

# 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

### THE MOST HOLY TRINITY, 30 - 31 MAY 2026 Year A

Saturday 30 May <b>Vigil</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>

**First reading: The Definition of God's Name.**

**Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9**

In those days: Moses rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. The Lord descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.' And Moses quickly bowed his head towards the earth and worshipped. And he said, 'If now I have found favour in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance.'

**Response to the Psalm: To be praised and highly exalted for ever!**

**Second Reading: A Trinitarian Blessing.**

**2 Corinthians 13:11-14**

Brothers and Sisters: Rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is and who was and who is to come. Alleluia.**

**The Gospel: God So Loved the World.**

**John 3:16-18**

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

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 1 June 2026 (Streamed Mass \*)

Day	Church	Time		
Monday 1 June <b>St Justin</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Cath Linklater</b>	
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	<b>Holy Souls</b>	
Tuesday 2 June <b>Ss Marcellinus and Peter</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Cath Linklater</b>	
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	2pm	<b>Funeral Service Michael Carr RIP</b>	
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>For Recovery Caroline Kennedy</b>	
Wednesday 3 June <b>St Charles Lwanga</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Priest's Intention</b>	
	St. John Boste	7pm	<b>Private Intention (AO)</b>	
Thursday 4 June	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Joe and Dorothy Carr RIP</b>	
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Joan Hogg RIP</b>	
Friday 5 June <b>St Boniface</b>	St Joseph at St Benet's School	9:15am	<b>Priest's Intention</b>	
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Requiem Mass John Cassidy RIP</b>	
	St John Boste	10am*	<b>Priest's Intention</b>	
Saturday 6 June <b>St Norbert</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Charles and Margaret Callaghan and Deceased Lawless and Callaghan Family</b>	
	<b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Sunday 7 June <b>Corpus Christi</b>		St Bede	5pm	<b>The Medjugorje Pilgrims</b>
	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Holy Souls</b>	
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>50th Birthday Memory of Andrew Bell RIP</b>	
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	<b>People of the Parish</b>	

### Trinity Sunday Reflection 31 May 2026

Many priests and deacons will tell you that traditionally Trinity Sunday (which we celebrate today) is one of the hardest liturgical Feasts to preach about. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit - how can one be three, and three be one? Many great preachers and teachers have got themselves tied in knots trying to explain this core belief of our Christian faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that 'from the beginning, the revealed truth about the Holy Trinity has been at the very root of the Church's living faith, principally by means of Baptism.' (CCC 249) - every baptised person is baptised 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' And after Baptism, the whole of the spiritual life of the Church reflects the doctrine of the Trinity in some way: at the start of the Mass, the priest greets us by saying "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."; in the Nicene Creed we say that we 'believe in one God, the Father Almighty ... in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God ... and in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son'; each time we bless ourselves, we do so 'in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.' Belief in the Holy Trinity is inextricably woven into the life of the committed Christian.

As we reflect on the mystery of the Trinity - the relationship between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit sharing one divine essence - we can take inspiration from how they relate to one another with perfect unity and love. And that love is not for themselves alone, because the Father sent the only Son to bring us freedom from all that diminishes our lives, and the Son sent the Holy Spirit to empower us to live our lives to the full.

Let us pray today in the words of a hymn which we sing on the feast of Pentecost, that we might come to know and love the Trinity more deeply through the power of the Spirit: 'Through thee may we the Father know, through thee the eternal Son, and thee the Spirit of them both, thrice-blessed Three in One.'

**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.

**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](#).

#### 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)

#### 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.

**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. We did not have enough names to organise coach transport for this event. Any parishioner intending to take their own vehicle to Ushaw must first register. Please contact the parish office to do this (0191 4163583). Thank you, Fr Martin

#### Mission Boxes - St John Boste.

Mission box money needs to be collected and returned to St John's by 28 June. Collector's pouches are available for collection from this weekend.

**Next weekend we celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi.** All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be invited to renew their promises during Mass.

**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.

#### Choir at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate.

We are hoping to start a choir at Our Lady's church and are inviting any singers, experienced or otherwise, who are interested in joining, to come along to a meeting at the church on Tuesday 16 June at 7pm. Our aim would be to support the congregational singing of hymns and Mass settings, but also to learn some new material for performing during Mass and at Christmas and Easter services. Thank you.

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

## 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.

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.

## Other News

**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](#).

**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)

**Heart to Heart women's retreat, 19 - 22 June 2026.** A three-day retreat for women (whether single, married or religious), based on principles of Ignatian spirituality. Guided by Fr Bernard Murphy, CFR and Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, the retreat will seek to draw participants closer to the Lord through a greater attentiveness to His will. For further information click [here](#).

**Lourdes Pilgrimage – First Timers** - 5 July 2026 - First Timers and Solo Pilgrims –Come along and meet fellow travellers! Find out more about the pilgrimage to Lourdes. Let us answer any questions you may have. Refreshments available too! At St Michael's Parish Centre Durham Road, Houghton le Spring, DH5 8NF, 2pm - 4pm.

## 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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