

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

SS PETER AND PAUL, 27– 28 JUNE 2026 Year A

Saturday 27 June	St Joseph	5pm	Brian and Susan Towns (RIP)
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Andrew Walker (RIP) - recently deceased
Sunday 28 June	St John Boste	9:30am	Owen Edgar (RIP)
Ss Peter and Paul	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Henry Marsden & Christopher - Welcome.

First reading: Peter's Narrow Escape

Acts 12:1-11

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

Response to the Psalm: *From all my terrors the Lord set me free.*

Second Reading: Paul in the Evening of his Life

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Peter the Rock

Matthew 16:13-19

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

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 29 June 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 29th June	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	A Sick Person (M)
Tuesday 30th June The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Charles & Margaret Callaghan. & Deceased Lawless & Callaghan Families
	St Joseph	7pm	Sick of The Parish
Wednesday 1st July St Oliver Plunket	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	St. John Boste	7pm	Special Intention (ME)
Thursday 2nd July	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Private Intention. (E A)
	St Joseph	12 Noon	S.V.P.
Friday 3rd July St Thomas	St Joseph @ St. Benet's	9.15am	Priest's Intention
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Sheila Gibson Funeral Service
	St John Boste	10am*	Eleanor & Maldwyn Roberts RIP
Saturday 4th July St Elizabeth of Portugal Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Alan Callaghan (RIP)
	St Joseph	5pm	Harriet And John Hogan R.I.P.
Sunday 5th July The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St Bede	5pm	Elizabeth and Joseph Stephenson & deceased family
	St John Boste	9:30am	Thomas Andayapan & John Cassidy RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Ann Duffy & Jimmy Merrill (RIP)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

I would like to look at St Paul today. We know more about St Paul than any of the other Apostles. His journeys are described in the Acts of the Apostles and we also have all the letters he wrote to the new Christian communities which he established on his journeys; Ephesus, Corinth, Thessalonica, Phillippi and Rome. By his own admission he was not a great orator, and yet he converted many communities to Christianity. He did this by spending time with them, he would stay with a community for months and sometimes years, becoming a working member of that community. He was proud of the fact that he, and those who travelled with him, earned their living while they were preaching the Gospel and living with the community. They paid their way.

It is obvious that these communities meant a great deal to Paul and his letters congratulated them on progress while also keeping them on the straight and narrow – sometimes quite sternly. Two examples illustrate these signs of his love for them, both in Paul's greetings in his letters. To the Galatians he was chastising them; 'I am astonished that you are so promptly turning away from the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are going over to a different gospel.' Then to the Phillipians he was congratulating them for their faith, 'I thank my God whenever I think of you, and every time I pray for you all, I always pray with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the very first day up to the present.' The Phillipians seem to be the ideal new Christian community.

Paul suffered a great deal for his mission, with beatings, imprisonment, being banished from towns and ultimately to his martyrdom in Rome. Paul was instrumental in preaching the gospel to the Gentiles and if was not for him Christianity would not have been the universal church it is today.

Tony Joy

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! There will be no meeting Tuesday 30th June.

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 weekly until 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. Collectors pouches are available for collection from this weekend.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. I would like to invite all our Ministers of Holy Communion to a time of reflection and prayer this 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.

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](#).

42nd Annual St John Boste Walk. This year's walk will be on 19th July leaving St John Boste church after 9:30am Mass at 11 o'clock. Full details in next week's bulletin.

Special Collection This Week: Peter's Pence

Visit of the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

On Saturday 27th June the statue of Lady of Fatima will be visiting Holy Rosary Church in Sunderland. (Post code is SR3 3LD).

With the relics of **Ss Jacinta and Francisco**.

The statue and relics will enter church in solemn procession for Mass at 11.00am.

Visit of the Relics of St Gerard Majella : The relics of St. Gerard Majella will be visiting the diocese. St Michael's Church in Houghton-le-Spring on Wednesday 1st July, with Mass at 6.30pm and confessions from 5.30pm. The post code for St Michael's is DH5 8NF. The Relics will be available for prayer for an hour beforehand. With refreshments in the Hall after Mass. He is patron saint of children, unborn children, childbirth, mothers and pregnant women. Do please come along to this very special Mass.

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.

Songs of Peace and Praise, Thursday 9th July, 7.00pm

Parishioners, from our Churches and schools, have collaborated to celebrate an evening of prayer, song and verse. This will be held at **Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 7.00pm, Thursday 9th July.** We hope as many as possible will be able to join us at this Parish act of worship and all are most welcome, light refreshments will follow. If you are unable to join us in person perhaps you will join us through prayer. Let us all, during the next few weeks, pray for peace. Peace in our world, in our communities, in our homes and in our hearts so that we may reflect God's love and help others to find His peace.

Choir at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate

Our next choir practice will be on Tuesday 7th July at 7pm in the church. New members welcome.

Other News

St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy are looking to appoint a permanent inspiring Catholic Secondary School Lay Chaplain. Is this something you would be interested in? If so, please visit the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust website for further details of this vacancy. [Link to vacancy info Catholic Secondary School Lay Chaplain - St Anthony's Girls' Catholic Academy | Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust](#)

For enquiries regarding this role please contact **Mrs Marie Lanaghan Headteacher: recruitment@staga.co.uk** The closing date is 9am on Thursday 2nd July 2026.

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 & 60s night at St Joseph's Home, Newcastle. Live entertainment, licenced bar, bingo. 7pm on Saturday 4 July 2026, Tickets £7 from 0191 2731279. All proceeds to St Joseph's Home.

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear **Tom O'Loughlin** speak on **Luke 5:27-32 as a discipleship text: Christian hospitality and the contemporary rejection of liturgy**, in the hall of **Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle, NE2 3JX**, on **Tuesday 14 July 2026, at 7.30pm**. What can reading the story of the call of Levi (Lk 5:27-32) say to us about how we imagine discipleship? And can it speak to us about the place of meals and Christian hospitality? If so, might it show us a way out of the current dead-end where so many Christians do not give any value or importance to liturgy? Dr Tom O'Loughlin is Emeritus Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Nottingham. He has written, and continues to write, on a wide variety of theological topics, particularly liturgy and the Eucharist. His book *The Eucharist: Origins and Contemporary Understandings* is a major contribution to our understanding of the central ritual of our faith.

Blessed John Ingram - 26 July 2026 - A Commemorative Walk from Newcastle to Gateshead in honour of Blessed John Ingram takes place each year on the Sunday nearest the 26th of July. This year we fall in time and the walk will take place on **Sunday 26th July** – led by Deacon Shaun McGee. Walkers should meet at St Andrew's Anglican Church in Gallowgate at 2:30pm for a service at 2:45pm. The walk starts after the service and goes via the Swing Bridge ending with a service followed by light refreshments at St Edmund's Anglican Chapel on Gateshead High Street. The walk is arranged by members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who revived the devotion which the late Father Joseph Scarr established in the 1920's and which had fallen into abeyance. All welcome.

One Hope Project - 7 September 2026—26 March 2027 - Applications for the 2026/27 OHP Academy are OPEN NOW. The OHP Academy is a six-month online worship school for aspiring worship leaders, musicians and songwriters who want to invest in their leadership, grow in their practical gifting in order to serve in their local parish or group and go deeper in their journey of faith. For more information and how to apply, please visit www.onehopeproject.co.uk/ohpacademy

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](#). via pat.kennedy42@icloud.com or call/text 07546 302832 (Christine).

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.

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

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.



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