

# 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](mailto: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

### PENTECOST, 23 - 24 MAY 2026 Year A

Saturday 23 May <b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Brian and Susan Towns RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	7pm	<b>The Vigil of Pentecost</b>
Sunday 24 May <b>Pentecost</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Fr Patrick McKenna RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Brendan and Terry Ford and Jim McDevitte RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	<b>Gerard McCabe RIP, Lawrence and Cecilia Holland RIP</b>

#### First reading: The Birth of the Church. Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the Apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians - we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.'

**Response to the Psalm: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

#### Second Reading: The Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13

Brothers and Sisters: No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.**

#### The Gospel: The Gift of Peace. John 20:19-23

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.'

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 25 May 2026 (Streamed Mass \*)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 25 May <b>Mary, Mother of the Church</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Godon Herrick RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	<b>George Faghy RIP Anniversary</b>
Tuesday 26 May <b>St Phillip Neri</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Mary Pickles RIP</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Tommy and Peggy Finnigan RIP</b>
Wednesday 27 May <b>St Augustine of Canterbury</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Margaret Wanless and Deceased Members of Fagan Family.</b>
	St. John Boste	7pm	<b>A Sick Person</b>
Thursday 28 May <b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Brenda Lynch RIP</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Brian Wilson RIP</b>
Friday 29 May <b>St Paul VI</b>	St Joseph	10am	<b>Requiem Mass for Joan Hogg</b>
	St John Boste	10am*	<b>Maldwynn and Eleanor Roberts</b>
Saturday 30 May <b>Vigil</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Violet Styles</b>
	St Joseph	5pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Joy Wood RIP</b>
Sunday 31 May <b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Fr Pat McKenna RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Cilla Stokoe RIP</b>

### The Holy Spirit - The Lord the giver of Life

We say these words each time we recite the Creed. It is a profession of our Faith, that the Holy Spirit brings new life. The opening lines of the book of Genesis speak of "The Spirit of God hovering over the waters." (Genesis 1:2) At the beginning of the New Testament in St Luke's Gospel, we read that Our Lady is the first one to receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of the Annunciation. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with his shadow" (Luke 1:35). The Holy Spirit is indeed the giver of new life, and desires to bring new life to each of our spirits in a special way. The Holy Spirit continues to awaken the gift of Faith, New Life, in many members of the Church today, (last year the Bible was the best selling book in the world!) continuing the work of the Risen Christ, who after his Resurrection, "Opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" (Luke. 24: 45.).

It happens over time you may read a passage from scripture, or hear it proclaimed at Mass without experiencing any special feelings for it. Then suddenly one day, you read the same text, or hear it read, in an atmosphere of prayer or faith, and quite unexpectedly, it is lit up, it speaks, it makes you see some circumstances of your life in a new way, in a whole new light, and it shows you what God's will is in that situation. You think to yourself "This is just what I needed, this is for me." The words of Scripture, by the action of the Holy Spirit are transformed, they glow, they bathe your situation in light.

Of all the experiences of the coming of the Holy Spirit into a soul, this is one of the most common, most powerful. The Scriptures come alive, every sentence seems to be written just for you, sometimes to the point of leaving us breathless. We have the Scripture readings at Mass, because they are indeed the Word of God, and God has a voice. God speaks. "The word of God is living and active" (Hebrews 4: 12). On that first Pentecost day, the Apostles were filled with a boldness in proclaiming the Word of God, they became the first Missionaries to the whole world, of the Lord's word. Faith comes from hearing, let us ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of a listening heart, to say, "Hear I am Lord, speak Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3: 9-10) and let us continue to be the Apostles, the witnesses for our own times.

A Blessed Pentecost day.

**Fr. Martin Morris**

**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.

**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!

**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](#).

**St. John Boste.** The Rosary will be said in St John Boste Church each Thursday in May at 11.30am, followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome, so please join us.

**To all members of the SVP 200 Club through St Joseph's, Birtley,** the SVP would like to thank you for all the help that you have given to Vinnies during 2025-2026 through your membership. Subscriptions are now due for 2026-2027 from 1 June 2026 which will be £12 per number. To renew, please contact Peter Monaghan on 0191 4108103.

#### New Scripture Study Course! - Gospel of Luke, Eight Sessions

The Gospel of Luke takes you on a journey that begins with the foretelling of John the Baptist's birth and culminates in Jesus' ascension into heaven. Along the way, you will witness key moments in salvation history, including the Annunciation; the Nativity; Jesus' baptism; his public ministry; the Last Supper; and Jesus' suffering, death, and glorious Resurrection. The Gospel's powerful prose and beautiful details will deepen your desire to draw closer to Jesus and be transformed by his teachings.

Join us for "*Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled*" at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw beginning 14 May from 6:30pm to 8pm, and continuing on 21 May, 4 June, 11 June, 25 June, 2 July, 16 July and 23 July. For more information contact Fr Luke at : [luke.wilkinson@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:luke.wilkinson@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Special Collection This Week** for the Lay Training Fund.

#### Pastoral Strategy Consultation - Summary of responses.

Thank you to everyone who submitted responses to Bishop Stephen's consultation. The responses can now be viewed on the parish website, or paper copies are available at the back of each Church. These responses will now be forwarded to the 'Partnership Grouping of Local Churches, and then to the Deanery. Please do view the responses shared and in due course we will reflect further on these, as we seek to develop the Mission of our Parish.

#### CAFOD - Pilgrimage to Holy Island – Saturday 20 June 2026.

There are a few remaining seats on the coach for the above. If you would like to go the cost is £15 per seat. Please contact Malcolm Bengston as soon as possible if you would like to go on 07746 973132. Thank you.

**Following a recent health & safety meeting please note the following advice:**

**Using Parish Premises:** Any parish group using parish premises must complete a "Case 2 Application" form and return this to the local Safeguarding or H&S representative; Fr.Martin will approve the activity/event and the form will be stored in the parish office. There is a separate form for external groups; all forms are available from the parish secretary.

**Food Hygiene:** Please ensure good hygiene practices for the buying, storage, preparation and service of food are followed and a food hygiene certificate is held where appropriate as per Diocesan guidance [here](#).

**Volunteer Drivers:** If you are driving on church related activities please check your insurance cover with your provider. In most cases the company will not charge an additional premium for volunteering. If they do ask for an additional payment it might be waived if you tell them how little you drive for the church.

Examples of church activities include: a parish financial volunteer driving to the bank to deposit collection monies, Ministers taking Holy Communion to the sick or housebound, an organised or semi organised arrangement where parishioners with cars are asked to pick up other parishioners to bring them to Mass.

Please complete the annual declaration form (F8) and return to your H&S representative or the Parish secretary. Further guidance and F8 form can be found [here](#).

**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.** I would like to invite all our Ministers of Holy Communion to a time of reflection and prayer on Sunday 28 June 4-5pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. This fulfils the promise we make each year to take part in an annual time of preparation. There will be tea and coffee afterwards and an opportunity to share the latest guidelines for home visiting. Thank you, Fr Martin.

#### Appointment of New Headteacher at St. Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College.

Congratulations to Mrs Rachael Gundlach who has been appointed as the new Headteacher of St Robert's. Mrs Gundlach is currently Deputy Headteacher at St Cuthbert's Catholic High School in Newcastle. We know Mrs Gundlach is keen to work closely with clergy and parish communities, and we look forward to building those ties when she takes up her post in September. We wish her every Blessing on her new appointment.

**Huge thanks.** A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has donated to my sponsored walk to raise funds to take out to Eswatini in Africa on Monday 1 June, your kindness raised £3040! Astounding! This will fund several projects which I will document and share with you on my return. Best wishes. Chris O'Neill.

**Thank you** to all who supported and helped to organise the Afternoon Tea at St John Boste last Saturday. It was a great afternoon and raised £503 for parish funds.

CONFESSIONS	
Church	Time
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Thursday after 10am Mass
St Joseph	Thursday after Noon Mass
St John Boste	Friday after 10am Mass
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	Saturday after 10am Mass
St Bede	Saturday after 5pm Mass

## Other News

### SVP Camp – Holy Island

Calling all young adults 18+. Do you have a week to spare to spend on Lindisfarne this Summer helping out at the Holy Island SVP Camp? Volunteers are needed to work alongside the children who stay in the SVP purpose-built centre on the island. Weeks, 3, 5 and 6 of the Summer have 60 children ready to have a great time rock pooling, walking, arts and crafting and enjoying outdoor activities but we need more helpers to ensure they have the best time!

Week 3 Sat 1 August - 8 August

Week 5 Sat 15 August - 22 August

Week 6 Sat 22 August- 29 August

If you are interested, have a look at the [website](#) or email Barbara Taws:

[barbarat@svp.org.uk](mailto:barbarat@svp.org.uk). All helpers receive training and will need to be DBS checked.

**Significance Festival.** Significance and the Youth Ministry Team invite you to join them at the Emmaus Village for the annual Significance Festival on Saturday 27 June. Arrivals from 12 Noon, Guided Walk of the Laudato Si' Environmental Project at 1.15pm, Presentation from Significance and Mass, celebrated by Bishop Stephen at 3pm followed by a Barbecue and Ceilidh in the evening. Entry is free with charges for accommodation on Friday and Saturday nights. BBQ tickets cost £10. All proceeds and donations will support Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. Please support this vital work. To request a booking form and for further information email Evie at [evie.rea@ymt.org](mailto:evie.rea@ymt.org) or Tel. 01207 592244.

***"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](#).

**Corpus Christi Procession at Ushaw College**, Durham, Sunday 7 June, 3pm. Bishop Stephen invites us to this event for the Feast of Corpus Christi. Last year hundreds of people gathered for this event, which was really beautiful. If you would like to attend, please sign the list at the back of Church, and indicate if you will be taking your own car, or require coach transport. If we have enough people wishing to attend, then we can organise a coach, further details in coming weeks.

**Music Matters - A Day of Reflection for Musicians.** The Diocesan Church Music Association (DCMA) invite all parish musicians to a day of reflection on Saturday 27 June on the role of the liturgy and music in the Mass at the beautiful setting of Ushaw College, Durham, DH7 7DW. The day will be an opportunity to reflect on liturgy and the role of music in the Mass, and will be an opportunity to meet fellow musicians from across the Diocese. The day will be led by Fr Adrian Dixon (Diocesan Liturgy team), Philip Robinson (Diocesan Choir) and Alison McLean (DCMA). There is a £7.50 charge for the day, to book a place please email [dcma@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:dcma@diocesehn.org.uk).

**The lecture From Francis to Leo: The Catholic Church in a Change of Era** at Holy Name, Jesmond, on Saturday by Austen Ivereigh, Catholic journalist, commentator and biographer of Pope Francis, can be viewed using this [link](#). Dr Ivereigh explains the nature of the Francis-Leo transition, how the Church is being called to change its way of operating, and why it matters for the future of faith in these islands.

**We Dare to Say: A resource for faith-sharing groups on the Lord's Prayer** is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The connection of the Our Father with the sacraments and the devotional life is explored, and wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. 'This single short prayer of Christ has everything that needs to be said about God, his kingdom, his life, about all of us' - Fr Alexander Schmemmann. You can access the 'We Dare to Say' resource by clicking [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](mailto:david-oneill3@sky.com)

## 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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