

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

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 4TH –5TH JULY 2026 Year A

Saturday 4th July	St Joseph	5pm	Harriet And John Hogan RIP.
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Elizabeth and Joseph Stephenson & deceased family
Sunday 5th July	St John Boste	9:30am	Thomas Andayapan & John Cassidy RIP
The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Ann Duffy & Jimmy Merrill RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

First reading: The King on a Donkey

Zechariah 9:9-10

Thus says the Lord: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Response to the Psalm: *I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.*

Second Reading: The Spirit is alive in you

Romans 8:9, 11-13

Brothers and Sisters: You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Father and Son

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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 6th July 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 6th July St Maria Goretti	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	St Bede	11.15am	Robert Stephen Gough funeral service
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Carl Poulter RIP
Tuesday 7th July	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Malcolm Forrister
	St Joseph	7pm	Brian and Susan Towns RIP
Wednesday 8th July	St Bede	10am	Fr Noel Colahan - 62nd Anniversary of Ordination
	St. John Boste	7pm	Intentions of Shimmin & Hetherington Families
Thursday 9th July St Augustine Zhao Rong	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	William Hughes RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Win Colesby & Eileen Wall RIP
Friday 10th July	St Joseph	10am	CAFOD
	St John Boste	10am*	A sick Person (BM)
Saturday 11th July St Benedict Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Sharon Price Anniversary
	St Joseph	5pm	Terry Cantwell RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Mary Ann Graham RIP
Sunday 12th July The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Dennis Wilson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Gordon Herrick RIP

“For I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew : 11:29.)

One of the most beautiful images of the Lord, in our Catholic Faith has to be that of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The image tells us that God is not indifferent, or far removed from our lived experience. But that God has a heart, a living, beating human heart in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. This image of Jesus with arms wide-open, in a gesture of welcoming embrace, brings comfort, consolation and rest for countless men and women down the ages, who on hearing the invite of the Lord, “Come to Me” have done just that. The eternal Son of God in his utter humility chose to love us with a human heart. In gazing at an image of the Lord’s heart we contemplate the reality of his human flesh, which enables him to possess genuine human emotions and feelings, like ourselves, fully transformed by his Divine love. Devotion to the Sacred Heart helps us to contemplate the infinite love of the person of the Son of God, his divine love inseparable from his human love. The image of his heart helps us to do just that. Pope Francis once said, “It is precisely in his human love, and not part from it, that we encounter his divine love: We discover “the infinite in the infinite.”

His Sacred heart calls to our hearts, inviting us to come out of ourselves, to entrust to him our deepest hopes and fears, and like him to make of ourselves a gift of love for one another. As you listen to the words in today’s Gospel, “Come to Me, and you will find rest for your souls.” Do just that. Take time to rest in God, in the heart of Jesus, and find holy spiritual refreshment.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus I place all my trust in thee.

Fr. Martin Francis 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!

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](#).

The 42nd annual St John Boste Walk will take place on **19th July** after the 9.30 Mass. The walk is about 9 miles and begins at Waterhouses, (at approximately 11.30) where St John was captured. It then proceeds along the Deerness Valley, with the opportunity for a well earned rest and a picnic lunch. Then on to Durham Cathedral to say the rosary in the Galilee Chapel. Finally to St Leonard's School (Dryburn) where St John Boste was executed in 1594. **To book a seat on the mini-bus** see list at the back of the church or for any queries contact Maureen Brewster on 01914168693. All are welcome and a special welcome to those joining us in Waterhouses.

Special Collection Apostleship of the Sea

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

CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

You can help our neighbours affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives. Donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today: cafod.org.uk/Venezuela or call 0300 999 0030 or scan the QR code.



Sea Sunday, which falls on **12 July** this year, let us pray for seafarers, fishers, and the work of Stella Maris. When seafarers and fishers arrive in a foreign port, they are strangers, often thousands of miles from home. Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors welcome them, listen to their concerns, and help provide what they need. Stella Maris' chaplains and volunteer ship visitors answer Jesus' call to give hospitality to the stranger. Stella Maris is appealing to readers to support its ministry with fishers and seafarers by praying for them on Sea Sunday on 12 July. Donations are requested through its [website](#). For more information, [please click here](#).

Could you be a CAFOD Schools Volunteer? Volunteers are wanted to help children/students learn about the work of CAFOD. Could you help your local school deliver assemblies and/or workshops that encourage young people to put faith into action to help others? It would only require a few hours of your time each term and you would be assisting your local community to work together for the Common Good. No experience is necessary, and full support and training will be given.

Find out more [here](#).

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

Last September, we had a hugely successful and uplifting SPUC weekend conference, and I was personally pleased to see both known and unknown faces there! I first announced back in May - and would like to remind you - that this September we'll be holding **two Day Conferences** in both **London** and **Glasgow**! SPUC Conferences serve the purpose of informing and uplifting supporters, and are particularly needed now at a time when we're seeing such horrors as the decriminalisation of abortion up to birth. A time like this calls for serious, committed pro-lifers to step up and contribute, and so our upcoming Day Conferences are a time for such people to gather together and recharge their batteries before going back out into the world and fighting the culture of death. The London Conference will be on **Saturday 12th September 2026** in a central London venue to be announced, and the Glasgow Conference will be on the following **Saturday 19th September 2026** in a central Glasgow venue to be announced. More details will be announced soon, so save the date and stay tuned.

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).

'Jubilee for All' – A Resource for Families - 'Jubilee for All' is a new resource from CELEBRATE Trust for the Jubilee year. 'Jubilee for All' has been developed for families, especially those with additional needs, to enjoy pilgrimage in their local diocese in the Jubilee Year of Hope. CELEBRATE Trust have designed short creative activities that families can choose from to enable them to draw close to Jesus, our hope, and to enable them to share that love with others. To download the resource for free, [visit here](#) and click on 'Jubilee for All'.

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.



To post a notice on this Newsletter, please click stjohn23bulletin@gmail.com