

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 5TH – 6TH JULY 2025 Year C

Saturday 5th July	St Joseph	5pm*	Hogan & Barrett Families
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Margaret & Thomas Banks (RIP)
Sunday 6th July	St John Boste	9:30am	Deceased members Appleby, Carr & Snaith Families
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Priest's Intention
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

First Reading: As a Mother Comforts Her Child

Isaiah 66:10-14c

Thus says the Lord: 'Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her; that you may nurse and be satisfied from her consoling breast; that you may drink deeply with delight from her glorious abundance.' For thus says the Lord: 'Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; and you shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip, and bounced upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem. You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice; your bones shall flourish like the grass; and the hand of the Lord shall be known to his servants.'

Response to the Psalm: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Second Reading: The Triumph of the Cross

Galatians 6:14-18

Brothers and Sisters: Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. And as for all who walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Mission in Action

Luke 10:1-12, 17-20

At that time: The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry no money bag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace be to this house!" And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. Heal the sick in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near." I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.' The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, 'Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!' And he said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

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 7th July 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 7th July	St Bede	10am	Vocations to the Priesthood
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	'Blessed be God in his Angels & Saints'
Tuesday 8th July	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Fr Aniebiet Francis Inyang RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Peggy Finnigan RIP
Wednesday 9th July	St Bede	10am	Syd McCluskey
	St John Boste	7pm	A Private Intention (AD)
Thursday 10th July	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Billy Hughes RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	1pm	Funeral Service, Mary Cecilia Redman RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Sheila McCormack RIP
	St Joseph	6pm	Reception of Nancy Loughlin
Friday 11th July St Benedict	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Funeral Service, Margaret Hammil
	St Joseph	10am	Requiem Mass - Nancy Loughlin
Saturday 12th July	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	David & Elizabeth McCourt & Deceased Family (RIP)
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm*	Mark Forsyth RIP
	St Bede	5pm	For Good Health, Anne Casey & Family
Sunday 13th July	St John Boste	9:30am	John & Vera Frazer (RIP)
The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Holy Souls

In today's Gospel, Jesus "appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go" to offer Peace, cure the sick and tell the people that the Kingdom of God is very near them. The kingdom of God is not a place, the kingdom of God is God Himself. They are told not to put themselves at risk and God will never disown them. Even though they may encounter danger, they are to carry nothing with them except themselves, and God's Peace.

So, what is God's Peace? It is something that is given unconditionally by God to everyone.

The first reading beautifully describes an image of what God's Peace is like. It describes it as a mother feeding her baby and the baby is safe, secure, and loved, feeling the mother's living heartbeat as it snuggles into her chest. Most of us have experienced the joy of dandling a baby on our lap, perhaps we even sang nursery rhymes, and know that as the baby giggles away, it too shares that experience of love. We are the children of God, and our God dandles us on His lap. That pure love we receive from God is God's Peace.

Jesus not only sends the 72 followers out to tell people that God's Peace is given freely to everyone, but he is also sending us out too. Through our journey in life, Jesus tells us by His written Word, **"Your mission, Brothers and Sisters, should you decide to accept it, is to listen to God's voice and His Word. Open your hearts to God's love and Peace. Offer his Peace to those you meet. Receive nourishment from the Eucharist and His Word and show, through your actions and words, Christ to others. You will be loved unconditionally."**

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 - From Tuesday 8 July the OLOF group will be meeting in the Lindisfarne Room at St Bede's Church, Coach Road, Concord. There will be no meeting on Tuesday 15 July as the group are on a day trip. The coach for the trip will leave from Our Lady's Church in the Village at 10am.

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 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/8slindpmrg>

Special Collection Next Week – Sea Sunday- It is amazing when we think of it that 80% of our 'white goods' come into this country by sea... and most of us don't have a clue that this happens. When we turn on the kettle in the morning, open the fridge, use the microwave, wash our clothes, dry them and iron them ... all these items arrive by sea. Our seafaring brothers and sisters have a really tough life – we need to support them as much as we can.

On Tuesday 8th July children and staff from St. Joseph's Primary School Washington will be taking on a **faith pilgrimage** for the Jubilee Year and shine as Pilgrims of Hope in our local and global community. Our pilgrimage will take us from school, through the park and village and finishing at church for Mass. If any family members or parishioners would like to join us, we will be leaving from the school gates at 9:15. You are more than welcome to walk alongside your child, but they must remain within their class group on the pilgrimage.

Charity Registration Number: 1143450

50th Anniversary - This year, St John Boste Catholic Primary School is celebrating it's 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 Summer Raffle - Tickets for the SVP Summer Raffle will be on sale after Mass on Sunday 6th July at Our Lady Queen of Peace. First Prize £5,000, Second Prize £1,000, £1 per ticket. Draw Date: 25th September 2025. Please support your local SVP

St John Boste Walk - This year is the 42nd St John Boste walk and in this Holy Year of Pilgrims of Hope we would like to encourage this year's walk to be a Partnership event. Having walkers from all our churches would be wonderful. A coach will leave from St John Boste on **Sunday 20th July** after the 9.30 Mass. If you are unable to join in the walk you could join us in Durham Cathedral at 4.30 for the Rosary. Lists are available for the coach and for the Rosary.

Our Lady's in Washington 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 Friday 11th July, followed by another information evening at the end of the summer. For more information or to register your interest, email lay.mission@english.op.org or speak to Fr Luke.

OBLI 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.

NEW SONG! Come and join us on 13 July for some singing, some listening, some praying and some refreshments! All are welcome!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Parish Room NE38 7HS.

When: 13 July 2025 @ 4.00 pm. **Email:** newsongne@gmail.com

Instagram: @newsongne

Holy Island pilgrimage 13th of September 2025 - Coaches will depart from two of our churches at approx.9.00am. A donation of £10 per person to cover the cost of the coaches would be very much appreciated. For those who do not want to walk across the sands there will be a liturgy held in St Aidan's on the island at 12.00. A list and further details are provided at the back of church to add your name and contact details. **Please note** that places are limited so please do not add your name if you are unsure of going. Also if anyone is interested in helping with the music or singing for the mass on the island please contact Michael Gallagher on (07740) 872817. **Closing date for submitting names will be Sunday 6 July to enable coaches to be organised.**

St Joseph's News

Rosary: Prayed for world peace at St Joseph's every Tuesday at 6.40pm, prior to the evening Mass.

Confirmations at St. Joseph's Birtley - We would like to invite everyone to join us for the rite of confirmation at Mass on Tuesday 15th July at 7:00pm when Bishop Stephen will confirm our candidates.

St Joseph's Pastoral Council: The next CPC Meeting will be held at 7pm on Sunday, 13th July. If you would like the Council to discuss a particular subject relating to St Joseph's, please speak with a Council Member prior to the Meeting - names can be found on the notice board at the back of Church.

Northern Cross: July edition now on sale at the back of Church.

Mass Intentions at St Joseph's - 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.

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.

Holy Island Pilgrimage - Money for Holy Island will be taken for the next two Saturdays at 5pm Mass. Rachel Prior and Kevin Haigh will be at the back of church to facilitate this. Thank you.

Other News

Jubilee Year Celebration of the Feast of St Benedict - To celebrate the Feast of St Benedict, on Friday 11th July, you are invited to journey on pilgrimage to Newcastle and assemble in the courtyard of St Mary's Cathedral between 11.30 and 11.45 and after praying together to enter the Cathedral through the Holy Door to celebrate our Feast Day Mass. **Please note there will be no Masses celebrated in our Partnership churches that day.** (Except Requiem Masses and School Masses).

Diocesan Education Mass - School Directors and Governors are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving for their dedication and service to Catholic education. The Mass will be at 6.30pm on Thursday 10th July at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle and will be celebrated by Bishop Stephen.

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.

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, email Amy at adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk or telephone 0191 2433316. Search on Facebook, X and Bluesky using the hashtag #DHNAlive25 for the latest information and updates.

This month's tip for sustainable living: Be a Sustainable Consumer - Fast Fashion has many negative connotations - the urgency to produce clothes that quickly go out of fashion means more products in landfill and more carbon. Sourcing clothing from companies adopting organic standards means support for environmentally friendly sources. An alternative is to buy second-hand clothes. Find out more: [Fast Fashion and Its Environmental Impact in 2025 | Earth.Org](#)

"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](#)

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
stjohn23bulletin@gmail.com