

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER - 3RD - 4TH MAY 2025, Year C

Saturday 3rd May	St Joseph	5pm	Alec Gilfillan RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Margaret Hodgson RIP
Sunday 4th May	St John Boste	9:30am	Christie , Frazer & Joy Families
Third Sunday of Easter	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Emma de Torres & Jose Eleuterio Torres Anniversary

First Reading: The Apostles in the Dock, Acts 5:27b-32, 40b-41

In those days: The high priest questioned the Apostles, saying, 'We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us.' But Peter and the Apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.' Having called in the Apostles, the council beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonour for the name.

Response to the Psalm: I will extol you, Lord, for you have raised me up.

Second Reading: The Lamb in Glory, Revelation 5:11-14

I, John looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!' And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' and the elders fell down and worshipped.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Christ is risen, who created all things and has shown compassion on the human race. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Jesus Meets his disciples at the lake, John 21:1-19

At that time: Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, do you have any fish?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred metres off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' He said to him a second time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.' (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

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 5th May 2025

Day	Church	Time	Intention	
Monday 5th May	St Bede	10am	David, Brian, Stephen, Paul, Eileen & Billy Harland	
	St Asaph	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Gordon McClurey RIP
Tuesday 6th May	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Janet O'Neil (RIP Anniversary)	
	Weekday of Easter	St Joseph	7pm	Thomas Conway RIP
Wednesday 7th May	St Bede	10am	Pope Francis RIP	
	St John of Beverley	St John Boste	7pm	For the Cardinals of the Church
Thursday 8th May	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Carl Poulter RIP	
	Weekday of Easter	St Joseph	12 Noon	Susan O'Toole RIP
Friday 9th May	St John Boste	10am	In Memory of Clem Shannon	
	Weekday of Easter	St Joseph at St Benet's	9.15am	Veronica Farrer RIP
Saturday 10th May	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Priest's Intention	
	St John De Avila	St Joseph	5pm	People of the Parish
	Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Dragone & Gabriele Families RIP
Sunday 11th May	St John Boste	9:30am	80th Birthday In Thanksgiving	
	The 4th Sunday of Easter	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Lloyd McLinden RIP
	Good Shepherd Sunday	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

Bulletin Reflection – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Jesus said, 'Simon Son of John, do you love me more than these others do?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.'

We are all very familiar with this exchange between Jesus and Peter, which was repeated three times. The exchange is in the last chapter of John's Gospel and so is one of the last instructions Jesus gave Peter: 'Feed my lambs', 'Look after my sheep', 'Feed my sheep'. Jesus is giving him the responsibility to take over the care of God's people. Jesus constantly showed love, mercy and compassion towards the poor, the outcast and those who were unwell in body and spirit. Peter was to take on the role of leading the care for the downtrodden.

I am sure that we can see the parallels with the Conclave which is to begin this coming week. 135 Cardinals will follow the sacred process of discerning and selecting our next successor to St Peter. Peter was blessed with a personal invitation from Jesus to be responsible for the people of God. The next Pope will be invited by his fellow Cardinals to take on the responsibility of shepherd of the people of God. The Cardinals will be guided by the Holy Spirit. Our next Pope, whoever it is, will be inheriting a difficult, dangerous and complex world, with more violence and hatred than any time in many decades. We have more unpredictable, powerful and isolationist leaders than any time in many decades. Yet, that picture of President Trump and President Zelinski talking face to face in St. Peter's on the day of Pope Francis's funeral, gives us hope that the Pope can be a focus for peace and reconciliation.

We all need to pray now for a new Pontif who will be a voice of love, mercy, compassion and reason in a turbulent world. May he be someone all World leaders can turn to as an independent source of advice based on love and not a thirst for power. May the Holy Spirit be active in the hearts of all those involved in the Conclave.

Deacon Tony

**We have temporarily suspended all streaming services.
We apologise for any inconvenience caused.**

What's On in the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2 - 3pm.
St. Joseph's each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm, held in the church. 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
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 - Please note, the club is on a Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome!

To all members of the SVP 200 Club through St Joseph's, Birtley. The SVP would like to thank you for all the help that you have given to Vinnies during 2024-2025 through your membership. Subscriptions are now due for 2025-2026 from 1 June 2025 which will be £12 per number. To renew, please contact Peter Monaghan on 0191 4108103. Anyone wishing to join this worthwhile enterprise will be most welcome and can contact Peter for more information.

Confirmation Programme 2025

Confirmation Programme 2025 - Registrations close on 9 May!
The Confirmation programme for those in Years 9 and 10 and any young people who are older but have not been Confirmed will be starting soon. A registration form needs to be completed to join the programme. Please use this link for more information:

<https://washingtoncatholic.org.uk/Groups/377546/Confirmation.aspx>

If you have any questions please contact Deacon Tony Joy (07799 893419)

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Washington have a vacancy for a Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant, the hours are 11.30am to 1 pm each day. If you, or someone you know is interested, please call the school office for further details the number is 0191 9172484

Special Collection Next Week - Little Sisters of the Poor - St Joseph's Home in Elswick provides nursing care for Catholics throughout the diocese. The Sisters and lay staff give themselves unstintingly caring for all of their residents – which include priests and religious from our diocese. Our collection is to support the Sisters' work so we can rely on their services well into the future.

Strawberry Tea: Our Lady Queen of Peace Church will be holding a special coffee morning after 10.00am Mass on Sunday 11th May. This is in celebration of the 80th Anniversary of VE day, so our Strawberry tea will have a 40's theme. Please feel free to wear an item that is 40's inspired! There is no cost involved but we are hoping to receive donations of scones, jam, strawberries,

whipped or clotted cream and small cakes. To ensure we do not receive too much food, please sign the list at the back of Church to indicate if you are able to donate any of those foods. You do not need to donate to attend and all are welcome.

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 are all 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

Stella Maris Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk - From Monday 26 – Saturday 31 May 2025, join Stella Maris on a special Jubilee Pilgrimage Walk along St Cuthbert's Way, from the Scottish Borders to Holy Island, to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope. This beautiful 5-night, 6-day pilgrimage will be led by Stella Maris UK CEO, Tim Hill MBE and Senior Area Port Chaplain Deacon Joe O'Donnell. You'll get a chance to: Take in breathtaking scenery of the Northumberland coast. Pause for prayer and reflection as we walk in the footsteps of St Cuthbert. Share the journey with like-minded pilgrims. Support Stella Maris – your participation will help provide vital support to seafarers and fishers in need. The journey ends with a final, unforgettable walk across the tidal causeway to Lindisfarne to join a special celebration during the Jubilee of Families. Places are limited. Find out more or sign up today by visiting their website [here](#).

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 by [clicking here](#) or if you'd like to chat about the role please email BarbaraT@svp.org.uk

This month's tip for sustainable living: Be a zero-waste hero - Cutting down on plastic means cutting down on carbon as well. Take reusable products with you wherever you go – when you are enjoying your coffee from the local coffee-shop you are not adding to emissions by using a disposable cup. Choose products when shopping which are not wrapped in plastic or take advantage of a local zero-waste shop. This tells companies that you will not accept products packed in plastic. Use your £ to vote for change.

Contactless Donations

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

Other News (continued)

'Hope in a Time of Darkness' – A Lecture by His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP, Monday 23 June 2025; 7:45pm, Galilee Chapel, Durham Cathedral.

Durham Cathedral Institute is delighted to be hosting this year's Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University, hearing from speaker **Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe** and respondent **Prof Anna Rowlands**.

Cardinal Radcliffe is a distinguished Catholic priest, theologian, and church leader. Between 1992 and 2001, he served as Master of the Order of Preachers (also known as the Dominican Order). Radcliffe received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the University of Oxford in 2003; in 2023, he was appointed preacher to the Catholic Church's Synod on Synodality, and was made cardinal by Pope Francis in December 2024.

Anna Rowlands (respondent) is St Hilda Professor of Catholic Social Thought and Practice at Durham University. She is a political theologian whose research interests include the ethics of migration and the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching. In 2023, Rowlands took up a two-year secondment at the Vatican, where she contributed to the global synodal process. For more information and to book tickets, please visit <https://durhamcathedral.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173659458>. Please send any queries to ccs.admin@durham.ac.uk.

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear Joe Fitzpatrick speak about Bernard Lonergan, one of the most important Catholic philosophers and theologians of the 20th Century, in the hall of Holy Name church, Jesmond, Newcastle, on Tuesday 13 May, at 7.30pm.

"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](#)

Pilgrimage for Pentecost Challenge! As we journey into the Easter Season, have you considered organising a Pilgrimage for Pentecost? The Jubilee motto is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and we're invited on a spiritual journey as people of Hope, searching for an ever-deeper connection with God. Pilgrimages, journeys of spiritual and personal significance, offer profound opportunities for reflection and renewal. They can take us to sacred sites, historical landmarks, or even local places of importance, and help us connect deeply with our faith, heritage, and community. As we travel, we can meditate, pray, and share with each other, and that can give us a richer understanding of the Jubilee's themes of justice, mercy, and forgiveness. Pilgrimages are a great way to rejuvenate our spirits, strengthen our bonds with each other, and draw inspiration for the path ahead. Check out our information and resources [here](#) for some ideas and suggestions.

The Eucharist: A Gift to be Nurtured - As part of our aim to promote growth and knowledge of the Eucharist, the Association of the Eucharist offer [The Eucharist: A Gift to be Nurtured](#), which gives us words from Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis to guide time before the Blessed Sacrament. This resource can be used by both individuals and groups.

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](#).

Minsteracres Retreats - We offer a varied programme of day, weekend and week-long events throughout the year. Please see the programme details by [clicking here](#).

The Interreligious Team are holding their annual Christian Muslim Prayers for Peace on Saturday 14 June, at 2pm in the peaceful surroundings of the Lady Chapel in Jesmond Dene. Members of all faiths and none will be made most welcome. We need now more than ever to pray for peace in our world, communities and families. Our world peace seems highly fragile at the moment, and gathering in unity demonstrates our commitment to prayer for this important goal to be achieved. Men and young children are allowed to attend with their families.

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow this link to go to [Pray as You Go](#)

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](#)