

# 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: 01916498257

Administrator: Audrey Huntley tel: 0191 4163583

(Tuesday & Wednesday 8am—1pm, Thursday 11am—4pm & Friday 12—5pm)

Email: [StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk)

Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>

**In the Partnership of Benedict**

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



## Pentecost – 7<sup>th</sup>– 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025, Year C

Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> June <b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm*	<b>Patricia Toft RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Syd McCluskey RIP</b>
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> June <b>Pentecost</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Intentions of Pope Leo XIV</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Amy Routledge RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	<b>People of the Parish</b>

### First Reading: The Birth of the Church

Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost arrived, the Apostles were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians — we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.'

**Response to the Psalm: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

### Second Reading: The Spirit of Christ in Me

Romans 8:1-17

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia.**

### The Gospel: The Paraclete

John 14:15-16, 23b-26

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. 'These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.'

Fr Martin Morris 0191 649 8257

Fr Martin Wheaton 0770 996 1040

Fr Luke Wilkinson 0191 649 8257

Deacon Frank O'Neill 0779 115 5845

Deacon Tony Joy 0779 989 3419

## Mass Times & Intentions Week Beginning Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025 (Streamed Mass \*)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> June <b>Mary Mother of the Church</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Margaret McIntosh RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	<b>Carl Poulter RIP</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Repose of the Soul of John Bevan</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Pat Hogan RIP</b>
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June <b>St Barnabas</b>	St Bede	10am*	<b>Hodgson &amp; Stephenson Families</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Priest's Intention</b>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June <b>Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Eileen Smare RIP</b>
	St Joseph	Noon	<b>Elizabeth Donnelly RIP</b>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June <b>St Anthony of Padua</b>	St John Boste	10am*	<b>Priest's Intention</b>
	St Joseph	10am	<b>Helen Franks &amp; Sheila Teresa Littledyke</b>
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>John Bevan RIP</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>All Fathers</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Elizabeth &amp; Joseph Stephenson &amp; Deceased Family</b>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> June <b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>	St John Boste	9.30am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Barry Aigner RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Bernard &amp; Nancy Hodgson</b>

This Sunday we are celebrating Pentecost. The coming of the Holy Spirit who will found the Church upon Jesus' apostles. That small band of brothers in the faith, huddled together in that upper room, could surely not have imagined that in two thousand years their numbers would have grown to over one billion followers.

Christianity grew quickly because it offered not only eternal life, but heaven based on suffering. And for most people, as today, life was short and brutal. Jesus gave this suffering meaning and purpose. Until Jesus, worldly wealth and power were signs that the individual was in favour with the gods, but Jesus turned this around. Not only did he reveal the One God, he sent the Holy Spirit to gather into the Church the poor, the meek, the pure of heart. All those who the world sees as losers, walkovers, those that lack the ruthlessness to make the standard of what the world sees as greatness, they would be called to make Jesus' Church.

The Church called the weak, the fickle, the sinners, to be one in the Church two thousand years ago and she continues today. That same Holy Spirit guides the successors to the apostles, the bishops and pope, to call together those the world casts aside to be brothers and sisters in the faith of Jesus Christ - He who reveals our true hearts and calls us to repentance so we can be truly free. Free from the attachments of the world, living in the Holy Spirit, not materialism and power seeking.

Pentecost reminds us that we each have a duty to show the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts to our brothers and sisters, especially those yet to acknowledge or receive the gifts of the Spirit. We are indeed all fickle and in need of forgiveness so let us once again let the Spirit of Pentecost light our lives and in doing so call others to the same hope in which we walk.

Fr Martin Wheaton

**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 the link <https://www.churchservices.tv/penshaw> to view from one of our Churches.

**In addition, we live-stream Mass from St Joseph's, Birtley on: Saturday at 5pm.**

To access live streaming from St Joseph's Birtley, please click the link <https://www.churchservices.tv/birtley>.

## What's On in the Parish

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2-3pm.

St. Joseph's 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.

### The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning after Mass.

St Joseph - Thursday after noon Mass.

St John Boste - Friday morning after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning after Mass.

St Bede's - Saturday after Vigil Mass.

**OLOF (Our Lady's Over 50's Club)** - Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome!

**Special Collection This Week - Lay Training Fund (remains open until 6<sup>th</sup> July)** - Bishop Kevin Dunn asked for this fund to be established to help lay men and women explore what it means to be a Catholic in the world – as local councillors, folk involved in local politics, influencing decisions made that make a difference in our local communities. It is about being really active in the local Community as Catholics – given that Jesus invited his followers to make a difference where they lived. To find out more, please contact [Amy Cameron](#) of the Faith and Mission Vicariate.

**Special Collection Next Week - Day For Life** - This day helps us all focus on the fact that the value of human life is constantly supported. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. The collection goes to supporting projects in the Church in England and Wales which explore how best to support life, from the highly technical issues around 'euthanasia' to those who suffer domestic abuse. It is our way of showing we believe all life to be sacred.

**First Holy Communions** - Let us pray for all our children and their families preparing for their First Holy Communion in the coming weeks. All First Holy Communion Masses will take place on Saturday mornings throughout May and June.

**St John XXIII YouTube Channel** - Our parish now has a YouTube channel which will allow us to record more of our parish services, events and information. Our Lenten Parish Mission services are all available there as well as the weekly Gospel and Homily videos. You can find all these videos on our channel by [clicking here](#). Please subscribe to the channel and if

you have ideas for developing it please send them via email to Lisa or Winifred by [clicking here](#).

**Mass Intentions at St Joseph's** - If you wish to arrange a Mass Intention at St Joseph's, special envelopes are available at the back of Church and in the Sacristy. We already have bookings over a year in advance so, if you want to pick a particular day, please give as much notice as possible to save disappointment.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** - This year, St John Boste Catholic Primary School is celebrating its 50th anniversary. We would like to ask if any former pupils, parents or staff have any photographs, could they send them in to school at [mainschool@sjb.bwcet.com](mailto:mainschool@sjb.bwcet.com), Facebook Messenger or call into school and we can copy. Thank you very much.

## Other News

**Bishop Stephen has issued the following statement on the announcement of a new Pope:** On behalf of the diocesan family here in Hexham and Newcastle I welcome the joyful news that Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost has been chosen to serve the worldwide Church as our new Pope. We keep Pope Leo XIV in our prayers. May the Lord bless his ministry. May he truly be the Servant of the Servants of Christ sustaining and guiding us all in our journey of faith.

**Corpus Christi. Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Ushaw** On Sunday 22 June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, starting at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees will be available after the service. You do not need a ticket for this event, but please sign up on the sheet available at the back of church to help Ushaw to estimate numbers. Please indicate if you are bringing a car: this will help Ushaw to manage car parking requirements.

**CAFOD Prayers and Reflections** - Our prayer as a global community is more important than ever. Browse our collection of prayers, bidding prayers, reflections, liturgy and resources on a wide range of themes and throughout the liturgical year. Please visit CAFOD's [website](#) for prayer resources for Pentecost.

**Pilgrimage for Pentecost Challenge!** Have you considered organising a Pilgrimage for Pentecost? The Jubilee motto is '*Pilgrims of Hope*' and we're invited on a spiritual journey as people of Hope, searching for an ever-deeper connection with God. Pilgrimages, journeys of spiritual and personal significance, offer profound opportunities for reflection and renewal.. Pilgrimages are a great way to rejuvenate our spirits, strengthen our bonds with each other, and draw inspiration for the path ahead. Check out our information and resources [here](#) for some ideas and suggestions.

### Contactless Donations

We are trialling at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church a contactless donation plate. It will be situated at the back of church, if proved successful we will install in all 4 churches.

Further details to follow.

**Job Vacancy** - The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following vacancy: Parish Secretary, St Bede & Ss Peter & Paul, South Shields – 12 hours per week, permanent contract. Closing date: 12 June. Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

**Year of Jubilee Formation Opportunity** – Witness: Sharing our Faith in Today's World AND Significance Festival. Saturday 28 June at Emmaus Village, Nr Consett DH8 9BA. In celebration for this Year of Jubilee, we invite you to join us for a half-day session based on the theme of Witness: Sharing our Faith in Today's World. The session timings are 9.20am – 1.30pm. This formation opportunity will offer a time of sharing experiences and fears, an insight into how to deal with tough questions and 10 things that might help when talking to people about your faith! This witness event is free of charge and is recommended for adults and young people from school Year 12 and above.

The Witness Day will lead into the Significance Festival with Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen at 3.00pm and music by the amazing One Hope Project. The festival and Mass will celebrate the wonderful youth work and events that Significance: Mass will be followed by a BBQ (tickets cost £10 p.p. – children under 14 are free). Enjoy exploring the beautiful setting of the Emmaus Village in Allensford and socialising and dancing your way into the evening with a live music ceilidh band. The village's self-catering chalets will be available for booking for those wishing to stay overnight. You're warmly welcome to join us for the Witness formation, the Significance Festival, or both! Come on your own or with family, friends or with your parish or school. Follow [this link](#) for full details, costs and booking information.

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

**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](#).

**The Justice and Peace Refugee Project:** At the Justice and Peace Refugee Project, we provide a warm welcome to asylum seekers from many places across the world, with new clients registering every week. In March this year, 468 individuals and families were supported by the project. Your continued donations of food, toiletries and finance continue to be extremely welcome. We also continue to source fresh produce from local supermarkets, which is gratefully received by clients. Items most urgently needed can be found here. The latest newsletter can be found by clicking here. For more information [please click here](#).

#### **This month's tip for sustainable living: Finances, Pensions and Investments**

Investigate whether your bank is investing in fossil fuels and if so, consider switching to a sustainable bank. If you have a private pension check with your pension provider whether they invest in fossil fuels and if so write and ask them to divest. Ensure any investments you hold are invested ethically, free from fossil fuels. More information about switching to a green bank is available from: [The Big Bank Switch](#).

**Old Postage Stamps, Jewellery, Medals** - David & Theresa O'Neill have been raising funds to assist the nuns of Little Sisters of the Poor carry on their wonderful work caring for elderly people including retired clergy & religious. They are not asking for financial help but rather by your donations of used postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (notes & coins from any country), broken or unwanted pieces of gold/silver jewellery & military medals from any conflict. If you have any old stamp albums or other items let David & Theresa know. Their contact details are: David & Theresa O'Neill, Tel: 0191 264 5771

## **Reflections**

Diocesan Weekly reflections can be found by [clicking here](#).

**Examen** -Please follow the links to go to [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

**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.

## **Sick and Recently Deceased**

To view the sick and recently deceased list [please click here](#). To amend the information on the list [click here](#).

**Parish Newsletter** If you have any comments you wish to make about 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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