

# 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](mailto:StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk)  
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



## In the Partnership of Benedict

Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Penshaw, Sacriston, Washington

### SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 26TH - 27TH JULY 2025 Year C

Saturday 26th July <b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm*	<b>Brian &amp; Susan Towns RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Fr John Coyle - 68th year of ordination &amp; for a 68th Wedding Anniversary</b>
Sunday 27th July <b>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>In Gratitude for a good &amp; long life</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>David Barry RIP Birthday Memory</b>

#### First Reading: Abraham Bargains with God

Genesis 18:20-32

In those days: The Lord said, 'Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.' So the men turned from there and went towards Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. Then Abraham drew near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' And the Lord said, 'If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.' Abraham answered and said, 'Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?' And he said, 'I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.' Again he spoke to him and said, 'Suppose forty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of forty I will not do it.' Then he said, 'Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.' He answered, 'I will not do it, if I find thirty there.' He said, 'Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.' Then he said, 'Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.' He answered, 'For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.'

**Response to the Psalm: On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.**

#### Second Reading: Baptized into Christ

Colossians 2:12-14

Brothers and Sisters: You have been buried with Christ in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. You have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father! Alleluia.**

#### The Gospel: The Lord's Prayer

Luke 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' And he said to them, 'When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.' And he said to them, 'Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey and I have nothing to set before him"; and he will answer from within, "Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything"? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

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 28th July 2025 (Streamed Mass \*)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 28th July	St Bede	10am	<b>Pope Leo XIV</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	<b>Carl Poulter</b>
Tuesday 29th July <b>Ss Mary, Martha &amp; Lazarus</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Peter Leeder RIP</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Thomas Ryan</b>
Wednesday 30th July <b>St Peter Chrysologus</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Patricia Powell RIP</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Charlotte Nellist RIP</b>
Thursday 31st July <b>St Ignatius of Loyola</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Private Intention 'Daniel'</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Harriet Rowntree RIP</b>
Friday 1st August <b>St Alphonsus Liguori</b>	St John Boste	10am*	<b>Blessed by God in his Angels and Saints</b>
	St Joseph	10am	<b>Ryan Family</b>
Saturday 2nd August <b>Ss Eusebius of Vercelli &amp; Peter Julian Eymard</b>  <b>Vigil</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Thanksgiving 90th Birthday (K)</b>
	St Joseph	5pm*	<b>Stella Atkinson RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Joan &amp; Frank Barrett RIP</b>
Sunday 3rd August <b>The 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Paul Iley RIP, Anniversary</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Intentions of Sr Briege McKenna</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	<b>People of the Parish</b>

For such a momentous passage, giving us the first expression of what would become to be known as The Lord's Prayer, today's Gospel from Luke starts in a very understated way. The words of Jesus, the Teacher, have permeated the spiritual consciousness of millions since. The cadence of the words is so familiar to us that we recognize it in unfamiliar languages and thrill at it. When we are faced, as we all are, with unexpected tragedy or fear, these are the words which rise unbidden.

But the introduction in Luke's Gospel couldn't be more vague; "Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...'"

Here Luke is demonstrating just how often the disciples witnessed Jesus in prayer. This was one of many occasions, not fixed by time or place. This request would have been put many times by the disciples. What this disciple wanted was not a word formula but a way of connecting his life to God as they witnessed daily in Jesus. The disciple wanted to turn his life into an extended act of prayer.

The words Jesus teaches are simple, far removed from the extended forms of prayer used by the rabbis which would produce awe in the uneducated Jewish population, to which the disciples belonged. There is a shocking familiarity in the use of "Father" which they would not have heard in the synagogue. It is, first and foremost, a prayer for a community of believers; "our" and "us" not "my" and "me". The prayer takes life in the shared life of the community, how we treat each other. We must recognize first of all the holiness, the uniqueness of God and praise him; the Father who sustains us every day and forgives us our constant sidesteps away from His Kingdom. The prayer demands the same generosity of spirit of us.

Jesus then moves to his familiar teaching tool, a parable. The disciples lived in a world where correct hospitality was paramount. We remember the wedding feast at Cana. Here a man receiving an unexpected guest late at night, is forced to make a bolt to a neighbour for more bread. Chaos would ensue as humans and animals would be wakened by the unfortunate host's cries. However, if not by friendliness, then by the social etiquette of the time, the disturbed neighbour would relent. The listener is left to ponder how much more receptive the ear of God would be to human cries.

In the last paragraph, with so many familiar imperatives; ask, seek, find and knock, Jesus is emphasizing the need for *persistent and active* prayer. The images are clear and bold. The door opens to our knock. A father will give a son food that nourishes not a stone or a scorpion. Of course, there remains the paradox of perceived "unanswered prayers", now as much as for the first followers of Jesus. The resolution comes in the final sentence of the Gospel. What the Father gives us liberally in response to our prayers is the Holy Spirit. The more we pray, the more we are spiritually strengthened, the closer our connectedness to each other and to the God we praise as Holy. The door opens according to God's agency.

**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 area's 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 area's 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/fi/nbyAuLzPpY>

**St John Boste Church Cleaning** – On Monday 28 July 2025, we will be church cleaning at 10 am. Existing and new helpers more than welcome!

**St Bede's Toddler Group** is now closed for the school holidays. Several of our members have left to start nursery or school in September. We have vacancies for next term. We welcome babies once they have their first injections and until they go to nursery or school. The session is on Monday mornings from 9.30-11.00 in St Bede's Parish Hall and costs £2.00. The children can play, do creative activities, have refreshments and enjoy singing. We restart on Monday 8th September. To save a place text Joan Formosa on 07504579591

**Newsletter emails** - Please note that we are currently having an issue e-mailing the newsletter to [@btinternet.com](mailto:@btinternet.com) email addresses, as the messages are being blocked as spam. We will resolve this as soon as possible.

**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](mailto: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

**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 2025 National Jubilee Walking Pilgrimage of Hope** - 24 August 2025-14 September 2025. What does it mean to be a 'pilgrim of hope'? The *Pilgrimage of Hope* will be an opportunity for Catholics in England & Wales to witness to their hope in the crucified and risen Christ. It will be a national walking pilgrimage with four main Ways converging at the Cathedral of St Barnabas, Nottingham, on Saturday 13th September 2025, the eve of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The Ways will bless our nations with a Sign of the Cross and with the gospels. For more information please [click here](#).

**What is God? Philosophical, Christian and Islamic Approaches, 22 – 25 August 2025** - Our annual course in partnership with CEPHAS will look at the nature and knowledge of God from a pre-religious, philosophical understanding, before comparing the Islamic concept of God with the Christian, leaning on St Thomas Aquinas' elaboration of the Trinity and the Incarnation. For more information and to book please [click here](#).

**Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal** - David and Theresa O'Neill ask you to support their fundraising for the Sisters through their collections of stamps, foreign currency, old or broken gold & silver & military medals. To date they have raised over £16,200 by these means. If you can help, contact them at: David & Theresa O'Neill, 34 Morston Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7RZ Tel: 0191 264 5771 Email: [david-oneill3@sky.com](mailto:david-oneill3@sky.com)

**Year of Jubilee Calendar** - A calendar of all the key dates and events for the Year of Jubilee (currently from June to December 2025) in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has been produced and will be updated periodically. **Download the calendar [here](#).** You can also view or download the Vatican's calendar of major events by visiting their Jubilee website [here](#)

**Alive in HOPE: A Church for MISSION.** Bishop Stephen invites you to a **Jubilee Day** on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> 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** - The agency that oversees safeguarding in the Catholic Church has observed "good practice" in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle across all eight of the recognised National Safeguarding Standards.

In an audit report recently published, the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) in particular hailed major improvements in Church leadership, governance, ministry, culture and the care of those people who have been harmed. [Click here](#) to read the CSSA final report.

[Click here](#) to read the Diocesan statement in full.

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**"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](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk) The closing date for applications is 09:00 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025. This role is exclusively available to internal candidates.

**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. **We welcome new members to join the Diocesan Church Music Association team.** Our current team members are all from the Durham area, but our aim is always to have representatives from all areas of the Diocese to help inform and plan our work. Quick Links: [DCMA](#)

**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](#)