

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

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 11TH – 12TH JULY 2026 Year A

Saturday 11th July	St Joseph	5pm	Terry Cantwell RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Mary Ann Graham RIP
Sunday 12th July	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Dennis Wilson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Gordon Herrick RIP

First reading: The Effective Word of God

Isaiah 55:10-11

Thus says the Lord: 'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.'

Response to the Psalm: Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

Second Reading: Creation Freed from Corruption

Romans 8:18-23

Brothers and Sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who find him will live for ever. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

At that time: Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.' Then the disciples came and said to him, 'Why do you speak to them in parables?' And he answered them, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. 'Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

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 13th July 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 13th July St Henry	St Bede	10am	Margaret & Thomas Banks RIP anniversary
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Vincent & Florence Woodhouse
Tuesday 14th July St Camillus de Lellis	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Gordon Herrick RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Fr. Aniebiet Francis Xavier Inyang RIP
Wednesday 15th July St Bonaventure	St Joseph @ St Benet's	9am	School Leavers Mass
	St Bede	10am	John Barker Birthday Memory
	St. John Boste	7pm	Deceased Members of Morley Family
Thursday 16th July Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Alfie Cruddas RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	June Young RIP
Friday 17th July	St Joseph	10am	Peace in the World
	St John Boste	10am*	Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints. In Thanks.
Saturday 18th July	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Tony Crossgrove RIP
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Silver Jubilee Sr Anna Christie O.P.
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 19th July The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Rita & Jim Kirkwood RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Vera Cosgrove RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Tom & Tina Lamb RIP

LATELY DEAD: Anne Howarth, Tom Davidson and Audrey McVay.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

Starting today and for the following two Sundays, the Gospel will focus on Jesus' parables of the Kingdom of Heaven found in chapter 13 of Matthew's Gospel. This week, we hear the Parable of the Sower and Seeds; next week, we'll hear the Parable of the Wheat and Tares and the week after that, the parables of buried treasure and the pearl of great price. All of these parables tell us that the offer of full life in God's Kingdom is open to all and for those who realise what is being offered and accept it - there is great reward.

The Parable of the Sower and the Seeds and its explanation will be familiar to many of us - the seeds which fell in all the various places and how they reacted to the places where they landed. Some seeds fared better than others. In many ways, the parable speaks for itself as a metaphor for how people respond to God's invitation.

But sometimes, what gets overlooked in this parable is the generosity of the Sower (God) who is not calculating in where he distributes the seeds. The Sower scatters the seeds everywhere - on the road, in the bushes, among the rocks, into barren soil as well as good soil. It's as if there is a limitless abundance of seeds and so the Sower spreads the seeds indiscriminately.

This speaks to us of God's love. No matter where we find ourselves, in a barren place or in a good place, the offer of a full life and participation in God's Kingdom is always open to us. God is so rich in love and mercy that we are never beyond hope and redemption. And as we rejoice in this knowledge, let us pray that we too may reflect the abundance of God's love in the way we treat others.

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!

Special Collection Today - Apostleship of the Sea

Today is Sea Sunday - 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](#).

Summer Raffle - SVP members will be selling raffle tickets for the SVP Summer Raffle both before and after Sunday Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace on 19th and 26th July. Tickets are £5 per book of 5, first prize £5,000. Draw takes place on 24th September.

SVP Sing And Chat - Everyone is welcome to join us at The Black Bush, Washington Village, from 12:15 until 3 pm on Friday 17th July.

'NEW SONG'! Come and join us for New Song where we will be reflecting on this week's Gospel - the parable of the Sower and the Seeds. All are welcome! **Where:** Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Emmaus Room. NE38 7HS **When:** 12 July 2026 @ 4.00 pm.

Email: newsongne@gmail.com **Instagram:** @newsongne

Healing Mass - We will offer a Mass for the sick and housebound of our parish at 10am on Saturday 15th August at Our Lady's. The Sacrament of the sick will be celebrated during the Mass, along with prayers for healing. Refreshments afterwards in the Emmaus room. All welcome.

Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration - next Sunday, 19th July, 4-5.30pm at Our Lady's. Why not come along and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist?

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.

Daft as a Brush - Thank you for your charitable donation for £200 from you all at the Parish of St John from Washington to Daft as a Brush. Your support directly strengthens the vital service we provide to patients undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy, ensuring they receive a bespoke, safe, and compassionate transport service to and from hospital during what can be an extremely challenging time. This personal care, offered not only to patients but also to their families, remains completely free of charge. It is the generosity of supporters like you that enables us to continue delivering this essential service and to make meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you once again for your kindness, your commitment, and for helping us continue our mission of supporting patients throughout the treatment journey.

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. 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](#).

Other News

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi - Bishop Stephen will lead a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and the centre of the Eternal City before then moving onto Assisi in Umbria, the 'green heart' of Italy, and the centre of St Francis and St Clare's ministry. The Pilgrimage will take place **22nd – 29th October 2027** at a cost of £1,725 per person. Places are limited to 50 pilgrims and places are allocated on a first come first served basis with payment of the deposit securing your place. For information and how to book please [click here](#) or type in the link. <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/diocesan-pilgrimage-to-rome-assisi/>

CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal - You can help our neighbours affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. 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.

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

Centenary Pilgrimage to Lourdes - Friday 31st July to Friday 7th August will see our Diocese make it's **100th** Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Pilgrims come from all parts of the Diocese and in Lourdes we encounter pilgrims from all over the world. Our assisted pilgrims, those who may be elderly, frail or dependent are supported by our own team of willing volunteers, including doctors, nurses and other allied health professionals and many others with different backgrounds and experiences. All volunteers are self-funding and give up their own time to support those who require help. ***They serve in a spirit inspired by love of God and of neighbour.*** We are grateful for *all* fundraising offered in support. For more information please [click here](#).

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.

Special Collection Update - During Advent 2025 and Lent 2026, **St Cuthbert's Care** invited parishes across our Diocese to support their new service, **Fresh Start**, which aims to provide safe accommodation for women experiencing homelessness, many of whom have faced challenges linked to the justice system or substance misuse, supporting them to rebuild their lives with dignity and stability. Thanks to the generosity of parish communities, an incredible **£26,500** has been raised, which will go directly to supporting this vital service. Rooted firmly in Catholic values, the project responds to a clear gap in provision, offering hope where there is currently no statutory funding. Anticipated annual running costs are around £300,000, making the ongoing support of parish communities more important than ever. *Thank you for your support – together we can make a real difference.* For more information please [click here](#).

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

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.

Adoremus 2026 - 10 October 2026 - Adoremus is the Bishops of England and Wales invitation to renew our devotion to the Eucharistic Lord. One aspect of this invitation is a representative gathering of the Church in London with Bishops, priests and lay people. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle will be represented at the event, and bookings are being taken if you would like to join us. Travel to and from London will be by train. The train will depart Newcastle around 7.00am and will arrive back around 9.30pm. Travel times are approximate and will be confirmed after travel has been booked. Cost (Adult); £66 (plus £6 contactless payment on London Underground) Cost (Child): £34 (plus up to £6 contactless payment on London Underground) Parishes are invited to contribute to the cost with a suggested payment of £36 (Adult) / £20 (Child) which leaves a balance of £30 (Adult) / £14 (Child) to be paid by the person booking. To register your place, please [click 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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