

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 9TH - 10TH AUGUST 2025 Year C

Saturday 9th August	St Joseph	5pm*	Nancy Loughlin RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 10th August	St John Boste	9:30am	Keith & Ross Irwin
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Vincent Kelly
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Jim Walker RIP

First Reading: A Contrast between Israel and Egypt. Wisdom 18:6-9

That night of our liberation was made known beforehand to our fathers, so that they might rejoice in sure knowledge of the oaths in which they trusted. The deliverance of the righteous and the destruction of their enemies were expected by your people. For by the same means by which you punished our enemies you called us to yourself and glorified us. For in secret the holy children of good people offered sacrifices and with one accord agreed to the divine law, that the saints would share alike the same things, both blessings and dangers; and already they were singing the praises of the fathers.

Response to the Psalm: Blessed the people the Lord has chosen as his heritage.

Second Reading: The People of God on Pilgrimage. Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Brothers and Sisters: Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore. These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, 'Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.' He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Stay awake and be ready, for the son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Being Ready for the Masters Return. Luke 12:32-48

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with money bags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 'Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning, and be like men who are waiting for their master to come home from the wedding feast, so that they may open the door to him at once when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service, and have them recline at table, and he will come and serve them. If he comes in the second watch, or in the third, and finds them awake, blessed are those servants! But know this, that if the master of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.' Peter said, 'Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?' And the Lord said, 'Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, "My master is delayed in coming", and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.'

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 11th August 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 11th August St Clare	St Bede	10am	Margaret Jones RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Holy Communion & Word Service
Tuesday 12th August St Jane Frances de Chantal	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Gerard McCabe RIP & McCabe Family
	St Joseph	7pm	Brian Lee & Isabella Bryden RIP
Wednesday 13th August Ss Pontian & Hippolytus	St Bede	10am	Audrey Simpson RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intention
Thursday 14th August St Maximilian Kolbe	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Private Intention (MP)
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Sheila McCormack RIP
Friday 15th August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St John Boste	10am*	Holy Souls
	St Joseph	10am	John Taylor RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	7pm	Priest's Intention
Saturday 16th August St Stephen of Hungary	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	David Butler RIP
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm*	People of the Parish
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 17th August The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Priest's Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Holy Souls
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Theresa Madden Anniversary RIP

Reflection

Jesus said, 'For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.' Storing treasure up made me think of saving for a pension. We work for forty years and more and put a fraction of our earnings to provide a pension for when we retire. If we don't save over the years, life could be very difficult, when we stop working. The key point of storing up pension treasures is that we do it regularly consistently, and the treasure builds up gradually.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel today to save up spiritual treasures to prepare us for eternity. Like pension savings the most effective and certain method of storing up spiritual treasures is to save consistently so that it becomes a normal part of life. These spiritual treasures are gathered with acts of love towards our neighbour, by doing good works and being generous with our time. Treasures are also gathered through showing love of God by praying and receiving the sacraments. Jesus said, 'You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.' We must be 'ready' at all times and save spiritual treasures by our Christian lives.

Deacon Tony Joy

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 here](#) to view from one of our Churches.

(or <https://www.youtube.com/@parishofstjohnxxiii>)

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 - 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 and they will be displayed by the flower ladies, all welcome

OLOF (Our Lady's over 50's club) meet in the Lindisfarne Room at St Bede's Church 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>

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 9.30am-11am in St Bede's Parish Hall and costs £2. The children can play, do creative activities, have refreshments and enjoy singing. We restart on Monday 8 September. To save a place text Joan Formosa on 07504 579591.

Streaming Mass from our Churches. Please note we no longer use Church Services TV as our Churches now stream on our Youtube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@parishofstjohnxxiii>.

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 three years, for 26 weeks of each year, and comprises a weekly one 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 8 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 and 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 number to any of our Priests.

Holyday of Obligation - Friday 15 August is the Feast of The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven. As well as the usual Mass times that day, 10am at St John Boste and St Joseph's, there will be an evening Mass at 7pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate.

Following this Mass Fr Martin and Fr Luke would like to invite you to a 'Cheese and Wine' celebration in the Emmaus Room to celebrate the Holyday. All welcome.

New Song Summer Picnic! Come and join us for the New Song Summer Picnic! Bring your picnic and a chair round to the grassy area at the back of church after the 11am Mass on Sunday 10 August. There will be music and games but, most of all, a chance to get together and have fun! Sunshine is guaranteed! All are welcome! Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS. Email: newsongne@gmail.com, Instagram: @newsongne

Pilgrimage to Holy Island – Saturday 13 September 2025

An update regarding the above event. We have arranged for two coaches to collect everyone which will be leaving from St Joseph's, Birtley and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw at 8.30am. If you have not already done so, could you please provide the £10 per person charge as soon as possible to go towards the cost of the coaches. There are still a few places available on the coaches. If you would like to go, please contact Malcolm Bengston on 07746 973132.

Newsletter emails - Please note that we are currently having an issue emailing the newsletter to @btinternet.com email addresses, as the messages are being blocked as spam. We will resolve this as soon as possible.

Other News

Minsteracres - Rosary Rally Saturday 16 August 2025 from 12 noon to 3pm - Please bring a packed lunch. The day will commence with the celebration of Mass at 12 noon followed by the Rosary Rally and Benediction from 2pm.

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](#).

One Hope Project (Music) Academy - 1 September 2025—31 March 2026 - Do you want to see music leaders in the parishes in your diocese lead the worship on Sunday prayerful and beautifully helping all that attend Mass enter more profoundly into the beauty of the liturgy? The OHP Academy is a six month online worship school for aspiring musicians and songwriters who want to grow in their relationship with Jesus and their practical gifting in order to serve in their context. One Hope Project has over a decade's experience in leading worship, writing songs, equipping others and a much longer journey of following Jesus and we see the real need to invest in this area of the Church. If you are interested and for more information please click [here](#).

Visitations of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima together with the relics of Ss Jacinta and Francisco Marto. Date: Saturday 6th September. Time: 9:50am – 4pm. Venue: St Joseph's RC Church, Hartlepool, TS26 9EY. For the full programme please click [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 and 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 13 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](#).

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 and silver and military medals. To date they have raised over £16,200 by these means. If you can help, contact them at: David and Theresa O'Neill, 34 Morston Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7RZ Tel: 0191 264 5771 Email: david-oneill3@sky.com

Alive in HOPE: A Church for MISSION. Bishop Stephen invites you to a **Jubilee Day** on Saturday 27 September, from 10 am to 3pm 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. [Click here](#) to read the CSSA statement in full.

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 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](#)

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](#)