

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: 01916498257
 Administrator: Audrey Huntley tel: 0191 4163583
 (Tuesday & Wednesday 8am-1pm, Thursday 11am-4pm & Friday 12-5pm)
 Email: sj23office01@gmail.com



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, 27TH – 28TH APRIL 2024, Year B

Saturday 27th April Vigil	St Bede's St Joseph's	5pm 5pm	People of the Parish Mary & Rob Bryson & Alan McGuinness RIP
Sunday 28th April 5th Sunday	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9.30am 10am 11am	Clem Shannon RIP Edward Ashburner RIP Ronnie Adams & Deceased McAdam Family RIP

First Reading: Paul's Fearless Proclamation Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Response to the Psalm: You Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Second Reading: The Two Commandments 1 John 3:18-24

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we

shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation: : Alleluia, Alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!

The Gospel: (John 15:1-8): The True Vine

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away - he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples."

© Copyright 2024 The Wednesday Word Trust

Fr Martin Morris	0191 649 8257	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Peter Lavery	0730 505 9297
Fr Luke Wilkinson	0191 649 8257	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 29th April 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 29th April St Catherine of Siena	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Farrell Tansey
Tuesday 30th April St Pius V	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Rev Philip Carroll
	St Joseph	7pm	Tony Carey RIP
Wednesday 1st May St Joseph the Worker	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	St John Boste	7pm	Ann Howsley RIP
Thursday 2nd May St Athanasius	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Felicity Miller RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	In Thanksgiving (CB)
Friday 3rd May Ss Philip & James	St John Boste	10am	Ann Howsley RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Greta Brennan RIP
Saturday 4th May The English Martyrs Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Margaret & Vin McCormack RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Frank McEnaney RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Monaghan Family
Sunday 5th May 6th Sunday of Easter	St John Boste	9:30am	Ron & Cath Joy RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Emma & Eleutorio

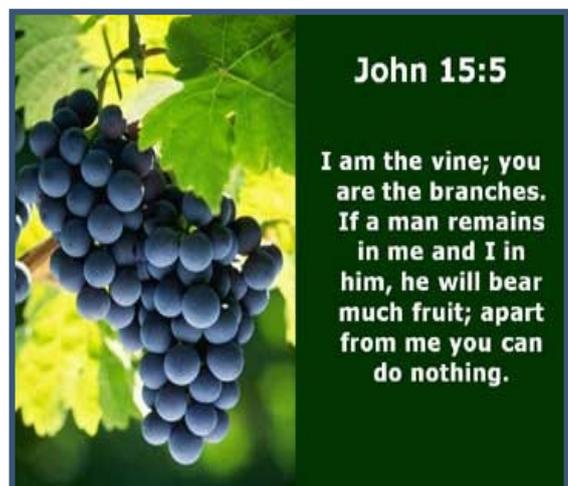
Anyone who knows me will know I am far from a gardening expert; in fact, I am currently the not-so-proud owner of a withering houseplant that is in desperate need of some urgent care! In today's Gospel, however, we hear of the perfect Gardener, the Father, who longs to cut away branches that fail to bring life, and tend to the branches that do.

The second reading reminds us of the importance of keeping the Lord's commandments, reminding us that 'Whoever keeps God's commandments lives in God and God lives in him', a sentiment further echoed in our Gospel. However, for this to happen, we must say 'yes' to God, allowing Him to make His home in us and do a work in us. Indeed, there are things in each of our lives that do not lead to the good fruits the Lord wants to produce in us and through us. What might we be holding on to today that the Father wants to tenderly prune away?

This may be a painful process, as God makes his home in us and makes room in our lives for Him, taking away things that may not allow for such a communion with God. Yet, if Jesus is the vine and

we are the branches, Jesus is the very source of our life. He is the source and centre, bringing life to all of us. The fruit that we will produce if we allow ourselves to be tended to and cared for by the Father will be fruit that will last. In remaining in God, and allowing God to remain in us, we will become his disciples.

Hannah Bartlett



Masses are live-streamed daily at 10am everyday, except Monday when Mass is live-streamed at 7pm

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: Tuesday at 7pm; Thursday at 12 Noon; 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 Church is open on Friday afternoons, from 2pm - 3pm for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now available in all of our Churches:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, 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!

There will be no OLOF meeting on Tuesday 30th April .

A Year of Prayer - In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year '*Pilgrims of Hope*', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis.

Please visit our Diocesan Year of Prayer [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

Each Wednesday morning there will be silent Eucharistic Exposition at St. Bede's before Mass. From 9.15-9.50am. A time for quiet prayer with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist."

St Bede Toddler Group - The toddler group is now full so we have opened a waiting list. However we will have places from September as there are several children leaving to go to nursery. Please contact Joan Formosa on 07504 579591 if you wish to add a name to the waiting list. Joan will contact you when a place becomes available.

Mass for Pentecost - We will be hosting a Mass for Pentecost at St Mary's Cathedral Church at 1.00pm on Saturday 11 May 2024. Pope Francis, in his recent address, also emphasised that CHARIS' role is to point all communities of the Charismatic Renewal, which he called a "current of grace" 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.

We Dare to Say: A resource for faith-sharing groups on the Lord's Prayer - We Dare To Say is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The connection of the Our Father with the sacraments and the devotional life is explored, and wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. '*This single short prayer of Christ has everything that needs to be said about God, his kingdom, his life, about all of us*' - Fr Alexander Schmemmann. You can access the 'We Dare to Say' resource by [clicking here](#).

Marriage Preparation Days- Saturday 18 May: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth NE61 1QF. Engaged couples can find **more information** by [clicking here](#). To find and **book a course**, [please click here](#).

NEW SONG!

Our monthly prayer event here at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church is happening on Sunday 12 May at 4.00 pm. We invite you to join us to praise and worship our loving God, to be inspired by praying and reflecting on God's Word and to build friendship and community with others on our shared faith journey. We are happy to welcome Tony and Mel Lawless who will be speaking on the theme of Faith. All are welcome! **Where:** Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS

When: 12 May / 9 June / @ 4.00 pm

Email: newsongne@gmail.com

Instagram: @newsongne

"Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help." The Novena will take place each Thursday evening 7pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, beginning

2nd May - 27th June. A petition box will be at the back of Church each week. Personal petitions may be placed in the box, and at the end of the Novena will be taken to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. After the Resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the descent of the Holy Spirit. A Novena echoes this prayer of waiting and is a traditional way of coming together to pray. Together with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we too pray to God, in thanksgiving, in petition and in praise. It is good to pray, it is important to pray, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, "...with one heart all the apostles joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus." All welcome to make the Novena. Fr. Martin Morris.

"Mgr. Fr. Philip Carroll. RIP." It was with real sadness we heard the death of Fr. Philip Carroll, 9th April, 2024. Fr. Philip served here in Washington for a number of years, and will be fondly remembered for his kindness and pastoral support to so many. He served at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate August 1972- September 1978 & St. Bede's October 1996 - June 2006. Mgr. Phil's body will be received into St. Agnes Crawcrook, on Wednesday 1st May, with Mass at 7pm. His Requiem will be at St. Mary's Cathedral at 12.05pm on Thursday 2nd May 2024. All welcome. "

Bishop Stephen's Parish Visit. As Bishop Stephen mentioned in last week's pastoral letter he is gradually moving around the Diocese visiting as many parishes as possible. The Bishop will visit our two parishes the weekend of 17th - 19th May, Pentecost weekend. I would like to invite all parishioners to the evening Mass at St. John Boste, with Bishop Stephen on Friday 17th May 7pm, followed by a reception in the hall afterwards. Bishop Stephen will also Celebrate the 5pm Mass at St. Joseph's on Saturday 18th May, and at Our Lady Queen of Peace on Sunday 19th May at 10am. Whilst time doesn't allow the Bishop to visit every Church, all parishioners are welcome to any of the above Masses with Bishop Stephen.

Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) – Sunday 5th May

Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw

On Sunday 5th May at 4pm, please join us for Sung Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw. Please note that this is not a concert performance, but an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church for the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

As the format of this service may be new to some people, we will also be offering some reflections on praying Vespers as a group.

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND

CAFOD in Partnership with the Archbishop Romero Trust invite you to join the pilgrimage on Saturday 13th July. Buses will be leaving from one of our churches, there will be no charge for the buses but a donation would be appreciated. A list is provided at the back for church to add your name and contact details. Please note that places are limited. This list will remain open until Sunday 12th May.

New Saint, New Parish / 10 year anniversary of article on Newsletter from 27th April 2014

This Sunday, Pope Francis will declare what has long been obvious: Pope John XXIII is a saint. Angelo Roncalli became Pope in 1958 and had the courage and vision to call the 2nd Vatican Council. He longed to 'open the windows of the Church' so that the Holy Spirit could renew her, so that the world could receive her love, and so that the Church could look out and see that there is no reason to fear the world; God is in the world and at work in all its peoples.

As the Pope canonises his predecessor, our new parish will come into being, taking John XXIII as our patron saint. Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, St Bede, St John Boste and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw, will become St John XXIII parish.

The decree that brings the parish into being states that there are three reasons for the amalgamation: better pastoral care for the people, better use of the reducing number of priests, better use of time and resources. Once we are up and running, we will have that togetherness that a parish family needs, under the guidance of our 'Priest-in-Charge', Father Mark Millward.

In his lifetime, John XXIII was loved not only by Catholics but by people of all faiths and none. He is a saint for our times and a saint for the Church of our times as it moves forward under the leadership of Pope Francis.

Job Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Cleaner, St Cuthbert, Chester le Street– part-time. Closing date: 1 May

IT Field Engineer (two posts) Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, 9-month fixed term contract. Closing date: 6 May. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191243 3301.

St John XXIII Parish Vacancy (Unpaid). Each week we produce a list of prayer requests for the Sick and Recently Deceased. We also send out the Parish newsletter to 540 people by email. We need someone to cover these tasks by the end of May at the latest. You will need a computer and Internet connection. If you can help contact Mark Harris at: sj23it@gmail.com.

Helpers for little gardening at Our Churches

Could we ask if anyone has a few hours free per week to help with light gardening at OBLI and OLQP churches. We have grass cut regularly but need help with the borders. Please contact Audrey 01914163583 if you can help.

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](#).

Other News

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](#).

The Joy of the Gospel - "Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world. Every form of authentic evangelization is always "new" Evangelii Gaudium, the Joy of the Gospel, looks at the new evangelisation for the transmission of the faith and has chapters on the following subjects: The Church's Missionary Transformation; The Crisis of Communal Commitment; The Proclamation of the Gospel; The Social Dimension of Evangelization; Spirit-Filled Evangelizers. The full text of Evangelii Gaudium can be downloaded [here](#). Quick Link: [Sharing the Faith](#).

North East Catholic History Society - The North East Catholic History Society is 50 years old this year. It was founded to encourage and promote the very rich Catholic History of our region. They meet five times a year for lectures and have the excellent magazine "Northern Catholic History" published yearly. Excursions to places of interest are organised for members. The Society is looking to attract new members. Currently, they meet on Wednesday afternoons at Joseph's Centre, Gateshead, directly opposite the Metro and bus interchange. We welcome visitors too. After many years of excellent service, their Programme Secretary is retiring, and they are looking for a replacement to organise talks. In recent years, they have established great contact with Ushaw and their fine group of researchers. You can read about The Society on the diocesan website or contact Margaret Henderson [by clicking here](#).

Staycation at the Emmaus Village: If you are looking for a staycation in the Derwent Valley, whilst supporting the work that YMT do for the young people of the Diocese, the Emmaus Village is the place for you. For more information and booking rates please [click our website link](#). Please [click this link](#) to download the Emmaus Village brochure.

Day of Consolation - Led by Chris Smith - £30 - Wednesday, 1st May from 10am to 4pm. An opportunity to join us on this poignant retreat day, for people who have experienced bereavement, grief, loss or significant change, giving them an opportunity to share a safe space, to be heard, to share with others who have had similar experiences and finding courage, hope and consolation. Please [click here](#) for more Information.

The Transforming and Saving Power of the Cross - Led by the Minsteracres team - £190 - Friday 10th May 2024 from 6:30pm to Sunday 12th at 2:00pm. A retreat exploring Passionist spirituality. We will begin by 'Entering the desert' a gentle introduction to the weekend giving people time to find space and try to leave behind their cares, worries and problems. This will be followed by sessions on Passionist Spirituality. Please [click here](#) for more Information.

Open House - Led by the Minsteracres team - Monday 6th May 2024 from 11am to 3pm. Have you ever wanted to have a look around our house and grounds? Now's your chance! With exhibitions, tours, moments of reflection, tea, coffee and good home cooking. Please [click here](#) for more Information.

The Embodied Contemplative - Led by Terry Doyle - £30 - Saturday 4th May from 10am to 4pm. The Embodied Contemplative Retreat will explore finding inner stillness and peace through the practice of both Christian Meditation and gentle Tai Chi movement and breath work. It is suitable for all ages and abilities. Come with a Beginner's Mind and Enjoy Learning! Please [click here](#) for more Information.

Reflections

Diocesan Weekly reflections can be found by [clicking here](#).

Reflections

Examen - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go

[Saturday Examen](#) [5th Sunday of Easter](#)

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.