

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: 0191 4163583
 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

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - 15TH - 16TH MARCH 2025, Year C

Saturday 15th March	St Joseph	5pm*	For Our Confirmation Candidates
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Margaret Jones (RIP)
Sunday 16th March	St John Boste	9:30am	Keith Shannon - eternal rest on his birthday
The Second Sunday of Lent	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Greg Moorhouse RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

First Reading: The Covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

In those days: God brought Abram outside and said, 'Look towards heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your offspring be.' And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. And he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: The Earliest Gospel

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father. From a bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved son, listen to him'. Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

The Gospel: The Transfiguration of Jesus

Luke 9:28b-36

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah' — not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!' And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen.

Fr Martin Morris	0191 416 3583	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 March 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 17th March St Patrick	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	John Peck RIP
	St Bede	7pm *	Lenten Penitential Service
Tuesday 18th March St Cyril of Jerusalem	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am *	Pat Naughton RIP
	St Bede	7pm*	St Bede's SVP
Wednesday 19th March St Joseph	St Joseph	10am *	Christine Thompson RIP
	St John Boste	7pm*	A Sick Person (DC)
Thursday 20th March St Cuthbert	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am *	Sr. Briege & Fr. Pablo's intentions
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Dorothy Hattam RIP
Friday 21st March	St John Boste	10am *	John Mitchell RIP
	St Joseph	10am	People of the Parish
	St Joseph	2pm	Nancy Loughlin (in hospital)
Saturday 22nd March	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am *	Joan Leeder & John Styles RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	12.30pm	Wedding - Alex Tindle & David James Lewins
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Kathleen Burlinson RIP
	St Bede	5pm	William Kevin Marriner RIP
Sunday 23rd March The Third Sunday of Lent	St John Boste	9:30am	Kathleen & Bill Burlinson RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Mr. Madden Anniversary RIP

Please note the changes in Mass times and Venues due to the Mission.

Jesus took only three of his disciples with him while he prayed and was then transfigured. They looked on in amazement. We can only imagine what affect this experience had on Peter, James and John. It is good for us to spend time imagining how we would be affected by seeing a transfigured Jesus. Peter's response was to say, 'It is good that we are here.' – a bit of an understatement. Although the three Apostles had been with Jesus for three years or so, and would have been familiar with his teaching, with the miracles he performed and they were his friends. However they were still able to be astonished and have their relationship with Jesus raised to new heights; to a deeper understanding of who he was and to greater love of Him.

We may not be blessed with a physical vision of the transfigured Jesus in our life, but several things are coming together at this time which could provide each of us with a more personal relationship with Jesus, with a deeper understanding and with a greater love for our saviour.

* We are in a Holy Year with a theme of Pilgrims of Hope. This is a full year of focus on this challenging theme.

* We are in the season of Lent where we are invited to increase our prayer, fasting and abstinence.

* And in our area of Washington, Penshaw and Birtley we begin, on Monday, an inspirational Mission led by Sr Briege McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani, which could have a transformational impact on every one of us, if we open ourselves up to it.

I urge you all to attend as many of the Mission Masses and talks as possible. Open yourself up to what is being asked of you personally and then go out and spread the message of the Gospel to others. Use the Mission flyers, which contain all the times and locations of the Mission talks, to invite people who may be open to hearing God's word again in a new transformational way. Use the flyers also to remind you when the sessions are, and let us all play our part in make this Mission a resounding success.

Tony Joy

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 Church immediately after Stations of the Cross.

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

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning after Mass and Saturday morning from 10am-11am

St Joseph -Thursday after 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!

Note there will be no meeting in the Emmaus Room on 18th March as OLAF is on a day trip.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Every Wednesday **OLQP** 12 Noon and **SJB** 6.30pm; (**Not 19th March at St John Boste or Our Lady Queen of Peace**).

Our Lady Queen of Peace will be on Thursday 20th March at Noon followed by a soup lunch

Every Thursday **St Josephs** at 6pm;

Every Friday **St Bede's** at 6pm.

Stations of the Cross at OLQP will be followed by a simple lunch of soup and bread. All donations gratefully accepted and will be sent to St Benedict's Hospice. All welcome.

This Sunday afternoon, March 16th Eucharistic Adoration, 4-5pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate followed by Stations of the Cross at 5pm. Refreshments in Emmaus room afterwards. All welcome.

Second Collection This Week - Family Fast Day for CAFOD: In today's gospel, Jesus is transfigured on the mountain. Peter, James and John are finally able to see him in his glory. It brings us joy when we see someone flourishing in life—someone who is able not just to meet their needs, but to thrive and to be filled with hope for the future. Today's gospel also reminds us to listen to the Son of God, who calls us to love one another, especially those like Lokho, who face such challenging situations. Together we can strive to build a world transformed, which reflects the glory of God.

Parish Jubilee Year Mission. A warm welcome to Sr. Briege McKenna and Fr. Pablo Escriva, who will be speaking at some of our Masses this weekend, to introduce and welcome all parishioners to our Parish Mission. The Mission which begins on Monday morning with 10am Mass at Penshaw and concludes with evening Mass on Wednesday at St. John Boste is a wonderful way to renew our Faith this Lent and so enter more deeply into a relationship with Jesus Christ. I warmly invite you all to come along

to the Mission services, where Sr. Briege and Fr. Pablo will share with us some great insights into various aspects of our Faith, Forgiveness and Reconciliation, The Holy Spirit, and The healing power of the Eucharist. These few days will be a time of great Grace for us all, and I know you will give Sr. Briege and Fr. Pablo the warmest of welcomes. Thank you, Fr. Martin Morris.

Pastoral Letter - This weekend Bishop Stephen writes a pastoral letter for the second Sunday of Lent. As we have Sr. Briege & Fr. Pablo speaking at some of our Masses to introduce the Parish Mission the letter will be copied and made available from the back of Church. It is also available on the diocesan website.

Lenten Penitential Service. Our Partnership Service takes place at St. Bede's, Monday 17th March, at 7pm. Sr Briege McKenna will speak about 'The forgiveness and Healing of Sins.' There will be several Priests available to hear confessions. All welcome to what will be a beautiful celebration of the Lord's Mercy.

NEW SONG joining with the Parish Mission! March brings us a rare opportunity to take part in our Parish Mission led by Sr Briege McKenna and Fr Pablo Escriva! So, instead of our usual meeting on the second Sunday of the month, we encourage everyone to join the events organised during the Parish Mission 17-19 March (see information in the Mission leaflet in our churches). The mission will be a great time of healing and renewal.

New Song resumes on 13 April! Come and join us - all are welcome! **Where:** Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Parish Room NE38 7HS **When:** 13 April 2025 @ 4.00 pm.

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

Let us keep in our prayers all those preparing for reception into the Church this Easter. Nineteen people from our two parishes are currently on the journey in Faith programme, preparing for the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Special Mass-St Joseph's— Please note there will be an additional Mass at St Joseph's on Friday 21st March at 2pm for St Joseph's Day. All welcome.

Wedding Congratulations - To Alex Tindle & David James Lewins who will be married at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Saturday 22nd March at 12.30pm.

SVP 200 Club - The March 2025 draw was made on March 7th. Congratulations to Ann Marshall of St Joseph's, Birtley who was successful in the draw.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage - Thank you to all those parishioners who have booked on the pilgrimage for this June. Please note there will be a pre- pilgrimage meeting with film show on Sunday 18th May, 6pm in the Emmaus Room at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate.

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 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 children of St Bede's are doing the CAFOD Big Lent Walk. If you would like to help them fundraise, please follow this link <https://schools.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-bedes-big-lent-walk2025>

Contactless Donations

We are trialling at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church a contactless donation plate. It will be situated at the back of church, if proved successful we will install in all 4 churches. Further details to follow.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage to Lourdes - In recent weeks Bishop Stephen made an appeal for adult helpers for this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Can I make a further appeal for registered Nurses and Health Care Assistants. The Pilgrimage is very often the only way that those requiring care can travel, but this requires us to provide that care. All helpers are required to register their interest before 31st March. The Pilgrimage does have a nurse's fund which can offer some help with funding if required. For further information please contact the Pilgrimage Senior Nurse Liz Joy on: 07917322890 or [click here](#).

Safeguarding - The Online Update Service – Emails from DBS- The Update Service is a free online subscription service that allows you to keep your enhanced DBS certificates up to date. It enables the Diocese, with your consent, to complete your three yearly DBS check. Your Update Service Subscription requires an annual renewal. When this is due you will receive an email from DBS which will help you to do this. If you do not renew your subscription, it will lapse and subsequently, when your DBS is due for checking, a full application will need to be completed including identity verification. If you need any further information regarding this, please speak to your Parish Safeguarding Representative.

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. **All Parishioners are invited to Mass** with Bishop Stephen on Wednesday 26th March, 7pm at St. Cuthbert's Church, New Seaham, to welcome the Relics and Eucharistic Exhibition of Blessed Carlo Acutis. See Poster at back of Church for more info. Blessed Carlo will be Canonized by Pope Francis this 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](#).

Thanks to Michael Thomas & Fr Luke Wilkinson Family and Friends who made our Diamond wedding, Derek & Maureen Hall, very special. Thank you for all your Love and support.

St John XXIII YouTube Channel - Our parish now has a YouTube channel which will allow us to record more of our parish services, events and information. Our Lenten Parish Mission services will all be available there as well as the weekly Gospel and Homily videos. You can find all these videos on our channel by [clicking here](#). Please subscribe to the channel and if you have ideas for developing it please send them via email to Lisa or Winifred by [clicking here](#).

Other News

Holy Week Reflections – The Diocese will not be producing a series of Diocesan Lenten Reflections in its usual format this year, instead they will produce a shorter booklet which will offer a daily reflection on the readings from Palm Sunday and throughout Holy Week. This is because the Year of Jubilee is making space for a different reflection writing opportunity entitled 'Scripture of Hope' in celebration of the Jubilee Year. Our Diocesan Writing Team look forward to sharing these resources with you in the coming weeks. Further information about accessing the Holy Week Reflection Booklet and the 'Scripture of Hope' reflections will be available next month. Please visit CAFOD's website by [clicking here](#) for prayer resources for Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost.

Marriage Preparation Days - . Saturday 22 March, St Mary, Bishop Auckland DL14 6PQ. Engaged couples can find **more information** [by clicking here](#). To find and **book on a course**, [please click here](#).

This month's tip for sustainable living: Carbon Footprint Calculator - Faced with record global temperatures, extreme weather events with millions of people around the world suffering the impact of climate breakdown, it can be difficult to know how to respond. One positive action we can all take is to estimate our own carbon footprint and understand how to lessen our environmental impact. Hope comes through action, however small. This month you are invited to access the [WWF carbon footprint calculator](#), which will give a concise analysis of your carbon footprint along with some ideas for reducing it.

Answer the Call: Teach in a Catholic School - Are you a Catholic teacher currently working outside Catholic education? Have you considered bringing your skills, experience, and faith into a Catholic school setting? Now is the time to explore how you can make a real difference in a values-driven, faith-filled learning environment. The Diocesan Department for Education are hosting an information session, for those interested in exploring teaching opportunities in our Catholic Education Trusts and schools. **Date:** Wednesday 2 April 2025 between 4.30pm - 5.30pm **Location:** The Durham Centre, Belmont DH1 1TN **Register your place by** [clicking 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 Second Sunday of Lent](#)

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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