

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
 Email: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



Parish Secretary: Anne Ridley 0191 4163583
 Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 2:30pm (Penshaw),
 Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 2:30pm (Washington Village)

In the Partnership of Benedict

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

EASTER SUNDAY, 4 - 5 APRIL 2026 Year A

Saturday 4 April Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	7.30pm*	Christine Mitchell (RIP)
Sunday 5 April Easter Sunday	St John Boste	9:30am	James, Alice & Terrence McGee
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Thanksgiving for 90th Birthday (BW)
	St Bede	11.15am	Michael Gates RIP

First reading: Peter Preaching

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'You yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. And we are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and caused him to appear, not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Response to the Psalm: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.*

Second Reading: New Life in Christ

Colossians 3:1-4

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the festival in the Lord. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Empty Tomb

John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going towards the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on the head of Jesus, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

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 6 April 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 6 April	St Bede	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Hodgson & Stephenson Families
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Catherine Linklater (RIP)
Tuesday 7 April	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	George Maw Anniversary
	St Joseph	7pm	Agnes McGraham RIP
Wednesday 8 April	St Bede	10am	Cath Linklater
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	1.30pm	Funeral Service
	St John Boste	7pm	For Zorka RIP
Thursday 9 April	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	John Cox RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Marion & Bob Slavin RIP
Friday 10 April	St Joseph	10am	Michael Ryder RIP
	St John Boste	10am*	Marion and Bob Slavin RIP
Saturday 11 April	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Pedro & Emperatriz Ladino RIP
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	John Littlewood
	St Bede	5pm	Colin Stratton and Thomas Humby (RIP)
Sunday 12 April Divine Mercy Sunday	St John Boste	9:30am	Kathleen Burlinson.
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Andrew Long RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

Rejoice! Christ has Risen, Halleluiah, Halleluiah

Over the coming weeks we will have many readings from the Acts of the Apostles where the activities of Jesus' followers are described after he had risen from the dead. It is worth drawing your attention to the reading from the Acts of the Apostles in today's first reading. It is part of a longer dialogue with a Centurion called Cornelius who had sent messengers to Peter asking him to come and see him so he could hear what Peter had to say (Cornelius was told to do this in a vision from an angel). Peter went and spoke to Cornelius's whole household, and he summarised the story of Jesus' ministry in a few sentences. In business this would be called a lift sales pitch - If you have a captive audience in a lift and only have those few minutes, what would you say?

He said, 'You know what happened all over Judaea, how Jesus of Nazareth began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil. Now we are witnesses to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judea and in Jerusalem itself: and they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet on the third day God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses that God had chosen beforehand.

Now we are those witnesses -- we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to bear witness that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead.

It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

Today, we are the witnesses to everything Jesus did and spoke. As we consider our mission as part of Bishop Stephen's pastoral plan it might be helpful to read this passage several times and think what it means to us. At the time the 'church' was a growing band of people joining the Apostles to hear about, and testify to, Jesus. They would meet in people's houses or, on occasions, in the periphery of the Temple in Jerusalem, in a place called the portico of Solomon. They had no recognisable organisation and no churches. But what they did have was the message of Jesus and first-hand knowledge of his life and ministry and that is what they, and we, must bear witness to.

To finish, I heard this the other day; an 8-year-old girl was asked why Jesus was sometimes called 'The Word', and she replied, very simply, "Because Jesus is all God wanted to say to us."

Tony Joy

The Priests and Deacons would like to wish all Parishioners a very Happy Easter, and all the Blessings of the Risen Jesus.

Thank you to all those who helped clean and prepare the church for the Easter celebrations. A Particular word of Thanks to Michael Leckenby, our organist at Our Lady Queen of Peace, who today retires from the role as Parish organist. Michael has been playing the organ for over 56 years, 34 here at Our Lady Queen of Peace. We would like to offer a sincere thank you to Michael and wish him a happy and restful retirement. God Bless.

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

Special Collections:

Easter Sunday - Sick and Retired Priests (Open until 26th April)

What's On in the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2pm - 3pm

St Joseph 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. Fr Martin Morris.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession is available in all of our Churches:

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.

OLOF (Our Lady's Over 50's club) is on each Tuesday at 1pm in the Lindisfarne Room, at St Bede's! All most welcome!

Sunday April 12th Is Divine Mercy Sunday. Devotions at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate. 2.30pm, with blessing of the Divine Mercy Image. All welcome.

Baptisms - Please note that there is a new system for all Baptisms in the Parish. If you want to request a Baptism, please collect a form from the church where you want the Baptism to take place, complete the form and hand it in to any member of the clergy. For more information please call 07552 733540. You can also download the form by [clicking here](#).

Bishop Stephen's Review and Ten Year Strategy – Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting last Thursday at St. Bede's. It was a great turnout and much appreciated. If it gave us all a deeper awareness of the challenges facing our parishes and the diocese in the coming years, then I think it was worth it. There will be a follow-up meeting on Thursday 9th April 6.30pm at St. Bede's hall, offering an opportunity to reflect on the four questions together. Owing to the very quick time-limit on this project, could all forms be returned to one of the Clergy no later than Sunday 19th April. Thankyou, Fr. Martin Morris

'NEW SONG'! - Our last shared table was a celebration of community and great food, so we thought an Easter feast was in order! We'd love you to join us - bring yourselves and some food to share. All are welcome! (NB. We're in the Emmaus Room - not the Parish Room over at the school!) **Where:** Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Emmaus Room. NE38 7HS. **When:** 12 April 2026 @ 4.00 pm. **Email:** newsongne@gmail.com **Instagram:** @newsongne

We Dare to Ask - This year's Lenten resource 'We Dare to Ask' is inviting parishioners to prepare their hearts and minds to renew their Baptismal promises during the Easter celebrations. Through Baptism, we are united with Christ and given our mission to image him in our homes and communities. This resource aims to contextualise our vocation within God's plan of Salvation, Christ's self-gift and the Sacramental Life of the Church. The world tempts us in all manner of ways yet by God's grace, we can turn back to him with contrite hearts to ask his mercy and forgiveness. We stand to renew our Baptismal promises: to ask for his life, his grace and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to renew and restore our covenant relationship with Jesus, that we may live in an ever-deepening union with him as his baptised son or daughter. A Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle booklet, with a forward by Bishop Stephen, is available to view or download by [clicking here](#). It provides a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, with five sessions on the theme of our Baptismal Vocation. Alternatively you can access each session's materials individually by [clicking here](#).

This Lent Children at St Bede's Catholic Primary School are supporting CAFOD and joining other schools around the country to help fight poverty around the world. To raise money, they are going to complete a Big Lent 'Walk-a-thon' where they spend a whole day, Tuesday 31 March, taking turns walking around the school fields. From the start of the day until the end there will always be a member of St Bede's walking, come rain or shine! We would love you to sponsor us. You can do so by dropping a donation off at the school office, passing on a donation to a member of school staff at Wednesday morning Mass or scanning the QR code/visiting our JustGiving page [here](#).



Scan to donate

YOU DID IT!! The HCPT Ceilidh was a huge success. Thanks to the generosity of many people the target was exceeded and £1769 was raised. The very strict Safeguarding rules of HCPT do not allow me to give much detail. I have just been advised that your sponsorship is for a Tyneside girl with the beautiful name of Hope and, joy upon joy, she will be making her First Holy Communion with us at our Holy Mass in the Chapel at Hosanna House. Thank You, Thank You and may God Bless all of you. Grandad Len.

Please put yourself forward. If you would like to participate in taking the offerings to the altar during Mass at any church, please speak to one of the helpers who are at the church door before and after Mass.

One year ago this week we had a Parish Mission, led by Sr Briege McKenna and Fr Pablo. The talks are still available on YouTube. You may find it helpful to watch them again. I would particularly recommend the talk given by Sister on the 18 March at Our Lady's titled, "Jesus the vine, and we the branches." An excellent reflection on 'Prayer in the Christian life.'

Songs of Peace and Praise 9 July at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. "Peace begins with a Smile" (St Teresa of Calcutta).

Can you help put a smile on the faces of others and spread a little peace? This invitation is for everyone! Members of our Parish, our schools and other denominations or faiths, our local communities. Peace was given by Christ for everyone! We are looking for people, any age, to help lead our Parish in an evening of song and praise. You can sing solo or be part of a duet or larger group or choir. You may play an instrument, be a member of a band or orchestra, any number or size. School, college and community groups are most welcome. We are also looking for anyone who might like to create poetry or read on the evening, scriptures, prayers, poetry or prose. Please do not hide your talents! Share them and help us all to spread Christ's Peace. If you would like to participate, choose your piece of music, hymn or song about peace or praise and then start practicing. Contact details will be given at a later date. Many thanks.

Other News

"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](#)

St Mary's Cathedral – changes to mass times - 13 April 2026—29 May 2026. In order to replace the failing tungsten filament lights in the Cathedral with more efficient LED lighting and to improve the sound system and repaint, it is necessary to temporarily restrict access to our Cathedral. Closing the main body of the church ensures both the health and safety of our clergy, congregation and visitors and helps to keep the maintenance schedule to an absolute minimum. Works will begin on Monday 13th April and will continue until Friday 29th May during which time our Cathedral Masses will move to our city centre churches. The [Pauline Bookshop](#) and [Cloisters Café](#) are not affected by these works and will continue to operate as per their usual opening times. Mary's Place will also remain open on a Monday 10am – 1pm. Cathedral Mass times (13th April – 29th May) Sunday 9.30am Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's, Sunday 11.30am Mass will be celebrated at St Michael's, Sunday 6.30pm Mass will be celebrated at St Dominic's. Mon – Fri 12:05pm Mass will be celebrated at St Andrew's. Saturday 10am Mass will be celebrated at St Andrew's

Marriage Preparation Days - Engaged couples can find **more information** [here](#). To find and **book on a course**, please visit our [website](#) or call the phone booking service on 0800 389 3801. (In person and online courses are available.)

Diocesan Vacancy - Role: Parish Secretary; **Contract:** Permanent; **Salary:** £8430.24 pro rata per annum; **Hours:** Part-time 12 hours per week; **Working Pattern:** Able to be negotiated at interview; **Location:** St Mary's, Great Lime Road, Forest Hall, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE12 7AB; **How to apply:** Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-18/> **Closing Date:** 12:00 pm, 13/04/2026

Job Vacancy – Assistant Cook - An exciting opportunity is available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for an Assistant Cook. Hours available: 37.5 hours per week, including evenings and weekends. Please note, sponsorship for this role is not available and applicants must have the right to work in the UK, which will be checked if successful. For more information, please contact St Joseph's Home (Tel No. 0191 2731279)

Life News: Recent developments in Parliament highlight how serious the situation is for many vulnerable pregnant women. At Life, we are not involved in political debate — but we do see the reality behind the headlines. Many women face pressure, isolation, and a lack of support, increasing the risk that they feel alone or unable to continue their pregnancy. That's why our work matters. We walk alongside women, providing safe housing, practical help, and compassionate care — giving them the support they need to embrace motherhood with confidence. At this critical moment, your church can make a difference: **Pray** for the women we support; **Give** to provide essential care and housing; **Share** our services with those in need; Together, we can ensure no woman faces this alone.

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](#).

Reflections

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

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

To view the sick and recently deceased list [please click here](#). To amend the information on the list [click here](#).

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.

Baptism - To request a Baptism, you can download the form by [clicking here](#) or ring 07552 733540.

Parish Newsletter If you wish to request an electronic version of 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](#)