

# Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph, Birtley

Incorporating: **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate**, Washington;

**Our Lady Queen of Peace**, Peshaw;

**St Bede**, Usworth;

**St John Boste**, Oxclose; **St Joseph**, Birtley

Fr Martin Morris, Parish Priest, Tel: 0191 4163583

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Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>

Parish Secretary: Anne Ridley 0191 4163583

Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 2:30pm (Peshaw),

Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 2:30pm (Washington Village)

**In the Partnership of Benedict**

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



## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, 18 - 19TH APRIL 2026 Year A

Saturday 18th April <b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Patricia Stobbart nee Ford RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Catherine Naughton RIP 2nd Anniversary</b>
Sunday 19th April <b>Third Sunday of Easter</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Ray Enright RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>John Gonzales RIP</b>

### First reading: The Meaning of Resurrection

**Acts 2:14, 22-33**

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst — as you yourselves know — this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. 'For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." 'Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you yourselves are seeing and hearing.'

**Response to the Psalm: O Lord, you will show me the path of life.**

### Second Reading: The Blood of the Lamb

**1 Peter 1:17-21**

Beloved: If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn within us when you speak to us. Alleluia.**

### The Gospel: The Journey to Emmaus

**Luke 24:13-35**

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, 'What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?' And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?' And he said to them, 'What things?' And they said to him, 'Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.' And he said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

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		

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?' And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the Eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

### Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 20th April 2026 (Streamed Mass \*)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 20th April	St Bede	10am	<b>Ann, Denise, Graham &amp; Robert Burns (RIP)</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	<b>Deceased priests of the Diocese.</b>
Tuesday 21st April	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>John Barker</b>
	<b>St Anselm of Canterbury</b> Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11.30am*	<b>Bridget Patricia Engleby Requiem Mass</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Michael Johnson (RIP)</b>
Wednesday 22nd April	St Bede	10am	<b>Catherine &amp; Louis Connolly</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Keith Shannon (RIP)</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11.45am	<b>Mary McLellan Requiem Mass</b>
Thursday 23rd April	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Eddie Ashburner (RIP)</b>
	<b>St George</b> St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Harriet Rowntree R.I.P. (4th Anniversary)</b>
Friday 24th April	St Joseph	10am	<b>Kathleen McGee R.I.P. (SVP)</b>
	<b>Ss Fidelis &amp; Adalbert</b> St John Boste	10am	<b>Carole Smith (RIP)</b>
Saturday 25th April	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Mary Pickles RIP</b>
	<b>Vigil</b> St Joseph	5pm	<b>Patricia Stobbart nee Ford (RIP)</b>
	<b>St Mark</b> St Bede	5pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Sunday 26th April	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Louise Tobin Davies</b>
	<b>Good Shepherd Sunday</b> Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Michael &amp; Frances Murphy (RIP)</b>
	<b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	<b>Lynn Scully (RIP)</b>

Today's Gospel reading invites us to walk with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. As they head away from Jerusalem they are engaged in an intense conversation about the events leading up to Jesus' death. They are demoralised and confused - everything they had hoped for seems lost.

An innocent question from a nearby stranger stops them in their tracks and elicits a pretty negative and sarcastic response, 'Are you the only one who doesn't know what's been going on in the last few days?' However, as they walk along together, the stranger helps them to understand what they have witnessed in Jerusalem and how those events were foretold in the Jewish scriptures. In the end, they urge the stranger to stay and share a meal and as the stranger blesses and breaks the bread, they realise that the stranger is in fact the Risen Jesus.

This simple human story speaks to us in a timely way for the days we are living in. As with the two men on the Emmaus road, there is much to make us feel confused and demoralised about what's going on in our lives, our country, our church, our world. Where do we find God in the midst of the turmoil?

The Emmaus story invites us to do two things. Firstly, to recognise Jesus in the circumstances and people around us. The risen Christ does not always appear in dramatic or obvious ways, but often in the person of someone who walks with us and listens to our troubles - a voice that helps us understand and a presence that brings us comfort. Secondly, we are asked to become people who welcome the stranger. Everything changed for the two disciples when they said, 'Stay with us.' Through their act of welcome, Jesus is revealed. This is the heart of the Gospel message today - 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' (Mt 25:35). When we make room for the outsider, the newcomer, the overlooked - we create space for God to be revealed.

As we continue through the Easter season, let us pray for grace to recognise Jesus not only in the Eucharist, but in every person we meet—especially those we do not yet know.

Deacon Frank O'Neill

**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

## 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!

**Finance** - As we approach the end of the financial year I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parishioners for their continued financial support for our parish. As costs for the running of our four churches continue to increase, your financial donations are very much appreciated. Thank you to everyone who supports the Gift Aid Scheme and those who have made private donations in the past year. Fr. Martin

**Gift Aid update.** This Sunday and next Sunday, a member of our Parish Finance team will give a brief update on the Gift Aid scheme. I am very grateful for all donations for the upkeep of our Parish, and would like to thank all parishioners for their continued generosity. A word of thanks also to our finance committee for all their hard work throughout the year. Fr. Martin

**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 last meeting at St. Bede's. It was a great turnout and much appreciated. 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. Owing to the very quick time-limit on this project, could all forms be returned to one of the Clergy no later than **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April**. Some useful links:

Bishop Stephen's introduction to the Diocesan Pastoral Strategy: <https://youtu.be/25eZ7gGfVEY?si=6MLJc4q3xBxG2IPT>

Webinar recording: [Pastoral Strategy Orientation and Guidance webinar](#) Link to the Parish page on the Diocesan website: [Pastoral Strategy: Parishes - Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle](#)

Thank you, Fr. Martin Morris

**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.

**CAFOD Holy Island Pilgrimage - Saturday 20 June** - There are still a few seats left on the coach going to Holy Island. If you would

like to go on the coach can you please contact Malcolm Bengston on 07746973132. The coach will be leaving from Our lady Queen of Peace at approx. 8.30am (exact time to be confirmed) and return at approx. 6.30 pm. Thank you.

**Mass for the Holy Land – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 11.00am**

**St Joseph's Church, Birtley**

All are warmly invited to attend Mass for the Holy Land on Saturday 25th April at 11.00am at St Joseph's Church, Birtley, celebrated with members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Northumbrian Section.

The Order supports the Christian presence in the Holy Land, assisting local Christian communities through pastoral, educational and charitable work. At a time of great challenge and uncertainty for many in the region, this mission remains especially important. This Mass offers an opportunity for the parish to pray together for peace and to stand in solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land.

Members of the Order will be present and will take part in the Mass, including a formal liturgical procession. This will also be an opportunity to find out more about the work of the Order and its mission. Parishioners, families and friends are very welcome, and all are encouraged to come along and join in prayer.

**SVP Sing And Chat.**

Everyone is welcome to join us at The Black Bush, Washington Village, on Friday 24th April, from 12:15 until 3 pm.

**We are sorry to announce that Mary Lambert** passed away on April 11th, at St. George's Residential Care Home in Harraton. Our Prayers go to all her family and friends in this difficult time.

**Special Collection This Week - Sick and Retired Priests** – A collection will be taken this weekend and remain open for four weeks for private donations. With an increasing number of priests retiring, and Clergy who are sick, the care costs increase annually. Thank you for your generosity.

**Special Collection Next Week - Little Sisters of the Poor**

## Other News

**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. 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.

**A pilgrimage for the People of the Sea - 25—30 May 2026.** Stella Maris is delighted to invite sick, retired and active seafarers, fishers and their families from the UK and EU to join the charity on its inaugural Stella Maris Lourdes Pilgrimage, from 25 – 30 May 2026. *This pilgrimage brings together those who have lived and worked at sea or in fishing communities, offering time to pray, reflect, and find renewed strength in faith and fellowship.* All major costs are covered: travel, accommodation, and meals will be provided for participants and carers. For more details and to apply please go to [www.stellamaris.org.uk/lourdes/](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/lourdes/)

**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.)

**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](#).

**John Bradburne Pilgrimage Climb 2026** - Dear Friends, we are delighted to invite you to take part in the John Bradburne Pilgrimage Climb 2026, taking place on Saturday 13 June in the beautiful landscape of Cumbria. This special day will begin with Mass at St John The Evangelist Church, Skirwith, celebrated by Bishop Paul Swarbrick, before we set off together on a memorable climb to High Cup Nick. What to expect: A 13km (approx. 8 miles) guided climb through stunning scenery; A day of prayer, reflection and fellowship; Refreshments in Skirwith Village Hall after the walk. Please note this climb is not for the faint hearted and requires a good level of fitness, to complete the pilgrimage. Whether you join us for the full day or simply for the Mass, you are warmly welcome. There is no fixed cost to take part, but a donation towards the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre is greatly appreciated. To book your place email: [info@johnbradburne.com](mailto:info@johnbradburne.com) We look forward to seeing you on the day. With best wishes The John Bradburne Memorial Society.

**Mary's Meals** - Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals – named in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus – has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love offered by those who believe in our mission. During May, as we take time to honour and celebrate Our Lady in a special way, we invite your church to join us to [Pray In May](#) for the children who eat our life-changing school meals. To plan your participation, we've developed a range of easy-to-use [Pray In May resources](#). These include printable prayers for children and a bulletin notice with information to share with your parish. Please explore our resources and share them with parish groups or schools who may be interested. And remember, if you would like one of our wonderful volunteers to visit your church and share more about Mary's Meals and our work, we would be delighted to hear from you. You can contact us at [info@marysmeals.org](mailto:info@marysmeals.org), call 0800 698 1212 or [request a talk](#) via our website.

**Forming Catholic Student Leaders** - Two summer courses exploring faith, ethics and leadership for sixth form students, offered by the Christian Heritage Centre at Stonyhurst. Join us for 6 days in the beautiful Ribble Valley to explore themes linked to The Common Good (Year 12, 10-15 August) and to The Human Ecology (Year 13, 5-10 July). Meet new friends, discuss and share with peers, tutors and academics, learn new skills, develop your relationship with Christ, build your character. [www.christianleadershipformation.com](http://www.christianleadershipformation.com)

**The Joy of the Gospel** “*Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.*” 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](#).

#### **Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal**

A special collection will be held on the weekend of 25/26 April for St Joseph's Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle. The collection will assist in the replacement of some specialised bathing units and also ongoing general refurbishment of the Home. If you are able to help, donations can be sent by cheque, payable to Little Sisters of the Poor, to: St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, secure online donations can be made by visiting: [www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/) No gift is too small. Every act of kindness helps to ensure that residents continue to receive the care, dignity, and love they so deeply deserve. Thank you.

## **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.



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