

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
 Administrator: Audrey Huntley tel: 0191 4163583
 (Tuesday & Wednesday 8am—1pm, Thursday 11am—4pm & Friday 12— 5pm)
 Email: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY - 14TH – 15TH JUNE 2025 Year C

Saturday 14th June Vigil	St Joseph	5pm*	All Fathers
	St Bede	5pm	Elizabeth & Joseph Stephenson & Deceased Family
Sunday 15th June The Most Holy Trinity	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Barry Ainger RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Bernard & Nancy Hodgson

First Reading:

Proverbs 8:22-31

Thus says the Wisdom of God: The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.

Response to the Psalm: O Lord, our Lord, how Majestic is Your name through all the Earth.

Second Reading:

Romans 5:1-5

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is and who was and who is to come. Alleluia.

The Gospel:

John 16:12-15

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

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 16th June 2025 (Streamed Mass *)			
Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 16th June	St Bede	10am	Ann & Jim Fisher RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Deceased members of Cosgrove & Docherty Families
Tuesday 17th June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	John James Bevan RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	John Hogan RIP
Wednesday 18th June	St Bede	10am	John Turner SVP
	St John Boste	7pm	Maldwyn & Eleanor Roberts RIP
Thursday 19th June St Romuald	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Holy Souls
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Private Intention - Isabel
Friday 20th June St Alban	St John Boste	10am*	Lesley Thompson RIP
	St Joseph at St Benet's	9:15am	Pope Francis RIP
Saturday 21st June St Aloysius Gonzaga	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Maria Buono
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm*	60th Wedding Anniversary - Roy Toole
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 22nd June Feast of Corpus Christi	St John Boste	9:30am	Thomas Andiyapna RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Christine Jeffrey RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Gordon McClurey RIP

John Chapter 16 is sometimes referred to as Christ's Farewell Discourse with his disciples.

In that sense today's Gospel for Trinity Sunday continues the fresh message of Pentecost. The apostles still have some way to go but Jesus is promising them the big armory. We have followed their very human failings but now the Spirit of Truth will take over from their mentor and leader Jesus. In the last sentence of the Gospel, Jesus reflects on the dynamic between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Truth is God's active presence and power in the world, guiding, inspiring and empowering those who believe.

Inspiration is key here. We all have sources that stir and energise us in our faith. These may be in the lives of the saints or in the quiet unfolding of and witness to faith in family, friends or in our faith community. We remember how Jesus' eyes so often fell on the humble showing small acts of faith rather than the ostentatious.

How wonderful the recent images of Pope Leo XIV blessing the cyclists competing in the Giro d'Italia as the final stage began with an unprecedented ride through the Vatican Gardens! "You are role models for young people all over the world" he told them. In the faces of the young cyclists, however, there was a clear connection to something greater; an encounter, an inspiration drawn from our new Pope.

Let us try to inspire and be inspired by the Gift of the Spirit of Truth!

Angela Nichols

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 2pm - 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 Mass

St John Boste - Friday morning after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning after Mass.

St Bede's - Saturday after Vigil Mass.

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Please note, the club is on Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome!

Eucharistic Exposition, Rosary & Benediction this Sunday afternoon, 15th June in Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church. Why not come along and spend some quiet time with the Lord in Prayer? Starting 4pm. Rosary 5pm. Refreshments afterwards in Emmaus room.

Corpus Christi Holy Hour and Benediction

St Bede's at 3pm Sunday 22nd June. Come along on the afternoon of this great solemnity to spend time with the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. A particular welcome to all those who serve in our churches as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Corpus Christi is a wonderful feast on which to reset our gaze upon the Lord for the year ahead.

Special Collection This 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 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](#).

50th 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, Facebook Messenger or call into school and we can copy. Thank you very much.

Mass Intentions at St Josephs

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.

St Joseph's Primary School, Washington: We are currently looking for a Foundation Governor who is a practising Catholic to join our friendly governing board. Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school. If you are interested in the role please contact our School office on 0191 9172484 for further details.

SVP 200 Club June Draw : The latest SVP 200 Club draw was made on Thursday 5th June. Congratulations to Margaret Taylor from St Joseph's who was successful in the draw.

Mission Red Box Collection - St John Boste : A reminder that the Red Boxes are due for collection this month. Agents can collect their envelopes and Summer News Letters from Sunday 15th June. Please return monies collected by the end of June.

Other News

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.

Coach travel to this event is available, the cost is £10 per head. Please sign the list at the back of church. The coach will leave Our Blessed Lady Immaculate at 2pm returning at approximately 6pm.

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.

Statement on abortion amendments to the Crime and Policing Bill

We are deeply alarmed by two amendments that have been submitted to the Crime and Policing Bill. These would further reduce the protection of unborn children and their mothers. Out of compassion for pregnant women and their babies, the Catholic Church believes that the law should offer protection to the unborn and that society should offer support for parents who need it. The proposed amendments would take our law further in the wrong direction.

Under New Clause 1, the criminal law would no longer apply in relation to women acting to end their pregnancy, at any time, including up to and during birth. This is likely to result in an increased illegal use of abortion pills and an escalation in late-term at-home abortions, putting the lives and health of many pregnant women and their babies in grave danger. It would undermine the necessary judicial mechanisms to protect women from being coerced or pressurized into an abortion.

New Clause 20 would decriminalise abortion completely up to and during birth. This would leave women with little protection against forced or coerced abortions by families and third parties. Abortion would become available on demand and up to birth. There is little support amongst the general public for such an extreme law which entirely overturns the existing framework and totally disregards the humanity of the unborn baby.

Pregnant women and their unborn babies both have inherent dignity, and as such, mothers need to be supported in welcoming new life. Several Catholic organisations work tirelessly to provide support for parents and children. This is the truly safe, compassionate, and caring response to parents who are expecting a baby. I thank them for their work.

I encourage all faithful Catholics, and those who care for the lives of children and mothers, to contact their MPs and encourage them to oppose these amendments.

Take Action: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/take-action-on-proposed-abortion-law-change/>

'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'.

'Hope in a Time of Darkness' – A Lecture by His Eminence Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP, Monday 23 June 2025; 7:45pm, Galilee Chapel, Durham Cathedral. Durham Cathedral Institute is delighted to be hosting this year's Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University, hearing from speaker Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe and respondent Prof Anna Rowlands.

Cardinal Radcliffe is a distinguished Catholic priest, theologian, and church leader. Between 1992 and 2001, he served as Master of the Order of Preachers (also known as the Dominican Order). Radcliffe received an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from the University of Oxford in 2003; in 2023, he was appointed preacher to the Catholic Church's Synod on Synodality, and was made cardinal by Pope Francis in December 2024.

Anna Rowlands (respondent) is St Hilda Professor of Catholic Social Thought and Practice at Durham University. She is a political theologian whose research interests include the ethics of migration and the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching. In 2023, Rowlands took up a two-year secondment at the Vatican, where she contributed to the global synodal process. For more information and to book tickets, [please click here](#)

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](#).

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](#).

Marriage Preparation Days - Saturday 21 June: The Sacred Heart, North Gosforth NE3 5EB. Engaged couples can find **more information** [by clicking here](#). To find and **book on a course**, [please click here](#).

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow this link 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.**

[To post a notice on this Newsletter, please click stjoh23bulletin@gmail.com](#)