

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

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 18TH – 19TH JULY 2026 Year A

Saturday 18th July	St Joseph	5pm	Silver Jubilee Sr Anna Christie O.P.
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 19th July	St John Boste	9:30am	Rita & Jim Kirkwood RIP
The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Vera Cosgrove RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Tom & Tina Lamb RIP

First reading: The Leniency of God

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Neither is there any God besides you, whose care is for all, to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly. For your strength is the source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when men doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. You are sovereign in strength but you judge with mildness, and with great forbearance you govern us; for you have power to act whenever you choose. Through such works you have taught your people that the one who is righteous must be kind, and you have filled your sons with good hope, because you give repentance for sins.

Response to the Psalm: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Second Reading: Prayer in the Spirit

Romans 8:26-27

Brothers and Sisters: The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

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: A Parable of Growth

Matthew 13:24-43

At that time: Jesus put another parable before the crowd, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, "Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?" He said to them, "An enemy has done this." So the servants said to him, "Then do you want us to go and gather them?" But he said, "No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, 'Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' " He put another parable before them, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable. 'The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.' All these things Jesus said to the crowds in parables; indeed, he said nothing to them without a parable. This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet: 'I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world.' Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, 'Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.' He answered, 'The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.'

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 20th July 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 20th July St Apollinaris	St Bede	10am	69th Wedding Anniversary & Fr John Coyle celebrating 69th year of ordination
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Johanna Green RIP
Tuesday 21st July St Lawrence of Brindisi	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Joyce Wood
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Requiem Mass for Ann Howarth
	St Joseph	7pm	Smith and Longstaff Families
Wednesday 22nd July St Mary Magdalen	St Bede	10am	Joan & Frank Barrett RIP anniversary
	St. John Boste	7pm	Gordon Herrick
Thursday 23rd July St Bridget of Sweden	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	In Thanksgiving for Mam & Dad.
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Patrica Burnett (Nee McCash) RIP
Friday 24th July St Sharbel Makhlūf	St Joseph	10am	Moving On – Year 6 / 11 / 13
	St John Boste	10am*	Consecration Anniversary - In Thanksgiving (TH)
Saturday 25th July St James	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	David Barry RIP
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Kath & Bob McLeman RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Margaret Jones RIP
Sunday 26th July The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	John Cassidy RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Jacqueline Tita RIP

LATELY DEAD: Ann Howarth, Tom Davidson, Audrey McNay and Fr Leo Pyle.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.

Fr Luke New Appointment

The Bishop has asked me to take up a new appointment in the diocese. I will be moving to St Dominic's Newcastle to join the City Centre Clergy and taking up the role of Chaplain to Newcastle and Northumbria Universities.

While I'm looking forward to this new phase of ministry it's a little daunting, so I'd very much appreciate your prayers in the coming weeks and months.

I'm being replaced at Our Lady Queen of Peace by Fr Andrew Shaw and I'm sure you'll make him as welcome as I have felt these last three years.

The 22nd/23rd August will be my last weekend in the parish and I'd really like you to join me for Mass on the 22nd at 10am at OBLI to say goodbye with refreshments afterwards.

God Bless,

Fr Luke

Domine ut videam, Domina ut sit!

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!

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.

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

Songs of Peace and Praise A huge thank you to all those who participated and attended our Parish event. Special thank you to our very talented primary and secondary pupils, musicians, singers, photographer and also the students and staff from St Robert's who created the peace cranes. Well done and thank you to our music group, musicians, adult singers, choirs, our readers, our candle lighters, those responsible for flowers and all those who helped provide refreshments. **Peace begins with us!**

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026 - George Dickman from Our Lady Queen of Peace, is travelling to Lourdes as part of this year's Diocesan Pilgrimage. His trip has been very kindly funded by the parish youth fund, and he would like to give back by means of bringing home some prayer cards, medals and holy water. Please contact Kathryn on 07739 342 782 or at kad18@icloud.com to give an idea of the quantity he should bring back. If anyone would like any prayer requests taken to Lourdes, please make contact in the same way or leave in the porch at the back of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church before 31st July and George will take them to Lourdes with him.

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. 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. 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. 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/>

We Believe: Festival of Catholic Life, 24 - 27 July 2026 - Join thousands of Catholics from around the UK for the annual We Believe festival. Discover the traditions, charisms, ministries and movements of the Catholic Church in the UK in the beautiful and historic setting of St Mary's College, Oscott.

<https://www.webeliefefestival.com>

Centenary Pilgrimage to Lourdes - Friday 31st July to Friday 7th August will see our Diocese make it's **100th** Pilgrimage to Lourdes. 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 and this year 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.

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

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.

Caritas Fund - Our Caritas Fund helps us to fulfil the Diocesan values and the Gospel call to support organisations who reach out in Christian love to those in need. This fund aims to provide long term help to existing organisations but also to encourage people within parishes, schools and partnerships to start new local projects to help across our Diocesan community. Our next funds will be available in September 2026. Please submit applications by Friday 31 July 2026 for consideration. For more information please [click here](#).

Laudato Si' Animators are members of the [Laudato Si Movement](#), a global community of prayer and action, who animate their local parishes and communities to engage in ecological spirituality and sustainable lifestyles. Animators work to bring Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si' to life and care for our common home. Find out more about our Diocesan Laudato Si Animators and the projects that celebrate the joy of nature by [clicking here](#).

Marriage Preparation Days - Engaged couples can find **more information** [here](#). To find and **book on a course**, please visit our [website](#) or call the phone booking service on 0800 389 3801. (In person and online courses are available.)

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](#).

Safeguarding - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is a priority in every parish and diocesan organisation. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is fully committed in the church and operates a zero-tolerance approach. The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. We adopt and implement fully the policies and procedures of the Catholic Church of England and Wales, which is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact a safeguarding officer in any of our churches – their details are on the noticeboard in the porch. Details of our Diocesan policy can be found by [clicking here](#).

"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](#).

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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