

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

CORPUS CHRISTI, 06 - 07 JUNE 2026 Year A

Saturday 6 June Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	People of the Parish
	St Bede	5pm	The Medjugorje Pilgrims
Sunday 7 June Corpus Christi	St John Boste	9:30am	Holy Souls
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	50th Birthday Memory of Andrew Bell RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

First reading: Manna from Heaven. Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

Moses spoke to the people: You shall remember the whole way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. Do not forget the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know.

Response to the Psalm: *O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord!*

Second Reading: The One Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Brothers and Sisters: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The True Bread of Life. John 6:51-58

At that time: Jesus said to the Jews, 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.' The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live for ever.'

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 8 June 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 8 June	St Bede	10am	Vocations to the Priesthood
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Teresa Curran RIP
Tuesday 9 June Ss Ephrem & St Columba	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Cath Linklater RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Mark Forsyth RIP
Wednesday 10 June	St Bede	10am	Mary and Kevin Kirkham RIP
	St. John Boste	7pm	Jim and Mary Rodriguez RIP
Thursday 11 June St Barnabas	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Catherine Imelda Morris RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Nancy Loughlin RIP
Friday 12 June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	St Joseph	10am	James Lynch RIP
	St John Boste	10am*	John Cassidy RIP
Saturday 13 June St Anthony of Padua & The Immaculate Heart of Mary Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Mary Pickles RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Alex Proctor RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Joy Wood RIP Wedding Anniversary Remembrance
Sunday 14 June Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Eileen Smare RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Gordon Herrick RIP

"On the feast of Corpus Christi", by St Thomas Aquinas

Since it was the will of God's only-begotten Son that men should share in his divinity, he assumed our nature in order that by becoming man he might make men gods. Moreover, when he took our flesh he dedicated the whole of its substance to our salvation. He offered his body to God the Father on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation. He shed his blood for our ransom and purification, so that we might be redeemed from our wretched state of bondage and cleansed from all sin. But to ensure that the memory of so great a gift would abide with us for ever, he left his body as food and his blood as drink for the faithful to consume in the form of bread and wine.

O precious and wonderful banquet, that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness! Could anything be of more intrinsic value? Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this? No other sacrament has greater healing power; through it sins are purged away, virtues are increased, and the soul is enriched with an abundance of every spiritual gift. It is offered in the Church for the living and the dead, so that what was instituted for the salvation of all may be for the benefit of all. Yet, in the end, no one can fully express the sweetness of this sacrament, in which spiritual delight is tasted at its very source, and in which we renew the memory of that surpassing love for us which Christ revealed in his passion.

It was to impress the vastness of this love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper. As he was on the point of leaving the world to go to the Father, after celebrating the Passover with his disciples, he left it as a perpetual memorial of his passion. It was the fulfilment of ancient figures and the greatest of all his miracles, while for those who were to experience the sorrow of his departure, it was destined to be a unique and abiding consolation.

Fr Luke Wilkinson

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, Peshaw 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

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.

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

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.

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.

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](#).

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.

Columban Mission Appeal. 13/14 June 2026

Next weekend we have the annual Mission appeal at all Masses. Fr Patrick O'Beirne and Fr Tim Mulroy will speak about their Mission appeal, and take a retiring collection. Thank you for your generosity.

Pilgrimage to Holy Island. Saturday 20 June 2026.

A final update regarding the above event. Coach will be leaving from Our Lady Queen of Peace at 8:30am. Due to First Holy Communion Mass being held on that day you will not be able to park in the church car park.

There are still a few seats remaining on the coach if you wish to come. A donation of £15 per person to cover the cost of the coach would be very much appreciated. If you would like to come along, please contact Malcolm Bengston on 07746 973132.

If you are walking across the sands (the walk lasts about 90 minutes) we recommend that you bring a towel to dry your feet at the end of the walk or alternative footwear. For those who do not want to walk across the sands there will be a liturgy held in St Mary's on the island at 12 noon. Mass will be also held in St Mary's church at 3pm for those who wish to go.

The coach will leave Holy Island at 5pm.

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

"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](#).

Little Sisters of the Poor Fundraising Night.

50s and 60s night at St Joseph's Home, Newcastle. Live entertainment, licenced bar, bingo. 7pm on Saturday 4 July 2026, Tickets £7 from 0191 273 1279. All proceeds to St Joseph's Home.

'NEW SONG'!

We're back! We've had Pentecost and The Feast of Corpus Christi - come and join us for New Song where we will be reflecting on the fruits the Holy Spirit and how to recognise them in our lives. All are welcome! Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Emmaus Room. NE38 7HS. When: 4pm 14 June 2026, email: newsongne@gmail.com, Instagram: @newsongne

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 or Tel. 01207 592244.

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.

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](#).

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.

Pray for Peace: A joint Christian – Muslim Visit - 13 June 2026. Our troubled world desperately needs peace. Pope Leo XIV speaks constantly about peace and reconciliation and champions interreligious dialogue as a 'sacred task for all humanity' and a necessary path to peace. At an international meeting for peace in Rome last October, Pope Leo, in the presence of Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and other religious representatives renewed the Church's call for reconciliation, dialogue and fraternity among all peoples: 'We cannot truly pray to God as Father of all if we treat any people as other than sisters and brothers, for all are created in God's image.' In our own diocese, a group of Christian and Muslim women has met annually since 2010 to pray for peace in the ruins of St Mary's Chapel in Jesmond. St Mary's chapel was once an important medieval shrine to Our Lady, so it provides a suitable and very tranquil setting to honour Mary, the mother of Jesus, and to pray for peace. Following both examples, we will meet at 2:30pm on Saturday 13 June in St Mary's Chapel, and it would be wonderful if you could join us. The shrine is situated towards the Jesmond Dene end of Reid Park Road, but by car, you need to approach from Osborne Road. Some folding chairs will be provided, but you might like to bring your own. We look forward to seeing you there. For further information contact: Maria Mackenzie on 07796 372316.

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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