

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 17TH - 18TH MAY 2025, Year C

Saturday 17th May	St Joseph	5pm*	People of the Parish
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Frank & Kathleen Cummersdale RIP
Sunday 18th May	St John Boste	9:30am	First Anniversary of the death of my beloved husband John Twine
Fifth Sunday of Easter	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Andrew Bell RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Deceased members of McDonagh Family

First Reading: The End of Paul's First Missionary Journey. Acts 14:21b-27

In those days: Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

Response to the Psalm: I will bless your name for ever, my God and King.

Second Reading: The New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:1-5a

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.' And he who was seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.'

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: The Commandment of Love. John 13:31-33a, 34-35

When Judas had gone out from the upper room, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. Little children, yet a little while I am with you. 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

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 19th May 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 19th May St Dunstan	St Bede	10am	Private Intention (AC)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Pope Leo XIV
Tuesday 20th May St Bernadine of Siena	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Gerard McCabe RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Bell & Tom & Billy Buee
Wednesday 21st May Ss Godric of Finchale & Christopher Magallanes	St Bede	10am*	Seamus Cronogue RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intention
Thursday 22nd May St Rita of Cascia	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Gordon McClurey RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	George Jackson RIP
Friday 23rd May Weekday of Easter	St John Boste	10am*	A Private Intention (AD)
	St Joseph at St Benet's School	9:15am	Christine Thompson RIP
Saturday 24th May Weekday of Easter	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Mercedes Gallagher RIP
	St Joseph	5pm*	Denis Duffy RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
	St John Boste	9:30am	Maldwyn & Eleanor Roberts RIP
Sunday 25th May The 6th Sunday of Easter	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Jim Devitte & Terry & Brendan Ford RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	David & Jackie Herbert RIP

Excerpt from the First Homily of Pope Leo XIV

‘YOU ARE THE CHRIST THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD’

In a particular way; God has called me by election to succeed the Prince of the Apostles, St Peter, and has entrusted this treasure of Faith so that, with his help, I may be a faithful administrator for the sake of the mystical Body of the Church (1 Cor. 4:2). He has done so in order that she may be ever more fully a city set on a hill, an ark of Salvation sailing through the waters of history, and a beacon that illumines the dark night of this world. And this, not so much through the magnificence of her buildings – but rather through the holiness of her members. For we are the people whom God has chosen as his own, so that we may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 29).

I say this first of all to myself, as successor of St Peter, as I begin my mission as Bishop of Rome, and according to the well known expression of St Ignatius of Antioch, am called to preside in charity over the universal Church. Saint Ignatius, who was led in chains into this city of Rome, the place of his impending sacrifice, wrote to the Christians, “Then I will be truly a disciple of Jesus Christ, when the world no longer sees my body.” Ignatius was speaking about being devoured by the wild beasts in the arena – and so it happened – but his words apply more generally to anyone in the Church who holds a position of authority. It is to move aside so that Christ may remain, to make oneself small so that Christ may be known and glorified. To spend oneself to the utmost so that all may have the opportunity to know and love him.

May God grant me this grace, today and always, through the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church.

Leo XIV

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!

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](#).

"This is Medjugorje" - We will show this film this 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

This 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.

Ceilidh!

You may remember some of the fun parish ceilidh nights we've had in the past with music provided by 'The Whole Shebang'.

We realised this year that the band has been going 25 years and so we're planning a 25th celebration gig on Friday 4 July in the North Biddick Club in Washington to raise money for HCPT. Tickets are £7 and are available from Frank or Chris O'Neill. Come and have some fun and support a good cause!

SVP Sing And Chat at the Black Bush

Everyone is welcome to join us at The Black Bush, Washington Village from 12.15pm until 3pm on Friday 23 May.

SVP 200 Club May Draw

The draw for the May winner of the SVP 200 Club has now been made. We have two winners from our partnership - congratulations to Elizabeth Kelly and Margaret Humphreys both from the St John XXIII parish.

Rosary

Join us in the Rosary every Saturday morning during the month of Mary (May) at OBLI after 10am Mass.

Streaming

Please note that we are unable to stream Services of Word and Communion. We understand that this is a Diocesan requirement.

Thank You

Many thanks to all those who joined us at OLQP to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of VE day. It was a wonderful occasion. A special thank you to all those who contributed in any way; those who donated and prepared food, made floral arrangements, provided the music, served food and drink and cleaned up. A big thank you to those who decorated and set up the room to create such a wonderful backdrop for our celebration.

The Ascension

Thursday 29 May is the Feast of the Ascension. It is also a Holyday of Obligation. The Wednesday evening Mass at St John Boste is the Vigil Mass of the feast. Thursday Masses: 10am at Our Lady Queen of Peace, 12 noon at St Joseph's and an evening Mass at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate at 7pm.

Contactless Donations

We are trialling a contactless donation plate at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church. It will be situated at the back of church. If it proves successful we will install one 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](#).

Science and Faith: An Invitation to Conversation

Rev Prof David Wilkinson and the Youth Ministry Trust (YMT) warmly invite anyone interested in the conversation between science and faith to an open meeting on Wednesday, 28 May at the Emmaus Youth Village, 5:30pm–6:45pm.

We want to connect with those involved in science, technology, engineering, healthcare, and education, recognising, as Rev Prof David Wilkinson explains:

“At ECLAS and YMT, we value the work and vocation of those who work in science, technology, and engineering; we value this as a gift from God and as an opportunity for the mission and ministry of the church. We would like to talk with those who are involved in science at whatever level in university, industry, schools, or the health service about the possibility of doing work in local churches in the diocese.”

This is an open invitation to begin a conversation and explore how these gifts can enrich the life and mission of our parishes. All are welcome!

For more information, please contact phillipsalkeld@ymt.org or 01207592244.

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](#).

“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](#)

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.

Job Vacancy

An exciting opportunity is available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for an Assistant Cook. Please note, sponsorship for this role is not available and applicants must have the right to work in the UK, which will be checked if successful. Hours available: 30 hours per week, includes evenings and weekends. For more information, please contact Lee-Marie Thornley on 07856 256095 or email lee.marie@lsplondon.co.uk

Mass for Pentecost

We will be hosting a Mass for Pentecost at St Mary's Cathedral again at 1pm on Saturday 31 May 2025. Pope Francis emphasised that a primary role of the new structure he launched in 2019, CHARIS, is to point all communities of the Charismatic Renewal to "communion on the path ahead." The annual Mass for Pentecost is proving to be a blessed opportunity for sisters and brothers in Renewal to come together in communion on the path ahead for us in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. The Mass in 2025 will be our contribution to the Year of Jubilee, focusing, in particular, on our calling as Pilgrims of Hope. **John Wheeler, Co-ordinator Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan Service of Communion.**

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](#)