

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 31ST MAY 2025 - 1ST JUNE 2025, Year C

Saturday 31st May	St Joseph	5pm*	Thomas Conway RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Medjugorje Pilgrims
Sunday 1st June	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
Seventh Sunday of Easter	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	In Loving Memory of Andrew Bell on his Birthday
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Anne McDonagh & Deceased Family

First Reading: The Martyrdom of Stephen Acts 7:55-60

In those days: Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.' But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is King, most high above all the earth.

Second Reading: The Final Coming of Christ Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

I, John, heard a voice saying to me, 'Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.' Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. 'I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.' The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord. I am going away, and I will come to you and your hearts will rejoice. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Glory of Christ John 17:20-26

At that time: Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven, and praying said, '[Holy Father,] I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

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 2nd June 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 2nd June Ss Marcellinus & Peter	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	SVP
Tuesday 3rd June St Charles Lwanga	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Holy Communion & Word Service
	St Joseph	7pm	Thanksgiving – The Boys
Wednesday 4th June	St Bede	10am*	Holy Souls
	St John Boste	7pm	Holy Communion & Word Service
Thursday 5th June St Boniface	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Living Members of the Cosgrove & Docherty Families
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Tony Carey RIP
Friday 6th June St Norbert	St John Boste	10am	Holy Communion & Word Service
	St Joseph at St Benet's	9:15am	Frank McEnaney RIP
Saturday 7th June St Robert of Newminster Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	John Bevan RIP
	St Joseph	5pm*	Patricia Toft RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Syd McCluskey RIP
Sunday 8th June Pentecost	St John Boste	9:30am	Intentions of Pope Leo XIV
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Amy Routledge RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

A Sermon From St Augustine for the Ascension

Today our Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven; let our hearts ascend with him. Listen to the words of the Apostle: If you have risen with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are above where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God; seek the things that are above, not the things that are on earth. For just as he remained with us even after his ascension, so we too are already in heaven with him, even though what is promised us has not yet been fulfilled in our bodies.

Christ is now exalted above the heavens, but he still suffers on earth all the pain that we, the members of his body, have to bear. He showed this when he cried out from above: Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? and when he said: I was hungry and you gave me food.

Why do we on earth not strive to find rest with him in heaven even now, through the faith, hope and love that unites us to him? While in heaven he is also with us; and we while on earth are with him. He is here with us by his divinity, his power and his love. We cannot be in heaven, as he is on earth, by divinity, but in him, we can be there by love.

He did not leave heaven when he came down to us; nor did he withdraw from us when he went up again into heaven. The fact that he was in heaven even while he was on earth is borne out by his own statement: No one has ever ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man, who is in heaven.

These words are explained by our oneness with Christ, for he is our head and we are his body. No one ascended into heaven except Christ because we also are Christ: he is the Son of Man by his union with us, and we by our union with him are the sons of God. So the Apostle says: Just as the human body, which has many members, is a unity, because all the different members make one body, so is it also with Christ. He too has many members, but one body.

Out of compassion for us he descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace. Thus, no one but Christ descended and no one but Christ ascended; not because there is no distinction between the head and the body, but because the body as a unity cannot be separated from the head.

Pray for the Coming of the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray, O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord.

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 2pm - 3pm.
St. Joseph's each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm. 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 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](#).

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.

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!

Rosary

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

Special Collection This Week - World Communications Sunday

- OK - so who doesn't have a 'Smart Phone'? How do bishops learn to respond to local newspaper, TV and radio interviews? It is said there are tons of ways of communicating with people - just ask someone you know from Year 4! Our Church needs to learn how to be in touch with the world we live in. This Collection helps to train Church leaders to cope with media questions, and how to train local people to work with local media.

Special Collection Next Week - Lay Training Fund

(remains open until 6 July) - Bishop Kevin Dunn asked for this fund to be established to help lay men and women explore what it means to be a Catholic in the world - as local councilors, folk involved in local politics, influencing decisions made that make a difference in our local communities. It is about being really active in the local Community as Catholics - given that Jesus invited his followers to make a difference where they lived. To find out more, please contact [Amy Cameron](#) of the Faith and Mission Vicariate.

Mass Intentions at St Josephs

If you wish to arrange a Mass Intention at St Joseph's, special envelopes are available at the back of Church and in the Sacristy. We already have bookings over a year in advance so, if you want to pick a particular day, please give as much notice as possible to save disappointment.

Corpus Christi. Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Ushaw

On Sunday 22 June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, starting at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Tea and coffee will be available after the service. You do not need a ticket for this event, but please sign up on the sheet available at the back of church to help Ushaw to estimate numbers. Please indicate if you are bringing a car, this will help Ushaw to manage car parking requirements.

Coach travel to this event is available, the cost is £10 per head. Please sign the list at the back of church. The coach will leave Our Blessed Lady Immaculate at 2pm returning at approximately 6pm.

Job Vacancy

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following vacancy: Parish Secretary, St Bede & Ss Peter & Paul, South Shields - 12 hours per week, permanent contract. Closing date: 12 June. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

First Friday Devotions

First Friday Devotions of Eucharistic Adoration, Benediction and Mass will not take place in June as both Father Martin (Morris) and Father Luke are away from the Parish. The devotions will resume on the first Friday in July.

Other News

Bishop Stephen has issued the following statement on the announcement of a new Pope:

On behalf of the diocesan family here in Hexham and Newcastle I welcome the joyful news that Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost has been chosen to serve the worldwide Church as our new Pope.

We keep Pope Leo XIV in our prayers. May the Lord bless his ministry. May he truly be the Servant of the Servants of Christ sustaining and guiding us all in our journey of faith.

This month's tip for sustainable living: Finances, Pensions and Investments

Investigate whether your bank is investing in fossil fuels and if so, consider switching to a sustainable bank. If you have a private pension check with your pension provider whether they invest in fossil fuels and if so write and ask them to divest. Ensure any investments you hold are invested ethically, free from fossil fuels. More information about switching to a green bank is available from: [The Big Bank Switch](#).

CAFOD Prayers and Reflections - Our prayer as a global community is more important than ever. Let's stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world as we pray together with them and for all people who are experiencing poverty. Browse our collection of prayers, bidding prayers, reflections, liturgy and resources on a wide range of themes and throughout the liturgical year. Please visit CAFOD's [website](#) for prayer resources for Pentecost.

'Jubilee for All' – A Resource for Families

Jubilee for All is a new resource from CELEBRATE Trust for the Jubilee year. *Jubilee for All* has been developed for families, especially those with additional needs, to enjoy pilgrimage in their local diocese in the Jubilee Year of Hope. CELEBRATE Trust have designed short creative activities that families can choose from to enable them to draw close to Jesus, our hope, and to enable them to share that love with others. To download the resource for free, [visit here](#) and click on '*Jubilee for All*'.

The Justice and Peace Refugee Project: At the Justice and Peace Refugee Project, we provide a warm welcome to asylum seekers from many places across the world, with new clients registering every week. In March this year, 468 individuals and families were supported by the project. Your continued donations of food, toiletries and finance continue to be extremely welcome. We also continue to source fresh produce from local supermarkets, which is gratefully received by clients. Items most urgently needed can be [found here](#). The latest newsletter can be found by [clicking here](#). For more information please [click here](#).

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.

A Call for Volunteers with the Gift of Music - Music makes the world of difference to our lives, especially in our worship. Vatican II recognised 'the importance of singing' in the celebration of the Mass and that it should be 'integral to worship' with 'due consideration for the culture of the people and abilities of each liturgical assembly'. The Diocesan Church Music Association (DCMA) is a body of volunteer musicians within Hexham and Newcastle who aim to help parishes in their use of music for the Mass. We offer practical help and guidance to parish musicians, considering that each parish will have its own musical 'house-style'. This may be a traditional choir-and-organ setup, an instrumental group, a praise & worship band, or perhaps unaccompanied singing. Previously we have put on singing days and workshops to highlight new Mass settings, simple Communion songs, music for the Triduum, as well as a 'keyboard-free' workshop for those parishes who do not have a pianist or organist. For more information please click: [DCMA](#)

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](#)