

# 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

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## In the Partnership of Benedict

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

**18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 01/02 AUGUST 2020, YEAR A**

### We are 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 AVAILABLE

This Sunday's readings are available to follow during Mass, or to read/print at a later time. Just click on this link  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qQ4i8WbZ4X8h3latyo\\_FD1g3vQuZ0x1l/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qQ4i8WbZ4X8h3latyo_FD1g3vQuZ0x1l/view)

**A lonely place: 'He withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves.'** Matthew 14:13

When we think of the feeding of the five thousand we obviously imagine exactly that - a large crowd!

However, the Gospel begins with the opposite, the loneliness of a painful place of grief for the Lord, it follows from the news brought to Jesus of his cousin St John the Baptist's murderous death. In response to the news and in his shock and grief he seeks to withdraw to a lonely place by himself. Perhaps as you are reading this you know from your own experience exactly what the Lord is feeling in this moment. You too may have experienced that need to withdraw, to be alone by yourself or at least with only those very close to you. Withdrawal and being alone has been a common experience for many of you during the Coronavirus lockdown, it has not been voluntarily entered into and our responses to it will have been very different.

There are times in all our lives when we feel the need to be alone, it can be for a variety of reasons, to grieve, to rest or to find space to be with our own thoughts, maybe trying to take something in or sort something out in our minds, and of course prayer - the opportunity to be alone with God.

There is a lonely place within all of us, it exists because of our individual uniqueness, the place where only I know my full unedited story; the place too where only I know how I feel. No-one else has my story, no-one else knows my feelings. However, our unique story does help us to recognise echoes of our own experience in the life and story of another - 'I know how you feel because I've been through that myself'; I recognise my lonely place in the loneliness of another and I can reach from my unique experience to the other person, we call this empathy.

The feeding of the five thousand is the account of **Divine Empathy**. The crowd come seeking Jesus in his lonely place. They are not rejected, rather, from his lonely place of grief Jesus reaches out to the loneliness of the individuals that make up the crowd. A crowd is, of course, a collection of individuals each with their own story, experiences, and feelings.

Our lonely place is also the source of our longing and yearning, when grieving, for example, deep within ourselves we often long and yearn for the beloved whom we have lost. *(continued on the next page)*

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

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It is the longing and yearning of all those individuals in the crowd on the shore of Galilee that gives the crowd its collective personality – humanity longing for healing, yearning for forgiveness and someone with whom to share each individual story.

The central important message of this Gospel is that our lonely place is also the place where we meet with God, He doesn't leave us alone but in his mercy seeks to fill our emptiness with his loving presence. Jesus feeds the hunger of the crowd, he is present with them individually and collectively as he reaches out with pity to the longing and yearning of the human soul.

St Paul reassures us that God never leaves us alone: ***“Nothing can ever separate us from the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked.”*** Romans 8:35

When I go to my lonely place to be by myself I stand on holy ground because it is my meeting place with God. I offer Him my unedited story, I make my deepest longings and yearnings my prayer – no need for words - for only He, only His love can satisfy the groaning and rumbling of my lonely place and feed my hunger to know his love and mercy in my life. ***‘Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty...come!’*** Isaiah 55:1

Reflection by Fr Mark.

### A Family Day Out with Jesus (Matthew 14:13-21)

Every mother knows the disaster-situation of the family day out when the shops turn out to be closed and the emergency supplies have been left at home. This lot have been following Jesus three days on the trot, and there must have been nothing left at all to eat. Jesus turns the disaster into a party for that huge crowd of people. Left to our own resources we are helpless, but Jesus can deal with that. How many were there? We don't know, for the numbers are symbolic. In the Bible 'twelve' alerts us to the tribes of Israel. So the twelve baskets of scraps show that the crowd is the twelve tribes of Jesus' new Israel. The way Jesus takes the bread and says the blessing must remind any Christian of the Eucharist. So this gigantic field-party was a sort of Eucharist, Jesus at the centre of his people, entertaining them and cheering them. It probably wasn't very orderly. There would have been children enjoying the food and then running around and tripping up themselves and others. An African Mass is often like that, with lots of singing and dancing and celebration. That is why the Sunday Mass is so important: meet your friends and celebrate Christ together!

What does this Gospel teach us about the Eucharist?



Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

### Looking to the Future

If you give a man a fish, he will eat once.  
If you teach a man to fish,  
he will eat for the rest of his life.

If you are thinking a year ahead, sow seed.  
If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.  
If you are thinking one hundred years head,  
educate the people.

By sowing seed you will harvest once.  
By planting a tree you will harvest tenfold.  
By educating the people  
you will harvest one hundred fold.

The origin of the above quotation may be disputed but its wisdom is impressive. It is all about empowering people in work for the present and in education for the future. What is sadly lacking in many parts of the world today is the availability of work whereby a parent might be able to feed and care for their family without too much worry and the availability of education that would enable people to fight for their rights and obtain better employment in the future. Too many governments are happy to keep their people in poverty and poor education because it suits the status quo, where the rulers have an inordinate share of resources and power. Jesus gives people what they need today but is very concerned about giving them the tools for the future; He provides for them now but takes time also to provide for their future well-being.

## The Opening of Church for Celebrating Mass

St John Boste Church has now re-opened for public worship for those within the Benedict Partnership. Mass will be celebrated at 10am on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at St John Boste Church.



At present the obligation to attend Mass will continue to be relaxed.

The numbers of people able to enter the Church for Mass will be strictly limited according to the two metre rule.

Face coverings are now mandatory on public transport, in shops and supermarkets and people are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as a church. In line with this government advice, **parishioners are therefore strongly encouraged to wear a face covering.**

Seating arrangements are clearly marked; however, we can only accommodate 40 people in St John Boste Church. Once this number is reached then no one else will be able to enter. **Note: Please do not arrive for Mass on a Sunday unless you have received confirmation of a place.**

### Registering for Mass at St John Boste, Washington

If you would like to attend one of our Masses, you must book a place by following the links below. To comply with the government Track and Trace instructions we require all people attending Mass at St John Boste to register their name and contact details.

There are two ways to register:

1. Click on the link in the newsletter or website and complete the online registration.
2. For those without internet access there is a dedicated mobile phone where reservations can be made: **07562 653778** (please do not use the parish office telephone number).

Please note that registration for each Mass will open at midnight one week before the Mass and will close at midnight two days before the date of the Mass. For example the Mass on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August will open for registration at 00:01 on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> and will close at 23:59 on Friday 7<sup>th</sup>. This allows us to produce a register for use by the stewards to record all those who attend the Mass.

This register will enable us to provide the government Track and Trace team a list of contacts should someone in the congregation be diagnosed with Covid-19.

Here are the links for Masses this week:

Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/lsFB02r82H">https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/lsFB02r82H</a>
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/j6ISdSu6MR">https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/j6ISdSu6MR</a>
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/8BIfXDHzZK">https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/8BIfXDHzZK</a>
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/PAREEAnZ9">https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/PAREEAnZ9</a>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/XhnSP_ZGMm">https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/XhnSP_ZGMm</a>
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/ZBhfa5O--">https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/ZBhfa5O--</a>
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/pKxMDQ8tqz">https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/pKxMDQ8tqz</a>
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> August	<a href="https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/0Fxlh7Zp7Q">https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/0Fxlh7Zp7Q</a>

#### SVP Collection:

The SVP have had no funds coming in over the past months of lockdown and yet have still been helping many people in difficulties, so funds are very low. As you leave St John Boste church there will be a collection plate for the SVP and your support will be much appreciated.

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

Very many thanks to those who are continuing to make their financial contribution to our parish by leaving it in St Joseph's, Our Lady Queen of Peace or St Bede's presbyteries. It is extremely helpful for us all.

If you are making out a cheque to cover a number of weeks' contribution, please write your Gift Aid number on the envelope so that we can recover the Gift Aid contribution. 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/11bFdct1\\_ffexRHfnTtUrsWGzbKtyX1C/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11bFdct1_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.**

## What to expect when attending Mass

The numbers of people able to enter Church for Mass will be strictly limited according to the two metre rule.

Seating arrangements are clearly marked and St John Boste Church can accommodate 40 people.

This image, which was taken just before Mass started, will give you an idea of what to expect when attending Mass.



Mass will be shorter than usual with no singing. There will also be no Offertory procession, sign of peace or children's Liturgy. You will receive Holy Communion in the hand, which can only be distributed by the Celebrant. Hand sanitisers are provided for you to use as you enter and leave the Church and stewards will be on hand to guide people to their places.

The Offertory collection will not take place, containers will be available next to the doors for your offering.

Live streaming may be in effect during Mass. If you do not wish to be at risk of being filmed, please inform your parish priest or designated person prior to visiting the church.

Please do not come to church if you are displaying any symptoms of the virus.

While things may seem a little different for a while it is wonderful that we are able to gather again as a family of faith to celebrate the Sacraments in a safe and measured way.

Following the opening of St John Boste Church for Mass, we will gradually be opening other churches in our Partnership, probably in the order St Michaels, Houghton; St Bede's Sacriston; St Josephs, Birtley; St Bede's, Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, St Cuthbert's and Our Lady Queen of Peace. This of course, relies the on goodwill of you, our parishioners, to continue to volunteer to clean and steward our churches, and please accept our grateful thanks for your help.

We will publish times and dates for opening as soon as we are able.

## St John Boste Church also open for private prayer.

When Mass is not being celebrated at St John Boste Church, we will be open for private prayer and reflection as follows:

- **Mondays 10am-11.30am**
  - **Wednesdays 5pm-6.30pm**
  - **Fridays 2pm-3.30pm**
- Note Revised times for private prayer**

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

Please [click here](#) to view a statement about the next churches that are planned to reopen (updated 23 July 2020).

If you would like further information about the reopening of churches [click here](#) to download the Diocesan **handbook** or [here](#) to read the Diocesan **Frequently asked questions (FAQs) guide**.

**Safety Video for the Reopening of Churches in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle:** With the recent planned reopening of churches, the Diocese has produced a short video to help you familiarise yourself with what you can expect when your church reopens. Please [watch it here](#).



### Confessions:

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered by request.

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

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

We are actively making preparations for a gradual re-opening of our other Churches across the Benedict Partnership. We are unable to put any timescale on our other Churches yet, but we would expect that, at some point, our Churches will be open at various times for a few hours each day and eventually for Holy Mass.

We can only open Churches with your help. In order to re-open, we will need assistance from you, our parishioners, to volunteers to be stewards and cleaners. **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 (see above) 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 continue to open Churches for private prayer and to celebrate Mass with your help so please consider volunteering and fill in the form. Thank you.**



**Keeping in Touch:** As the lockdown restrictions are eased and Churches start to be re-opened for private prayer and, to a limited extent, public Mass, it is important that we are able to update you with all the changes through this newsletter. You can request an email version by contacting Audrey on 0191 4163583 or by following this link

<https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/7KvL7LbKT4>

For many people during recent weeks and months, faith has been greatly supported through the use of technology. We, like many other parishes, have been able to live stream Mass and have produced this Newsletter to keep some connection.

This newsletter is also available on our Parish Websites. We know however, that there are many people in our Diocese who do not have access to the internet. Whenever possible we ask you to print this newsletter and provide it direct to people that you may know who do not have an internet connection. We are grateful to you for doing this throughout our partnership.

As a back up to this not being in place, the Diocese has established a central Diocesan prayer resource line. This phone number, 07375 934713, allows you to leave your name and address and request a posted paper prayer resource. So if you know of someone who might benefit from this service please pass this information on.

### 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. (St John Boste garden is open only during times of private prayer). Should you wish to use them, please adhere to current guidance regarding social distancing.



### 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.

### Coronavirus: A message from CAFOD

Thank you to St Joseph's parishioners for donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Emergency Appeal. We have sent a cheque in the sum of £630.00 as our contribution to the appeal.

We will continue to take further emergency appeal donations for one more week.

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. 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**  
Just one world

## The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord - Thursday 6th August 2020

### Reflection on the Transfiguration of the Lord (Matthew 17: 1-9)

Three people were invited on three separate occasions into three privileged moments in the life of Jesus. They were handpicked each time. The person who chose them was Our Lord. The three he chose were Peter, James and John. Even though we got no formal invitation ourselves, the Lord won't mind our being there. We'll slip in and stay quietly in the background.

The first place was the home of a synagogue official called Jairus. When Jairus first implored Our Lord to cure his daughter, he described her as "desperately sick". Before they got near the house at all, the word came through that she had died. Jairus must have been hurrying Jesus along, begging the people who were pressing upon them to keep back, wishing the woman with the running sore had chosen another time for her cure. Getting Jesus to the house before his child died was the most important thing in the world. To hear that she was already dead, and that they might have been in time to save her must have broken his heart. Jesus knew what he was going to do. That's why he chose Peter, James and John to go with him. Those three and the father, mother, and himself would be the only people in the girl's room. It's the casualness of the scene that makes it so momentous. He took her by the hand, told her to get up, watched her walk around, told them to give her something to eat. Life took over from death as if it was the most natural thing in the world. Almost imperceptibly, the ordinary took upon itself the quality of imperishability. The balance of forces between life and death was changing irrevocably in that – modest little room, and the three disciples were there to see it.

The second place is the Garden of Gethsemane. Again, the only three of his disciples Jesus took with him were Peter, James and John. This time Jesus didn't know what he was going to do! He was in such a state of terror and distress at the prospect of crucifixion that he was tempted, as never before, to give up on his messianic mission and get out from under the cross. "My soul is sorrowful to the point of death," he told his disciples. "Take this cup away from me," he begged of "Abba", his father. The acceptance of his father's will couldn't have come as easily in practice as it comes in Mark's prose. "Let it be, as you, not I, would have it" That "Let it be" had survived the biggest crisis in Our Lord's life so far and would still have to endure the pitiless searchings of Calvary. Acceptance of the Father's will, and the suffering it entailed, wouldn't be easy for the disciples either. They might have slept through his suffering; they wouldn't be able to sleep through their own. "Stay awake," was his warning to Peter. "Stay awake and pray not to be put to the test".

The third and last place is the Mount of Transfiguration. This time it was the turn of the disciples to be frightened. If Gethsemane was to be one of Christ's darkest moments, the Transfiguration was the brightest so far. What frightened the three disciples wasn't the prospect of suffering, of course. It was the awesome encounter with the unfamiliar. Here was "the Christ" as they'd never seen him before. "Brilliantly white" in a way that couldn't be "earthly". Adding to the unearthly and disconcerting nature of the experience was the presence of such illustrious figures as Moses and Elijah, who lived longer than others did in the memory of their people, but who, at the same time, had been a long time dead. Their presence must be, in some way, an exaltation of Jesus, an exaltation that reached its zenith and startled them completely when the voice came down from heaven. "This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him". There had been glances exchanged after the raising of Jairus's daughter. Glances must have been exchanged again after the Transfiguration of Christ.

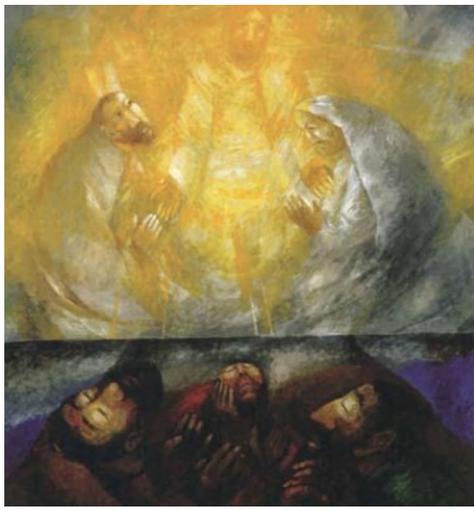


What conclusions can we draw? Well, since the raising of Jairus's daughter and the Transfiguration came before Gethsemane, and since Jesus invited Peter, James and John to all three, he must have meant the earlier events to carry them through his Passion and Crucifixion. When the darkness came down on them they'd remember the light. The memory of the Transfigured Lord and the risen girl would help them to hold their nerve! The second thing that occurs (and it must have occurred to the three), is that there is something unusual, not to say unique, about this person Jesus. Anyone who could raise the dead, be transfigured himself, and emerge from Gethsemane as he did, forces us to raise questions about his identity. Who is he? This much can be said about the three events that we've observed: They nudge us in the direction of divinity.

The third thing that's clear is that fulfilling the will of the Father is extremely difficult. If it was difficult for Our Lord and his disciples, it's bound to be difficult for us. The recurring temptation for all of us is to get rid of the cross. "You should be awake and praying," Our Lord said to Peter, "not to be put to the test". As I write this, word has come through that a relative and friend of mine has just died. Before going down for her operation she said: "If God has plans for me, I wouldn't want him to change them." Echoes of Gethsemane, of the Annunciation. Stuff of discipleship. A lot of praying went into the composition of that sentence. May we fulfil God's will in our responsibilities, in his commandments, in our courage in the face of suffering. Transfiguration is a slow process for all of us. It only comes at a price!

Sometimes we can work beside someone without really getting to know the person; then, one day, something happens which causes him to open up, to begin to let us get close to him, and we discover a depth of riches which we didn't know existed. This gospel is about an experience analogous to that, where Peter, James and John are able for a moment to see who Jesus really is. For the three apostles, it is an experience of something beyond words: frightening and yet, at the same time, so wonderful that they would wish to prolong it by building three tents – for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. Reflecting on the experience, years later, Peter would write: "We had seen his majesty for ourselves. He was honoured and glorified by God the Father, when the Sublime Glory itself spoke to him".

The gospel mentions the whiteness of Jesus's clothes; Mark says they became "dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them." Saint Gregory Nazianzen tells us that this whiteness was the Divinity, manifested to the disciples.



Traditionally, Moses and Elijah are seen as representing the Law and the Prophets. But Moses and Elijah were also people who had encounters with the Divinity. Both had to cross the desert, fast for forty days, and climb the mountain of God. Moses had prayed to God, "Show me your glory." When God revealed his back (not his face) to Moses, he placed him in the cleft of the rock, and when he came to Elijah as a gentle breeze, it was at the mouth of the cave. Perhaps these two are present as representing all those who desire to see God's glory: "When can I enter and see the face of God?" What were Moses and Elijah talking about with Jesus? Luke says they were "speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem", and indeed it was in his Passion that the face of God was to be revealed, as John would later write: "No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known".

In the Transfiguration, the Father's voice is heard saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." Gregory Palamas says: "The Father by his voice bore witness to his Beloved Son; the Holy Spirit, shining with him in the bright cloud, indicated that the Son possesses with the Father the light, which is one, like all that belongs to their richness." Just as at the Baptism of Jesus, so also at the Transfiguration, the heavens are opened and we receive a glimpse of the inner life of the Trinity. Jesus is revealed as Son of the Father, who speaks from the cloud of Divine Presence, where in dwells the Spirit.

The three apostles who would see Jesus prostrate in agony in Gethsemane were given this glimpse of who he really is, to strengthen them for what lay ahead, and also to help them to understand what is revealed in the Passion. John says in the Prologue, "we saw his glory;" is he referring to the Transfiguration or to the Crucifixion, to Tabor or to Calvary? Or is there a sense in which these two mountains are one? Is Tabor simply a preview of Calvary, rather than an antidote: a deeper vision of the reality of the Crucifixion event?



### A DAILY PRAYER

#### Your Loving Care

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.



### Prayers for the Sick or Recently Deceased



Although lockdown restrictions are being gradually eased, it remains important that we 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.

If a request is made for prayers for someone who is currently sick their name will remain on the list for 4 weeks only. If you would like prayers to continue please submit another request form.

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

Parish of St John XXIII - <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk/>

Parish of St Joseph's - <http://www.stjosephsbirtley.co.uk/>

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle - <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.

