

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

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 23RD - 24TH AUGUST 2025 Year C

Saturday 23rd August	St Joseph	5pm	People of the Parish
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Alan & Anne Carr RIP
Sunday 24th August	St John Boste	9:30am	John O Brien RIP
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Dorothy Sweeney RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

First Reading: Salvation to the Nations

Isaiah 66:18-21

Thus says the Lord: 'For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem,' says the Lord, 'just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites,' says the Lord.

Response to the Psalm: Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

Second Reading: The Discipline of Suffering

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Brothers and Sisters: Have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? 'My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.' It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Narrow Door

Luke 13:22-30

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem. And someone said to him, 'Lord, will those who are saved be few?' And he said to them, 'Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, "Lord, open to us", then he will answer you, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will begin to say, "We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets." But he will say, "I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!" In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

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 25th August 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 25th August Ss Louis & Joseph of Calasanz	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Ann Elizabeth Hodgson
Tuesday 26th August St Ninian & Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Jim Irving
	St Joseph	7pm	Nancy Loughlin RIP
Wednesday 27th August St Monica	St Bede	10am	Donald & Veronica - Poorly
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	1.45pm	Requiem Mass - Margaret Logan
	St John Boste	7pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 28th August St Augustine	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Les Bennett RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Priest's Intention
Friday 29th August The Passion of St John The Baptist	St John Boste	10am*	Monica Sutherland RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Funeral Service - Joan Carrott
	St Joseph	10am	Joan Taylor RIP
Saturday 30th August Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Elizabeth Lish RIP Anniversary
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Deceased Members of the Pallister Family
	St Bede	5pm	Margaret Jones RIP
Sunday 31st August The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Margaret Logan RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Oswald Shannon

The Narrow door!

If ever you have visited the Holy Land, you will most probably remember trying to enter the Basilica of the Nativity - our Lord's Birthplace. The entrance to this place is a concealed door, in the corner of the wall, the door itself measuring no more than a few feet high and the same in width. The pilgrim can only enter this holy place by first kneeling down and then crawling through the tiny doorway, it's a bit of a struggle! But I remember thinking on my first visit there, how appropriate that we can only enter the place of Christ's birth on our knees.

Our Lord says, "Strive to enter by the narrow door." (Lk: 13: 22.) It is possible to drift through the wide door and down the broad way, the world's way. But to enter by the 'narrow door', - God's way, the way of blessing, has to be a deliberate decision. Not just a once in lifetime decision, but a constant choosing of Jesus in all the choices we face, in the challenges of each day. This can seem overwhelming for each one of us, especially when we consider the many temptations the world can place before us. But the 'Good news' is really 'Good News'. In order to join God's gathering, we must indeed "Strive to enter by the narrow door" - which does not mean our own unaided efforts, but saying yes to the relationship Jesus Christ wants to have with us. Today's second reading from the letter to the Hebrews says that 'God addresses you as Sons'. When we keep turning our hearts as God's children towards him, then those who are last will be first. To help us do this Jesus gave us the gift of his Holy Spirit - the Spirit who helps us live the Christian life and draws us forward into deeper union with Jesus. Living in the power of the Holy Spirit is key to discovering a deeper union with Jesus and leaving behind everything that does not lead us closer to him. That is why we will soon be offering, 'Life ***in the Spirit***' seminars. An opportunity offered from the Diocesan Charismatic team to meet together as a group and in prayerful reflection open our lives to the power of God's Holy Spirit. Beginning Thursday 25th September. Look out for further details.

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>)

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>. We have been having some technical difficulties lately so streaming from Our Lady Queen of Peace has been intermittent and from St Bede's, non-existent. We expect to resolve these issues in the near future. Please bear with us. Thank you.

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 Lady of Sorrows – Blessing of the Pieta and Devotions - Someone has very kindly donated a Pieta Statue to St. Bede's. On the **Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, 15th September, After the morning Mass** there will be a **Blessing of the Statue and Marian Devotions with the opportunity to be inducted into the Brown Scapular.**

Training for Readers - On the **20th and 27th September** following the morning Mass at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate there will be **training sessions for readings**, if you read currently in any of the Churches or would like to begin to do so. Please come to one of the sessions (**it is not necessary to attend both**). Email Fr Luke if you have any questions luke.wilkinson@diocesehn.org.uk

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.

Recently Deceased

Margaret Logan, Isabella Leonard,
Thomas Black, Joan Carrott

For Next Week's Funeral details, please see Mass table

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.

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.

Other News

Ukrainian Appeal - An Appeal is being made on behalf of the Ukrainian Forces. Outdoor Commodities - Camping Equipment, Hiking boots, Clothing. Physical Aids - Walking Sticks, Crutches, Zimmer Frames. Medical Products - Bandages, Plasters. Donations of any of the above will be gratefully appreciated. If you can help, Please contact 07469651180.

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](#).

MINSTERACRES - The Medjugorje Centre (North East) has organised a retreat from Fri 10th - Sun 12th October. Fr. Shaun O'Neill from Our Lady and St Cuthbert Parish, Berwick-upon-Tweed will be leading the retreat. It is open to anyone from our diocese who supports or is interested in Medjugorje and own transport will be necessary. The cost is £195 per person. A £48 Deposit is required and booking forms are available from Marian Fletcher -Telephone 0191 4174413. For information about Medjugorje see - <https://www.medjugorje.hr/en/>.

MARY'S PLACE - St Mary's Cathedral - opposite Central Station

Every Monday morning between 10am and 1pm Mary's Place Community cafe opens its doors and offers a warm, welcoming smile that extends dignity, companionship and hope to anyone who is in need - they may be homeless, poor or feeling alone. It's a place where everyone is known by name, where they can share their stories or simply sit in silence as they share a hot meal together. It's more than a refuge it's a community - a reminder that no one walks alone. We have a team of volunteers who do various roles from preparing food, serving our guests as well as washing dishes and, of course, making our guests welcome. We work on a rota basis, usually once a month. To find out more and how to join our team please contact marys.place@outlook.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.

Connect, Share and Grow - 28/08/2025 at 6:30pm - Are you a "young" (in Church terms!) adult in your mid-20s to 50s? Are you ready to connect with others and be part of something meaningful? Are you open to sharing and growing in a Catholic community in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle? If you answered YES to these 3 questions, we want to listen to your thoughts and views about being a young adult Catholic in our diocese. Join us for a relaxed evening of great conversation, shared stories, laughter, and moments of prayer. This is your space to connect with others, to share and listen to the joys and challenges of being a Catholic. Whether you're thriving, questioning, or somewhere in the middle, we're looking forward to welcoming you here. We're bringing together voices from across the diocese—starting with yours! It's part of a new series of evening gatherings intended to build connection, understanding and community across the whole diocesan family. Come as you are, bring a friend, and be a part of starting something meaningful together. It would help us to know how many people will be attending. Please drop us an email with the date and number of people.

Visitation of the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima. Sat 13TH Sept 2025
Programme 10:45 – 10:55 Welcome. 11:00 – 11:15 Procession through the Holy Door 11:15 – 12:00 Mass, followed by Venera on of the relics of Ss Francisco and Jacinta Marto. 12:00 – 13:00 BREAK (BRING PACKED LUNCH) 13:00 – 13:30 Rosary 13:30–14:45 Fatima Film & Talk 14:45 – 15:00 Enrolment & Investiture of the Brown Scapular 15:00 – 16:00 Holy Hour / Reconciliation/ Benediction (incl Divine Mercy Chaplet) 16:00 Close For further details, please contact the Cathedral Office 0191 2326953 or email mailto:cathedral.office@diocesehn.org.uk Public transport recommended due to limited car parking space at the Cathedral. City Centre car parking is available nearby. Tea, coffee, and soft drinks provided, please bring a packed lunch. Seating is available downstairs in the Mercy Hub.

"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](mailto:email)

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!



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