

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 19TH - 20TH JULY 2025 Year C

Saturday 19th July	St Joseph	5pm*	People of the Parish
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 20th July	St John Boste	9:30am	Rita & Jim Kirkwood RIP
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Jim & Betty Walker Wedding Anniversary

First Reading: Abraham's Hospitality

Genesis 18:1-10a

In those days: The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, 'O Lord, if I have found favour in your sight, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, 'Quick! Three measures of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes.' And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. Then he took curds and milk, and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, 'Where is Sarah your wife?' And he said, 'She is in the tent.' The Lord said, 'I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son.'

Response to the Psalm: O Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

Second Reading: The Servant of the Church

Colossians 1:24-28

Brothers and Sisters: Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body — that is, the Church — of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known — the mystery hidden for ages and generations, but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are those who hold fast to the word of God in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Martha and Mary

Luke 10:38-42

At that time: Jesus entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.'

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 21st July 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 21st July St Laurence of Brindisi	St Bede	10am	Celia Stephenson RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 22nd July St Mary Magdalene	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Peggy Lawson RIP 1st Anniversary
	St Joseph	7pm	Bob & Cath McLeman RIP
Wednesday 23rd July St Bridget	St Bede	10am	Seamus Cronogue RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 24th July Martyrs of the Diocese	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Priest's Intention
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Special Intention of Alec & Pat Ewing
Friday 25th July St James	St John Boste	10am*	Holy Souls
	St Joseph	10am	Peter Ryan
Saturday 26th July Ss Joachim & Anne	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Gerard McCabe RIP
	St Joseph	5pm*	Brian & Susan Towns RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Fr John Coyle - 68th year of ordination & for a 68th Wedding Anniversary
Sunday 27th July The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	In Gratitude for a good & long life
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	David Barry RIP Birthday Memory

From a homily on St Mary Magdalene (whose feast we celebrate this week) by Pope St Gregory the Great

When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and did not find the Lord's body, she thought it had been taken away and so informed the disciples. After they came and saw the tomb, they too believed what Mary had told them. The text then says: *The disciples went back home, and it adds: but Mary wept and remained standing outside the tomb.*

We should reflect on Mary's attitude and the great love she felt for Christ; for though the disciples had left the tomb, she remained. She was still seeking the one she had not found, and while she sought she wept; burning with the fire of love, she longed for him who she thought had been taken away. And so it happened that the woman who stayed behind to seek Christ was the only one to see him. For perseverance is essential to any good deed, as the voice of truth tells us: *Whoever perseveres to the end will be saved.*

At first she sought but did not find, but when she persevered it happened that she found what she was looking for. When our desires are not satisfied, they grow stronger, and becoming stronger they take hold of their object. Holy desires likewise grow with anticipation, and if they do not grow they are not really desires. Anyone who succeeds in attaining the truth has burned with such a great love. As David says: *My soul has thirsted for the living God; when shall I come and appear before the face of God?* And so also in the Song of Songs the Church says: *I was wounded by love;* and again: *My soul is melted with love.*

Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek? She is asked why she is sorrowing so that her desire might be strengthened; for when she mentions whom she is seeking, her love is kindled all the more ardently.

Jesus says to her: Mary. Jesus is not recognised when he calls her "woman"; so he calls her by name, as though he were saying: Recognise me as I recognise you; for I do not know you as I know others; I know you as yourself. And so Mary, once addressed by name, recognises who is speaking. She immediately calls him *rabboni*, that is to say, *teacher*, because the one whom she sought outwardly was the one who inwardly taught her to keep on searching.

Domine ut videam, Domina ut sit!

My Lord that I may see, My Lady may it be!

Fr Luke

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.

Note: If streaming is not available, please [click here](#)
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.

Devotion to our Blessed Lady at St Bede's - The holy rosary will be recited every Monday morning after 10am mass. If anyone would like to remember a loved one by bringing fresh flowers they would be very welcome & they will be displayed by the flower ladies, All welcome

OLOF (Our Lady's over 50's club) - The OLOF group meet in the Lindisfarne Room at St Bede's Church, Coach Road on Tuesdays at 1pm. All welcome.

Appeal for new volunteers – Can you Help out?

We are blessed with many parishioners who give of their time and effort in enabling our Parishes to run so well, I am very grateful for everyone's support. However, we are in need of more help with the following areas of Parish life: Accounts/Book-keeping, Administration/office work, Catechists for Baptism, Gardening/grounds maintenance. If you think you could help out in any of these areas please visit the following link and leave your details, and one of the Priests will contact you. **Paper copies of the form are also available at the back of church.** Thank you, Fr. Martin Morris. <https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/nbyAuLzPpY>

This Sunday there will be silent Eucharistic Exposition at Our Blessed Lady's 4-5pm. Followed by Rosary & Benediction. Why not visit the Church, just for a short while and spend time in the peace and presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? All welcome.

50th Anniversary - This year, St John Boste Catholic Primary School is celebrating its 50th anniversary. We would like to ask if any former pupils, parents or staff have any photographs, could they send them in to school at mainschool@sjb.bwcet.com, Facebook Messenger or call into school and we can copy. Thank you very much.

SVP 200 Club July Draw-The latest SVP 200 Club draw was made on Thursday 3rd July. Congratulations to Catherine Tumelty and Marjorie Robinson from St Joseph's who were successful in the draw.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate will be one of the locations hosting an exciting new initiative coming to the UK, that seeks to form lay people for mission. The "Dominican Lay Mission" project brings people to discover their individual charisms and gifts and discern practical ways to put these to use in the service of the Gospel, in their secular contexts and so sanctify the world. The course takes place over 3 years, for 26 weeks of each year, and comprises a weekly 1-hour video to watch at home in your own time; a fellowship meeting twice per month at Our Lady's on a Friday at 7:30pm; an annual retreat and a day workshop. The course starts in September. There will be an information evening at Our Lady's at 7:30pm on Monday 8th September. For more information or to register your interest, email lay.mission@english.op.org or speak to Fr Luke.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Gardens - We would welcome donations of any unwanted gardening tools such as forks, spades, trowels, secateurs etc. for volunteers keeping the borders tidy. Please bring them to church or ring Chris O'Neill on 07815162153 if you need them collected. Thank you.

Holy Communion for the Sick & Housebound: If you know of any parishioners who are unable to get to Mass and would like Holy Communion brought to them at home, please give their name, address and telephone no. to any of our Priests.

Other News

The 53rd Annual Blessed John Ingram Walk - 27 July 2025. You are cordially invited to the 53rd Annual Blessed John Ingram walk, which takes place on Sunday 27 July 2025 led by Fr Dermot Preston SJ. Meeting and starting from St Andrew's Anglican Church at 2.30pm, the walk will end at St Edmund's Chapel, High Street, Gateshead for an ecumenical service followed by refreshments (non-walkers can meet there at 3.30pm).

Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia on Thursday 24th July, the Vigil of the Feast of St James. These days seem quite dark, what with Parliament voting to partly decriminalise abortion and voting to legalise euthanasia. Please invite others to join us in praying and fasting for life, you can do so with this link, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1419157822872567>

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 Year of Jubilee 2025 is a beacon of hope - We're all invited into an encounter with Jesus Christ, as his disciples of mercy, forgiveness, and social action, and to celebrate our communities. It's a chance to envision a better future, a future of hope and faith where mercy guides our actions. It's a time for forgiveness and reconciliation within our communities. We can take action to address injustices, support the vulnerable, and work towards a more equitable society. Let's embrace the spirit of the Jubilee, and unite to create a world of compassion and justice, where everyone and our whole community can grow and flourish. Please visit the Diocesan Jubilee [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

Deliver Us From Evil - A set of useful prayers and supplications, humble requests for the Lord's help, that can be used by Catholics in times of fear, distress and temptation. The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) has published a new booklet by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales offering a treasury of prayers drawn from Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition that can be used by Catholics to protect themselves from the powers of darkness. Discover the new booklet [here](#).

WeBelieve Festival - 25th – 28th July 2025, St Mary's College Oscott. We have a hope in Jesus! **WeBelieve** is a Festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope. This July, we are gathering the whole Church to celebrate our faith in Jesus. This festival is brand new and you are invited to build it with us. Tickets are available now at: www.webelievefestival.com, or contact the Diocesan Jubilee team by [clicking here](#). for promotional materials and details how parishes can register.

Alive in HOPE: A Church for MISSION. Bishop Stephen invites you to a **Jubilee Day** on Saturday 27th September, from 10 am to 3 pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Everyone is welcome! There'll be guest speakers from the Prisons' Chaplaincy and the Justice & Peace Refugee Project, and a choice of seminars/forums to reawaken and empower us for mission. This is an opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and to celebrate our diocesan family as we explore what a Church in Mission invites us to be and do! There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a prayer space in the chapel, and praise and worship led by Durham musicians 'Set A Fire'. Take a look around the marketplace where there'll be stands and gifts from some of our Catholic partners and groups. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25> where you'll also find more information about the seminars you'll be able to join during the day. For enquiries and parish/group bookings telephone Amy on 0191 2433316. Search on Facebook, X and Bluesky using the hashtag #DHNAlive25 for the latest information and updates.

Safeguarding - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is a priority in every parish and diocesan organisation. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is fully committed in the church and operates a zero-tolerance approach. The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. We adopt and implement fully the policies and procedures of the Catholic Church of England and Wales, which is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact a safeguarding officer in any of our churches – their details are on the noticeboard in the porch. Details of our Diocesan policy can be found by [clicking here](#).

The 15th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 26th July 2025. As always there are several ways you can join in, either in prayer, or by joining us in walking a short section of the pilgrimage or even in walking the whole 27 miles! To be involved you can; **Sponsor Nathanael as he raises funds for Good Counsel's life-saving work**; <https://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-mothers-and-babies-with-the-gk-chesterton-pilgrimage> Send prayer intentions for us to pray for along the way, we will not make the intentions public; catholicgkcsociety@yahoo.co.uk and find other details of the walk and the Mass here, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1675870979701803>

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor". Thinking about a vocation to the Priesthood? For more information, speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

'Jubilee for All' – A Resource for Families - 'Jubilee for All' is a new resource from CELEBRATE Trust for the Jubilee year. It 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'.

Job Vacancy - The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint an IT Field Engineer to work with the Technology Services Manager in the delivery of the Diocesan Technology strategy across our Diocesan and Parish communities. This includes close collaboration with Clergy, staff and volunteers to assess requirements, provide technical guidance, in-person support, project delivery and hardware configuration. The role provides an opportunity to contribute to the mission and values by leveraging technology to support and empower the Diocese and Parish communities. A copy of the Job Description can be obtained from annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk The closing date for applications is 09:00 Friday 1st August 2025. This role is exclusively available to internal candidates.

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. Download a copy [here](#).

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 stjoh23bulletin@gmail.com](#)