

# Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph's, Birtley

Incorporating:

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw;  
St Bede's, Usworth; St John Boste, Oxclose; St Joseph's, Birtley

Administrator: Audrey Huntley 0191 4163583 [sj23office01@gmail.com](mailto:sj23office01@gmail.com)

## In the Partnership of Benedict

Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Houghton-le-Spring, Penshaw, Sacriston, Washington

### SAINT PETER AND SAINT PAUL - 27/28 JUNE 2020, YR. A

#### We are now live-streaming Masses

Please follow this link to access live streaming of Mass from one of our Churches - <https://www.facebook.com/ParishStJohn23/>  
(Note: You do not have to log in or join Facebook to view this page) or search for ParishStJohn23 on Facebook.

#### Mass is live-streamed at 10.00am, every Day.

Please take this opportunity to experience one or more of the live-streaming Masses from your local Church.

#### READINGS NOW AVAILABLE

This Sunday's readings are now available to follow during Mass, or to read/print at a later time. Just click on this link:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MuNmidKSA3-OWiPs02NW5mMSyQWmXkT/view?usp=sharing>

#### Fr Martin writes....

This week's Gospel for the Feast of SS Peter and Paul (Matthew 16:13-19) brought memories of home and growing up flooding back to me.

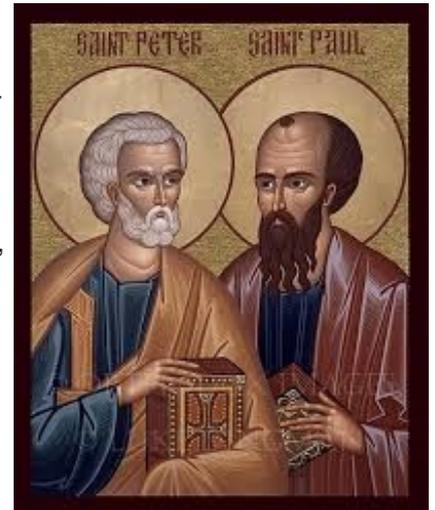
I was brought up in a household that was always busy and always frequented by visitors. So much so that my father, when talking to his friends at the club, would jokingly refer to it as 'the cafe'. The visitors, besides family and my parents' personal friends, were people of faith, local people of every denomination and none. Nearly all of them were sent over by the local parish priest. If they visited him and he was busy he would send them on to visit my mother, and they then became regular fixtures. I remember one man that regularly visited us had started his own church.

A few years ago, I met one man, David, who was a regular visitor, a former Methodist he moved to an independent church, "I genuinely miss your mam, Martin." he said. We chatted for a while about the atmosphere and characters that were regular visitors to my home. And at one point, referring to mam, he said, "I can see and hear her now, "But, David," she would say, "Our Lord said, 'Upon this rock I will build my Church". He laughed as he continued, "And I would say to her, " But Eileen I'm a Protestant!" His laughter hid genuine sorrow, as he went on, "And she always concluded with, "David, it won't work any other way." She was, of course, referring to Jesus' promise in today's Gospel, "Upon this rock I will build my Church."

Yes, there was always lots of tea, a welcoming atmosphere and friendly banter in my parent's house. This allowed everyone to talk freely, but always with respect. And although mam only read two types of books, ones about saints and ones about diets, she knew enough about her faith to cherish and understand it.

When I began seminary, I met a character that was the very intellectual opposite of my mother. Simon is the most brilliant man I have ever met. A former ivy league university lecturer, he is fluent in numerous languages. He was born and bred in Alabama in the USA. Having been brought up and practised as a Southern Baptist until he converted to the Catholic faith several years before I met him.

One day while at seminary the professor of fourth year Hebrew phoned in sick, so they asked Simon to take the class, which he did. This will give you some idea of the power of his intellect.



Fr Jim O'Keefe 0191 416 3805  
Fr Mark Millward 0191 416 3583  
Fr Martin Wheaton 0191 410 2923

Deacon Frank O'Neill 0779 115 5845  
Deacon Peter Lavery 0730 505 9297  
Deacon Chas Ferguson 0783 663 1963  
Deacon Tony Joy 0779 989 3419

(continued from previous page) Seemingly, Simon and mam have little to nothing in common. A working-class Geordie housewife that only reads books about diets and the saints and a heavy weight academic from Alabama with a soft Southern accent. The very example of opposites, surely?

Yet, one day I was stunned by a reply Simon gave me when I asked him why he converted to the Catholic Church. I was expecting a very convoluted and intellectual reply. But it wasn't. He said, "Well, Martin, I kept focusing on Matthew's Gospel, "Upon this rock...". And one day it came to me! It won't work any other way."

Both Simon and my mother had come to the same conclusion, albeit following very different paths. God's Grace working uniquely in both had guided them to see what really matters. Faith and reason played their own parts, like two wings of a dove, as St. John Paul II said. They both realised that order is necessary. It is genuinely "The only way it will work."

Buddha, the great philosopher, was once asked about order and society. As he contemplated, he noticed a few field mice. He watched them as he contemplated the question. Then he responded in his customary succinct and direct manner, "Even the mice require a hierarchy", was his conclusion. So even the great thinker, Buddha realised that for an institution or group to function it is necessary that it is ordered.

However, as Christians, Jesus' promise to build His Church on Peter (Matthew 16:18-19), is not simply to assist the Church to function. It is an outward sign of our inward unity in Jesus. It is the guarantor and protector of the faithful. It sets us free to worship and follow the Risen Lord in confidence, built on the words of Jesus. Whether we come to realise it through family, like my mother, or friends and acquaintances, like Simon at seminary, or great thinkers, like Buddha, we ultimately understand that Jesus was one with the Father, and we are called to be one with each other. The Petrine Office, the pope, is the public sign and guarantor of this spiritual reality.

## **Bishop Robert Byrne CO has announced the re-opening of some churches for individual prayer**

The nearest Churches to this area are:

**St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne:** Open daily from 1.00pm – 4.00pm (including Saturday and Sunday) plus 9.30am – 11.15am on Saturday and Sunday only.

**St. Mary's Church, Sunderland:** Open from 10.00am to 1.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Due to social distancing measures, there will be a limited capacity in each church. Should the maximum capacity of a church be met, a queueing system will be implemented outside of the Church.

Bishop Robert has also announced a second group of churches to re-open for private prayer in the Diocese; St John Boste, Washington will re-open in our Partnership of Benedict although **no date has been set**. We have already started making arrangements for its re-opening and we need the help of volunteers to be stewards and cleaners please. **Please see the article below about volunteering to act as 'stewards'**. We can only open Churches with your help.

Announcements have recently been made that funerals (and possibly weddings) can take place in church with restricted numbers. A number of protocols concerning these have been approved by the Bishops' Conference. It has been made clear that these celebrations must be without Mass and only in churches which have already opened. Until enhanced risk assessments and protocols are in place to make our Churches as safe as possible, and following extensive consultation, the Bishop believes that it will be better to consider the recommencement of funerals at a later date and probably in conjunction with the return of Mass in our churches.

Please [click here](#) to read the Diocesan statement in full.

Please [click here](#) to read the Diocesan frequently asked questions (FAQs) guide.

## **Gradual Re-opening of Churches across the Benedict Partnership**

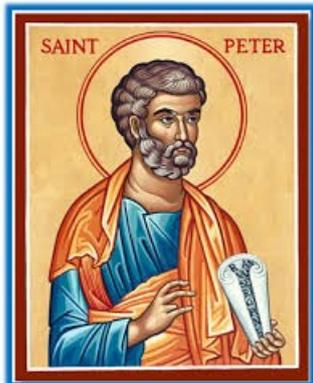
We are actively making preparations for a gradual re-opening of our Churches across the Benedict Partnership, starting with St John Boste. In the first instance, this is likely to be for private prayer and reflection only. We are unable to put any timescale on this yet, but we would expect that, at some point, our Churches will be open at various times for a few hours each day. It could well be that Churches re-open on some form of rolling programme, however the start date has not yet been confirmed. For this to happen we will require assistance from you, our parishioners, therefore we are asking for volunteers from across the Partnership to help. The Diocese has produced guidance for the re-opening of churches and full training will be given.

**Could you give up a few hours of your time each week to 'steward' one of our Churches?** This may be at any of our Churches across the Benedict Partnership; you can indicate a preference on the form. If you are not in a 'vulnerable' group (that is any person over the age of 70, or any person with an underlying health issue – A full definition is on the form) and you would like to help make our Churches available to all, we would be grateful if you could complete the form by following the link : <https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/3djiPK4ovP>

**We can only open Churches with your help so please consider volunteering and fill in the form. Thank you.**

## Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

By the year 258, there was an understanding that the solemnities of both Saint Peter and Saint Paul were celebrated at the same time. Together, the two Saints are portrayed as central figures within the early Christian community.



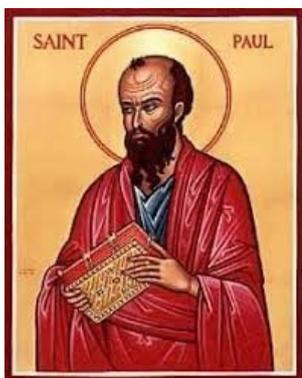
Peter, who was originally called Simon, was a fisherman in Galilee. His brother Andrew, who was also a fisherman, introduced Peter to Jesus, and Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' using the words "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Cephas, and on this rock, I will build my church" (Matthew 16:13-19).

Peter was also the first to understand that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and enthusiastically swore his loyalty until the very end. However, Peter was also human with many human frailties such as losing confidence when walking on water with Jesus and denying the Lord three times on the evening of His Passion.

Yet despite all this, Peter was chosen by God to be the rock on which the Church would be built. After the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ, Peter was referred to as 'prominent' or 'head' amongst the Apostles, a title shared with Paul (although some believe this is not the same as saying the Apostles were under Peter's orders). Although we, in the Catholic Church speak of the pope, the Bishop of Rome, as the successor of Saint Peter, this is often interpreted to imply that Peter was the first Bishop of Rome.

Early church tradition suggests that St. Peter probably died by crucifixion in the year 64. Pope Clement I (d.99), in his *Letter to the Corinthians*, written c. 80–98, speaks of Peter's martyrdom in the following terms: "Let us take the noble examples of our own generation. Through jealousy and envy the greatest and most just pillars of the Church were persecuted and came even unto death. ...Peter, through unjust envy, endured not one or two but many labours, and at last, having delivered his testimony, departed unto the place of glory due to him."

St. Paul the Apostle has his letters remembered in the New Testament, and through them we find out much about his life and the faith of the early Church. He was likely born between the years 5BC and 5AD from a large Jewish family based in the city of Tarsus, one of the largest trade centres on the Mediterranean coast.



Paul confesses that, prior to his conversion, he persecuted the Church of God. According to the account in the Acts of the Apostles, Paul's conversion took place on the road to Damascus, where he reported having experienced a vision of the ascended Jesus.

The account says that "He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting'." (Acts 9:4-5)

Saul continued to Damascus, where he was baptized, took the name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel vigorously throughout the Mediterranean world.

He finally arrived in Rome around the year 60, where he was detained under house arrest, and was eventually executed about the year 67.

Paul's body was buried outside the walls of Rome, at the second mile on the Via Ostiensis, on the estate owned by a Christian woman named Lucina. It was here, in the fourth century, that the Emperor Constantine the Great built a first church.

Then, between the fourth and fifth centuries it was considerably enlarged and the present-day Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, one of Rome's four ancient, papal, major Basilicas, was built there in 1800.

### Church Gardens and Shrines



Just a reminder that our Church gardens and shrines are open to anyone who wishes to use them for private prayer and reflection. (This does not include St John Boste yet). Should you wish to use them, please adhere to current guidance regarding social distancing.

### Prayers for the Sick or Recently Deceased



During this time of crisis it is important that we all have the opportunity to pray for our loved ones who are sick or indeed, those who have sadly died. More especially now that there are strict limits for those attending funerals. The parish community can help and would like to include those loved ones in their prayers.

If you would you like to request prayers from the parish community for someone who is sick, or recently deceased, please follow the links below and complete the necessary forms. This will enable their names to be included in private prayer and during various Masses. (This is also to comply with Government GDPR instructions.)

For Prayers for the Sick -

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/afyRYBHHR8>

For Prayers for the Deceased -

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/QEabOaHsIS>

**If you would like to include the sick, or recently deceased, in your daily prayers** the names are published separately to this newsletter. They are also available on our website and will be sent with this newsletter on a regular basis.

## A Prayer Walk in your Home

I give you my heart and promise that as scripture says, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord".

Joshua 24:15

Want to try something different?  
Want to do something with your family?  
Why not try this prayer walk in your home?



"May this home shelter your life  
When you come home here  
May all the weight of the world  
Fall from your shoulders."

Take a stroll around your home praising the Lord in each room as you go. It's a new experience! Please follow the link below to experience a prayer walk in your home which you can do alone or with members of your family.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cv4glVV6ysj2TEorCt6kAJt6s5ntzuT6/view?usp=sharing>

## Let Justice Flow

If you want a sermon with a difference, have a listen to this. The Rev Dr William J Barber II reflects on the experience of the poor in America. He is triggered by the death of George Floyd, the Coronavirus and the plight of the poor in the US. He is an inspirational speaker – but you'll need 43 minutes to take it all in! If you've never heard an Evangelical preacher explore the scriptures and wonder how they apply to our time – then this is a superb example. He certainly puts me to shame! Sit back and enjoy...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eviTAayTGT4>

## Warning!!!

Please be aware of the potential fire risk in vehicles, caused by alcohol-based hand sanitizer. There have been a number of reports of hand sanitizer being the cause of fires when left in vehicles in the hot weather the UK is currently experiencing. The alcohol hand sanitizer is becoming heated resulting in flammable vapours being released. These vapours are reaching their 'flashpoint' and then ignite in normal air conditions, setting fire to flammable components within the car. Remove all alcohol-based hand sanitizer products from vehicles when they are not occupied, do not leave hand sanitizer in un-attended vehicles. You should continue to use hand sanitizer as part of your hygiene routine where you cannot use soap & water. Remember: hand hygiene is one of the most effective methods to stop the spread of COVID-19 following indirect contact (picking up the virus up by touching contaminated surfaces and objects).



The SVP shop Wrekenton will be opening with reduced hours on Thursday 25th June. Because of ongoing restrictions could anyone donating items please deliver to the shop between 9am-10am or 3.30pm-4.30pm. Please ring the shop before setting out so that the staff can prepare the shop to receive donated items. The shop number is 0191 4879269 Thank you.

## Our Blessed Lady Immaculate News:

**Church Well:** £100 sent to CAFOD Thank You.

**Thursday Group** £200 sent to Marie Curie Nurses and £200 sent to Grace House Sunderland Thank you.

## Christian Meditation for Children

The Catholic Children's Society (Westminster) and the World Community for Christian Meditation are producing videos on Christian Meditation for primary aged children and secondary aged pupils on weekdays. In these difficult times of Covid19, it is with a mind to look after the spiritual wellbeing of children and young people that we have produced these. We hope that they will be used in Catholic schools, be put on school websites, sent out to parents, children and young people by head teachers, as well as being sent to children in First Holy Communion and Confirmation Groups by priests.

To view the videos and see more information, please visit: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Cb5LrAIU7\\_MPTRDMUBcvQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6Cb5LrAIU7_MPTRDMUBcvQ).

## What are parishioners in the parishes of St John XXIII and St Joseph's Birtley doing?

With the easing of the lockdown and the changes to what we used to regard as 'normal' what affect have these differences had on you. Do you have any stories, poems or prayers that have helped you during this difficult time? Did you do all sorts of amazing and imaginative things to support each other, keep fit, keep safe and maybe even raise money for charity? Are you still doing them. Your story might well encourage us to be creative, do something different, learn something new and keep safe. So, what are you doing to encourage us? Let us know and it may well be included in a slot next week. **Why not let us know what you're up to?**

It'll be great to hear from you. You can contact Audrey at [sj23of-vice01@gmail.com](mailto:sj23of-vice01@gmail.com) or any of our Priests

## Cardinal Vincent Nichols statement on Resumption of Collective Acts of Worship

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has issued a statement in response to the Prime Minister's statement allowing places of worship to resume collective acts of worship from 4 July. [Read the full statement](#) on the Bishops' Conference website.

## A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England

The Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England have released a joint statement on the Resumption of Public Worship. Read the full statement here ([pdf](#)).

## CAFOD and Holy Island

Join us for a CAFOD pilgrimage with a difference!

At this time of year, we would be excitedly anticipating our annual visit to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne – the cradle of Christianity in the North East.



Obviously we would love to have been able to physically be there – as we had planned to be - but since we can't do that, we thought we would have a virtual pilgrimage instead and we'd love you to join us!

We're busy preparing for our CAFOD North East Team virtual pilgrimage to Holy Island which will take place from 1<sup>st</sup>–11th July. Our clever IT people are currently repurposing CAFOD Hexham and Newcastle's blog page, so it can host our pilgrimage:

<https://cafodhexhamnewcastle.wordpress.com/>

Beginning 1<sup>st</sup> July, there will be a daily reflection and prayer from our good friend and former CAFOD trustee, Fr Jim O'Keefe. There are also shared memories of the pilgrimage from pilgrims and colleagues who have joined us over the years, videos and stories from our partners around the world, and up to date news about CAFOD's latest campaigns and how you can help us.

We would also love you to share your memories and photographs of being part of a pilgrimage – from anywhere in the world! Email us at [hexhamandnewcastle@cafod.org.uk](mailto:hexhamandnewcastle@cafod.org.uk) and tell us your story. Dig out your photographs too – it would be great to see them!

At 3pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July, Fr Chris Hughes will live-stream a special pilgrimage Mass for us from his parish <https://www.facebook.com/The-Parish-of-Saint-Cuthbert-and-Saint-Joseph->

### Peter the Rock (Matthew 16:13-19)

This is one of the very rare saints' days to displace the Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, which shows its importance. In a way it is still a Feast of the Lord, for it is the feast of the Church. Peter is to be the Rock foundation of Jesus' own people, for that is what we are. Christ has called us together as his own people, and he has promised that he will always be present in this Church, 'when two or three are gathered together in my name'. So Christ is present even in an ordinary household trying to live together with Christ at their centre. Here Jesus makes the promise to Peter that what he binds on earth will be bound in heaven; his decisions will hold firm in the eyes of God. Later Jesus makes the same promise to the community itself. So Peter is the spokesman for the Christian community, voicing the decisions of the Church. At his last meeting with his disciples the risen Christ promises to be with them 'till the end of the ages'; the bishops, as the successors of the apostles, are the channels of Christ's presence among us now. So today is the celebration of Christ among us, his people. How do you celebrate day by day this wonderful presence of Christ in our midst?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

**Collections:** As you will be aware there are costs associated with maintaining and running our Churches which continue during this time. As lockdown continues, the income of the Parish has fallen significantly.

We asked that you keep your contribution at home (possibly putting it into your envelope each week) until the end of this crisis but as restrictions ease slightly, if you wish you could post donations in your envelope via the Presbytery at Our Lady Queen of Peace, St Bede's and St Joseph's churches. Please be assured that all monies taken are for all churches and will be accounted for correctly. Do not put yourself at risk to do this!

Gift Aid will continue as normal. If you wish you can contribute to our parishes during the church closure period by paying by Bank Standing Order. Also, if you are a tax payer you can increase your donation, at no cost to yourself by signing a gift aid form.

Standing Order forms and Gift Aid forms are available by following these links:

**For St John XXIII:**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/11bFdort1\\_ffexRHfnTtUrsWGzbKtyX1C/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11bFdort1_ffexRHfnTtUrsWGzbKtyX1C/view?usp=sharing)

**For St Joseph's:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ArtKfbU6HL-3M2vYRyXRKKGcnH0CiUEy/view?usp=sharing>

Completed and signed Bank Standing Order Forms **MUST be Sent direct to your bank.**

St Joseph's Gift Aid forms should be emailed to Tracey at [Tracey.wilson@live.com](mailto:Tracey.wilson@live.com)

St John XXIII Gift Aid Forms should be emailed to Audrey at [sj23office01@gmail.com](mailto:sj23office01@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your help. It is appreciated.**

### Laudato Si - How can I join the celebration ?

Based on the Laudato Si Poster you saw in the last few weeks, please join us with a Story, Prayer, Song, Poem, drawing, painting, or photograph.

Still time left to place an entry in our Laudato Si, 5 years competition. Send it to

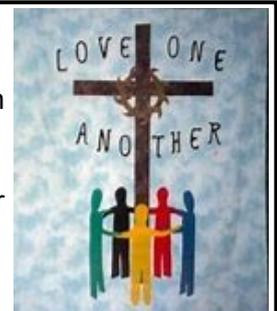
[livesimplystjoes@gmail.com](mailto:livesimplystjoes@gmail.com).

This is for everyone but, young people under eleven please include your age, name and Parish. Laudato Si competition is being **extended to last Sunday in June**, to give more people a chance to enter our 5th Anniversary competition and inform you that there will be a first prize worth £25.00 for the under twelves.

### Confessions:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered by request.

Please contact either Fr Mark, Fr Jim or Fr Martin to arrange.



### Petition for a National Day of Prayer

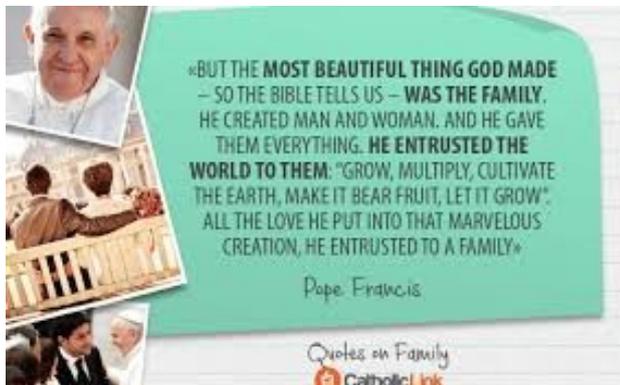
Change.org is seeking signatories to a petition to the Prime Minister for a National Day of Prayer in the face of the Covid-19 crisis. For further information and to sign the petition please [click here](#).

## Family is so Special

### Matthew 10:37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: "Anyone who prefers father and mother to me is not worthy of me..." This gospel reading is beloved of people who are anti-Christian!

They will accuse Jesus of not wanting people to care for their families. In some ways, the teaching does seem harsh - is it really necessary to put Jesus above our closest relations and, if we cannot do that, are we really unworthy of Him? What does Jesus really say? One clue may lie in the word "prefer". The original phrase is: "The one who Loves more." In other words it implies that we would love God less than we love others and, as we should all know, love is not love if it pushes aside someone else. If we love God the way we should love, then we would love those close to us even more than we would if we knew nothing of God.



To be family-orientated is what makes our society so special and when we hear of societies where family life is discouraged (Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge) we are rightly offended. But people can sometimes use family as an excuse for not wanting to have anything to do with others, or even being hostile to outsiders. For Jesus, that is escape, using our families as an excuse for not doing our bit in building the Kingdom on earth.

Such building requires sacrifice. For some, the sacrifice is as radical as giving up the chance of family life and even moving to a new city for work. This is the cross that Jesus asks us to take up and so follow in His footsteps.

For others, the building of the Kingdom is to take place within families where Jesus is the invisible member at their heart. In such homes, children grow up valuing the relationships of family - but aware that there is big world outside it. Such families find mutual strength and support, but are not closed in on themselves. They become places of welcome where others can also find love and shelter. In the Church, there should always be a welcome for everyone, no exclusions!



## A DAILY PRAYER

Lord Jesus,

when you walked with us on earth you spread your healing power.

We place in your loving care all who are affected by Coronavirus.

Keep us strong in faith, hope and love.

Bring relief to our sick, console our bereaved, protect those who care for us.

We lift our prayer to you Lord, and trust in your infinite mercy,

as we wait for the daybreak.

Amen.



**“A light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower” John 1:5**

## Mass by Telephone

During these times when our churches are closed and Masses are being streamed online, the Diocese of Middlesbrough have set up a system to allow people who don't have internet access to listen to Mass over the telephone.



If you would like to access this service, the telephone number to call is 01642 130120. Calls are charged at local rate and free if in your included minutes .

## Life After the Pandemic - Pope Francis

The Vatican Publishing House has released a free eBook, “*Life After the Pandemic*”, a collection of interventions by Pope Francis, with a preface by Cardinal Michael Czerny, to reflect on the vision of the world that is emerging after the pandemic and to which we are called to accompany. It is now available to [read or download](#).



### How about a Retreat?

As restrictions are slowly lifted and as people are able to drive for their daily exercise you might want to consider a self-led pilgrim walk through the grounds of Minsteracres which are now open. How about booking a retreat for later in the year. Please follow this link to see what is available at Minsteracres <http://www.minsteracres.org/come-on-retreat/>

## Order of Saint Camillus Uganda Appeal

Please follow this link to see how you can help this appeal <http://www.orderofstcamillus.ie/component/content/article/1-welcome-to-the-camillian-web-site>

Father Stephen Foster is originally from Penshaw and his family still live there

FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WEBSITES:

Parish of St John XXIII - [www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk](http://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk);

Parish of St Joseph's - [www.stjosephsbirtley.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsbirtley.co.uk)

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle - [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

You can find regular prayers, reflections and images on our social media pages throughout the liturgical year. Use @ParishStJohn23 on Twitter and follow <https://www.facebook.com/ParishStJohn23/> on Facebook.



### Coronavirus: A message from CAFOD

CAFOD has launched an emergency **appeal for funds**, because the impact of coronavirus in countries with poor health systems will be devastating. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, living with HIV or in cramped refugee camps, will be very vulnerable to coronavirus. Our local experts are already in these communities and ready to help those in need, prevent the spread of the virus and protect lives.

**Your donations** to support this work are needed now more than ever. You can donate here

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>

Or send a cheque payable to CAFOD at CAFOD Head Office, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

CAFOD has also launched a **petition asking the Prime Minister to ensure that the most vulnerable people are the priority in the UK's international efforts as well as at home.**

*Our sisters and brothers overseas do not have access to healthcare systems as brilliant as the NHS. I urge you to work together with other world leaders to:*

- *Make sure that any vaccine developed with UK public money is made available to everyone regardless of their income or where in the world they live.*
- *Provide urgent financial and technical support to help developing countries cope with this crisis.*
- *Cancel all debt payments by developing countries due in 2020 and 2021 so that countries can spend money on much needed healthcare rather than debt repayments.*

- *Put plans in place to rebuild a fairer, more just society after the crisis so that the world's most vulnerable people can live in dignity and to restore our common home for future generations.*

You can sign the petition here:

<https://e-activist.com/page/59334/petition/1>

For more information or to download prayers, visit:

<https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Coronavirus-response>

### CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal.

Anyone from St. Joseph's or anywhere for that matter who would like to donate to CAFOD's Coronavirus appeal can do so by three methods:-

Place a cheque or cash in an envelope marked Cash for CAFOD and put it into St. Joseph's presbytery for collection by Peter Lavery.

By bank Transfer to St. Joseph's CAFOD Account number 00977160, Sort code 20-33-51.

By sending a cheque to CAFOD Head office:

CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, LONDON SE1 7JB.

**If you are paying by cheque please make payment to CAFOD . Any queries please contact Kevin Haigh or Pauline Lavery.**

Thank you.

**Keeping in Touch:** It is really important that we can keep in touch with you. This newsletter will be available on our Parish Websites, however if you know of someone who does not have access to the internet, could you please make sure they are given a copy of this newsletter. Your help is greatly appreciated. You can request an email version by contacting Audrey on 0191 4163583 or by following this link <https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/7KvL7LbKT4> Also available on Church notices boards.

### **In Addition to Our Live Streaming, Daily Mass is also Available as Follows:**

The following parishes have set up a live stream of Mass. Please click on the links below:

**St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle** - . Each day at 12.00 noon (Sunday at 11.30am) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotions live streamed at 5.00pm each day at [www.youtube.com/channel/UC12EvW0Egg-cFTh5i2y\\_EQw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC12EvW0Egg-cFTh5i2y_EQw)

**Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Sunderland**- [www.youtube.com/channel/UCXhc6tLNXh0Z0tkajQ1sB6g](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXhc6tLNXh0Z0tkajQ1sB6g). You can also find details and information on their [Facebook page](#).

**Chester le Street, St. Cuthbert and Sacriston, St. Bede** - A recording of daily Mass via [www.facebook.com/Parish-of-St-Bede-St-Cuthbert-375047405964616/](http://www.facebook.com/Parish-of-St-Bede-St-Cuthbert-375047405964616/)

**Mass is available from one of our Churches. Please follow this link** <https://www.facebook.com/ParishStJohn23/>