lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk or visit our Facebook page: *Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes*. Thank you so much for your support and for volunteering to help on our Diocesan Pilgrimage.

The Year of Jubilee 2025 is a beacon of hope - We're all invited into an encounter with Jesus Christ, as his disciples of mercy, forgiveness, and social action, and to celebrate our communities. It's a chance to envision a better future, a future of hope and faith where mercy guides our actions. It's a time for forgiveness and reconciliation within our communities. We can take action to address injustices, support the vulnerable, and work towards a more equitable society. Let's embrace the spirit of the Jubilee and unite to create a world of compassion and justice, where everyone and our whole community can grow and flourish. Please visit the Diocesan Jubilee [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

Adventurous Accompaniment - As we journey through this year of Jubilee, we are called to be Pilgrims of Hope. As Catholics our hope is in the Lord who is always at work in our lives. One of the keys to our faith journey is being able to recognise God's daily call and to discern God's will when we are making decisions. Our new formation programme *Adventurous Accompaniment* is designed to help us become better at walking with others, supporting them to see God at work. Find out more and book on *Adventurous Accompaniment* [here](#).

Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty - Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. Sign up [today](#)! CAFOD and SCIAF are teaming up to bring the Big Lent Walk to Great Britain! [Read more about us](#) and our decision to join forces. Thousands of walkers from England, Wales, Scotland and beyond, will be tying up their purple laces and walking an incredible 200km this Lent to fight global poverty. So, [sign up](#) to do the Big Lent Walk yourself, or join in with your [school](#) or [parish](#). Then put your best foot forward with the biggest group of Big Lent Walkers yet.

Evangelisation for the Terrified - 'Evangelising for the Terrified', written and produced within the Diocese, is a practical, light-hearted resource for anyone wondering how to get started in sharing their faith. It is deliberately written to be a simple, non-threatening collection of ideas that give intention and purpose to normal everyday opportunities that arise. Download a copy [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](#) [The Sixth 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](#)