

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 10TH - 11TH MAY 2025, Year C

Saturday 10th May	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
Fourth Sunday of Easter	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Lloyd McLinden RIP
Good Shepherd Sunday	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

First Reading: Paul turns to the Gentiles. Acts 13:14, 43b-52

In those days: Paul and Barnabas went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. Many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him. And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, 'It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."' And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed. And the word of the Lord was spreading throughout the whole region. But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Response to the Psalm: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Second Reading: The Innumerable Gathering of the Redeemed. Revelation 7:9, 13a, 14b-17

I, John, looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands. Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Jesus The Good Shepherd. John 10:27-30

At that time: Jesus said, 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.'

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 12th May 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 12th May Ss Nereus, Achillius & Pancras	St Bede	10am	Hodgson & Stephenson Families
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	90th Birthday of Maureen Jones
Tuesday 13th May Our Lady of Fatima	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Service of Word and Communion
	St Joseph	7pm	Rose Morris RIP
Wednesday 14th May St Matthias, Apostle	St Bede	10am*	Maria Buomo RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 15th May Weekday of Easter	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Barbara Young RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Michael Kelly RIP
Friday 16th May Weekday of Easter	St John Boste	10am*	Michael Quinn RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Denis Duffy RIP
Saturday 17th May Weekday of Easter	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	John McCoy RIP
	St Joseph	5pm*	People of the Parish
	St Bede	5pm	Frank & Kathleen Cummersdale RIP
Sunday 18th May The 5th Sunday of Easter	St John Boste	9:30am	First Anniversary of the death of my beloved husband John Twine
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Andrew Bell RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Deceased members of McDonagh Family

Reflection

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me”. Words from Jesus in the Gospel today - and an encouragement for us to rely fully on our Good Shepherd.

Following Jesus means doing His will, something we are all called to do.

Jesus came to do the will of the Father, and we should be driven to follow his example to serve the will of the Father also. In today’s culture, it is so normalised with the phrase “you do you”, but it is important to remember we serve a God far bigger than ourselves. God who created time and space, and God whose plan for our lives is greater than we could ever imagine.

So that being said, what is the will of the Father? Well, that’s not for me to say - the life of every believer is so vastly different, God calls each of His people to serve in different ways and do different things. Yet, what is certain, is His will is love. His will is extending a hand to the poor and vulnerable, His will is performing a simple act of kindness with no desire for a return, His will is serving those society dictates must serve us. His will is love.

This week, how can you love in a way that points to the Father? It is in doing this that we enact our faith and put it into action, and thus strive to become more like Christ, who came to do the will of the Father.

Hannah Bartlett

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:

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.

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 This 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](#).

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, a day when we pray in a special way for vocations to the Priesthood and religious life. Special prayer cards are distributed with vocation prayers for this intention. Thank you.

NEW SONG!

As we continue our pilgrim journey of Hope in this Jubilee Year, we look forward to welcoming Fr Mark Millward as our speaker this Sunday. Come and join us for some singing, some listening, some praying and some refreshments! All are welcome!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Parish Room NE38 7HS

When: 11 May 2025 at 4pm

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

"This is Medjugorje" - We will show this film next Sunday 6pm in the Emmaus room at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate. 1 Hour duration. All welcome. Teas and coffees. Following there will be a short meeting for those parishioners travelling on pilgrimage to Medjugorje in June.

First Holy Communions

Let us pray for all our children and their families preparing for their First Holy Communion in the coming weeks. All First Holy Communion Masses will take place on Saturday mornings throughout May and June.

May Devotions

Next Sunday in Our Blessed Lady Immaculate 4pm - 5.30pm. Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary & Benediction. Why not visit Church for a short time and spend some time with the Lord? All welcome.

Day of prayer for survivors of abuse

The Catholic Church in England and Wales dedicates Tuesday 20 May, 2025 as a day of prayer dedicated to survivors of abuse. We pray and remember all survivors on this day; the following link includes appropriate prayers for this day [here](#).

Introduction to Alpha

Please join us for a series of four conversations exploring Christianity in an open and friendly group especially for those who have little background in our faith or who have been away from church for a while. Beginning Tuesday 3 June 6.30pm - 8pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Washington. Please enrol through the parish website or contact our parish administrator.

Contactless Donations

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

Other News

Laudato Si' Mass

Bishop Stephen will celebrate Mass at 10am at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 24 May to celebrate 10 years since the publication of Pope Francis' encyclical – Laudato Si'.

All are welcome to attend this Mass which marks the start of Laudato Si' week. More information on the Diocesan website [here](#).

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](#).

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](#)

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

Dear Friends, I write to you today with a heartfelt and urgent appeal on behalf of St Joseph's Home in Newcastle. Like many others, we are feeling the profound effects of the current economic climate, yet the needs of our residents remain constant and, in many cases, more pressing than ever. We urgently need to replace essential medical equipment.

In addition, we face structural and aesthetic needs: water penetration in the Chapel vestry, necessary redecorations throughout the Home including the Chapel, and the replacement of furnishings in the residents' rooms.

If you are able to help, donations can be sent by cheque, payable to Little Sisters of the Poor, to: St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, secure online donations can be made by visiting our website [here](#). No gift is too small.

With gratitude for your continued compassion and prayers,
Sister Kathleen Mary,
Mother Superior

The Suzy Fund. Tony and Roseanna Erskine are hosting the annual exhibition of Tony's work in The Crossman Hall Holy Island on 2 and 3 June. All profits www.suzyfund.org to supporting a feeding station and fistula hospital in Ethiopia. It would be lovely to see you on this the charity's 50th anniversary.

The Legacy of Pope Francis and the Future of Christianity - After 12 years of the one of the most reforming pontificates in modern times, how does the Christian future now look? In a lecture at Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX on Saturday 17 May at 11am, Pope Francis' foremost English-language biographer and collaborator, Dr Austen Ivereigh, will look both back and ahead to argue that the Francis era has reshaped the Church's ability to respond to a new, global era. The event will be chaired by Professor Anna Rowlands, Professor of Catholic Social Thought and Practice at the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University. Anna has been a regular contributor to BBC Radio 4's Thought for the Day. She and Austen were both in Rome as expert facilitators at the October 2024 gathering of Bishops making proposals for renewal of the Church - proposals which were accepted by Pope Francis. The lecture will take place in the church, booking is not required and all are welcome.

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](#)