

# 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](mailto:StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk)  
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



## In the Partnership of Benedict

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

### SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 22ND - 23RD FEBRUARY 2025, Year C

|  |                             |        |                                     |
|--|-----------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday 22nd<br>February                          | St Joseph                   | 5pm    | <b>Fred Farrar &amp; Baby Oscar</b> |
| <b>Vigil</b>                                       | St Bede                     | 5pm    | <b>Billy Bowdon RIP anniversary</b> |
| Sunday 23rd<br>February                            | St John Boste               | 9:30am | <b>People of the Parish</b>         |
| <b>The Sevebth<br/>Sunday in<br/>Ordinary Time</b> | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 10am * | <b>Raymond Michael Enright RIP</b>  |
|  | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am   | <b>Edward Stephenson</b>            |

#### First Reading: David spares Saul, 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

In those days: Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice.' But David said to Abishai, 'Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be guiltless?' So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them. Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. David said, 'Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The Lord rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the Lord gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

#### Response to the Psalm: The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

#### Second Reading: Transformation in the Resurrection, 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

Brothers and Sisters: 'The first man Adam became a living being'; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

#### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Alleluia!

#### The Gospel: Unlimited Love, Luke 6:27-38

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. Give to everyone who begs from you; and from one who takes away your goods, do not demand them back. And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. 'If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.'

|                   |               |                      |               |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 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 24th February 2025 (Streamed Mass \*)

| Day   | Church                      | Time      | Intention  |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Monday 24th February  | St Bede                     | 10am      | <b>Anthony John Thompson RIP</b>                                   |
|   | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 7pm *     | <b>Paul Kelly</b>  |
| Tuesday 25th February   | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am *    | <b>Lavinia Charlton RIP</b>  |
|   | St Joseph                   | 7pm       | <b>Dorothy Hattam RIP</b>  |
| Wednesday 26th February                                       | St Bede                     | 10am *    | <b>Pat Powell RIP First Anniversary</b>                            |
|   | St John Boste               | 7pm       | <b>Pope Francis</b>  |
| Thursday 27th February  | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 10am *    | <b>Michael Walker RIP</b>  |
|   | <b>St Gregory of Narek</b>  | St Joseph | 12 Noon  |
| Friday 28th February  | St John Boste               | 10am *    | <b>Vocations to the Priesthood &amp; Consecrated Life</b>          |
|   | St Joseph                   | 10am      | <b>Dorothy Hattam RIP</b>  |
| Saturday 1st March<br><b>St David</b>                         | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am *    | <b>Derek &amp; Maureen Elizabeth Hall 60th Wedding Anniversary</b> |
|   | St Joseph                   | 5pm       | <b>Conceicao Lucas Goncalves RIP</b>                               |
|   | St Bede                     | 5pm       | <b>People of the Parish</b>  |
| Sunday 2nd March<br><b>The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> | St John Boste               | 9:30am    | <b>Bill &amp; Kathleen Burlinson RIP</b>                           |
|   | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 10am      | <b>Eddie Ashburner RIP</b>   |
|   | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am *    | <b>Molly French RIP</b>  |

### On the Feast of the Chair of St Peter – Pope St Leo the Great: The Church of Christ rises on the firm foundation of Peter's faith

Out of the whole world one man, Peter, is chosen to preside at the calling of all nations, and to be set over all the apostles and all the fathers of the Church. Though there are in God's people many shepherds, Peter is thus appointed to rule in his own person those whom Christ also rules as the original ruler. Beloved, how great and wonderful is this sharing of his power that God in his goodness has given to this man. Whatever Christ has willed to be shared in common by Peter and the other leaders of the Church, it is only through Peter that he has given to others what he has not refused to bestow on them. The Lord now asks the apostles as a whole what men think of him. As long as they are recounting the uncertainty born of human ignorance, their reply is always the same. But when he presses the disciples to say what they think themselves, the first to confess his faith in the Lord is the one who is first in rank among the apostles. Peter says: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replies: "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona, for flesh and blood has not revealed it to you, but my Father who is in heaven." You are blessed, he means, because my Father has taught you. You have not been deceived by earthly opinion, but have been enlightened by inspiration from heaven. It was not flesh and blood that pointed me out to you, but the one whose only-begotten Son I am." He continues: And I say to you. In other words, as my Father has revealed to you my godhead, so I in my turn make known to you your pre-eminence. You are Peter: though I am the inviolable rock, the cornerstone that makes both one, the foundation apart from which no one can lay any other, yet you also are a rock, for you are given solidity by my strength, so that which is my very own because of my power is common between us through your participation. And upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. On this strong foundation, he says, I will build an everlasting temple. The great height of my Church, which is to penetrate the heavens, shall rise on the firm foundation of this faith. The gates of hell shall not silence this confession of faith; the chains of death shall not bind it. Its words are the words of life. As they lift up to heaven those who profess them, so they send down to hell those who contradict them. Blessed Peter is therefore told: To you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth is also bound in heaven. Whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven. The authority vested in this power passed also to the other apostles, and the institution established by this decree has been continued in all the leaders of the Church. But it is not without good reason that what is bestowed on all is entrusted to one. For Peter received it separately in trust because he is the prototype set before all the rulers of the Church.

Fr Luke Wilkinson

**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 Brieghe McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani. Sr Brieghe 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 Brieghe 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.

**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 Wolverets and Guides for girls. Join us on this adventure! Contact Paul Hammond at [paul.hammond@gseuk.org](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:BarbaraT@svp.org.uk)

**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.

**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](#).

**"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](#).

**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. The vigils are inter-faith with people from other Christian traditions as well as a group of people from the Jewish faith participating. We believe detaining women who are asking for a safe place to live goes against our faith. We are asked to welcome the stranger and feed the hungry. The vigils last about 45 minutes and as well as praying, we offer some practical support by donating cash for phone cards and toiletries, which are then made into welcome packs and taken into the centre by another charity, "Friendship Across Borders". We also take flowers to hand over to the guards who take them into the communal areas of the centre. **Our next vigil will be on Sunday 2 March 2025 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. For more information around the issues of refugees and asylum seekers, please look at our [webpage](#).

**The Justice and Peace Refugee Project** This year, 2025, is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' and it seems that the virtue of Hope is very necessary in today's world. There are many challenges in life both at home and abroad. Famine, war, climate change, cost of living pressures and divisions in society, often fuelled by intolerance of others. Pope Francis has said: *'In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future will bring.'* We are all invited to be pilgrims of true Hope and share it with others. The recent developments in Syria have meant that the Home Office has suspended making decisions on Syrian asylum seekers. This will result in a time of uncertainty for many of our Syrian clients. At the Refugee Project, we aim to provide a warm welcome and a listening ear to all our clients as they navigate their varied and difficult situations. This could not happen without the generous contributions of food and finance from parishes, individuals and schools and the support of our team of dedicated volunteers. Thank you to you all! We are incredibly grateful for all your support and encourage you to continue to support us this year. Items most urgently needed can be [found here](#). The latest newsletter can be found by [clicking here](#). For more information please [click here](#).

**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](#).

**Blessed Carlo Acutis Relics Tour** - Our Diocese is privileged to be welcoming the Visitation of the Relics of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the first millennial beatified by Pope Francis, on 26 - 30 March. This will be the final visit before Carlo's canonisation in April. The relics will be stopping off at Cardinal Hume School in Low Fell, Gateshead, on Saturday 29 March where everyone is invited to visit. More details can be found [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.

**Diocesan Courses:** The Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team will be offering the following day: **Day of Reflection for Liturgical Leaders of Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion: Date:** Saturday 15 March 2025 **Time:** 10.30am - 3.30pm **Venue:** St Hilda's Resource Centre, Newcastle. For further information and booking forms, please visit: [Liturgy & Prayer webpage](#).

## 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 Seventh 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](#)