

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

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI - 21ST – 22ND JUNE 2025 Year C

Saturday 21st June	St Joseph	5pm*	60th Wedding Anniversary - Roy Toole
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 22nd June	St John Boste	9:30am	Thomas Andiyapna RIP
Corpus Christi	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Christine Jeffrey RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Gordon McClurey RIP

First Reading: The Blessing of Melchizedek

Genesis 14:18-20

In those days: Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High. And he blessed Abram and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!' And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

Response to the Psalm: You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.

Second Reading: The Lord's Supper

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Brothers and Sisters: I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you; that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Jesus gives food to the crowds

Luke 9:11b-17

At that time: Jesus spoke to the crowd of the kingdom of God and cured those who needed healing. Now the day began to wear away, and the Twelve came and said to him, 'Send the crowd away to go into the surrounding villages and countryside to find lodging and get provisions, for we are here in a desolate place.' But he said to them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish — unless we are to go and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, 'Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each.' And they did so, and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing over them. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And they all ate and were satisfied. And what was left over was picked up, twelve baskets of broken pieces.

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 23rd June 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 23rd June St Etheldreda	St Bede	10am	Seamus Cronogue. (RIP)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Private Intention
Tuesday 24th June The Nativity of St John the Baptist	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Catherine & Harold Leeder (RIP)
	St Joseph	7pm	Brian & Susan Towns (RIP)
Wednesday 25th June	St Bede	10am	Gordon McClurey (RIP)
	St John Boste	7pm	In Thanksgiving. (MM)
Thursday 26th June	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Theresa Woods Nee Forster (RIP)
	St Joseph	12 Noon	DM's of the McLaughlin family
Friday 27th June The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	St John Boste	10am*	Owen Edgar
	St Joseph	10am	Joe Bonney B.E.M. (RIP)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	1pm	Sheila Margaret Davies. Requiem
Saturday 28th June St Irenaeus	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Repose of the Soul Michael Duke
	St Joseph	5pm*	Michael Johnson (RIP)
	St Bede	5pm	Kieran & Gerard Cushlow (RIP) Birthday
Sunday 29th June Ss Peter and Paul	St John Boste	9:30am	Peter McElhenny (RIP)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Bill Gaffney (RIP)

Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christi

The three readings today obviously have the common theme of bread – the bread of life, bread as a gift from God. In Genesis we hear of Melchizedek bringing bread and wine to a ceremony of thanksgiving with Abram for victory over their enemies. St Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians teaches of Jesus instigating the sacrament of the Eucharist at the last supper. The Gospel tells the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. Bread, bread, bread.

These readings remind me of one the most memorable Masses I have ever had the privilege of attending. It was the first time I was involved in Confirmation preparation, some 25 years ago. We had an away-day in Osmotherley and the priest in charge of the preparation process had asked the young people to bring with them some flour or oil or salt. At the beginning of the day the priest spoke to the candidates of stories in the Bible relating to bread and how significant it had been for over three thousand years. He included these three extracts as well as the mana in the desert during the exodus and others. While he was doing this, he was mixing the flour, oil and salt to make an un-leaven flatbread. While we did other activities the bread was baked.

We finished the day with an intimate Mass in the small chapel in the convent where we were. The priest consecrated the bread he had made previously, and we received it as our holy Eucharist. It had a great impression on me, and I am sure on all the young people.

We started our latest Confirmation programme last Sunday, preparing the candidates for the Confirmations in November. We have 40 candidates – a heart-warming number. Please remember them in your prayers over the coming months.

Deacon Tony

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.

OLOF

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

Corpus Christi Holy Hour and Benediction

St Bede's at 3pm this 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 Next Week – Peter's Pence and Support for the Holy See

- In the year 725, the Saxon king, Ina, brought a 'contribution' to the Pope Gregory II for him to use to help poor people. Wealthy landowners were charged 'one penny' each to make up the donation to the Pope. Over the centuries this custom, which probably started in this country spread throughout the world so that the Pope can make emergency grants to people suffering terrible hardship, resulting from earthquakes, famine and violent aggression.

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 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.

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.

WeBelieve Festival.

25th – 28th July 2025, St Mary's College Oscott. We have a hope in Jesus! **WeBelieve** is a Festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope. This July, we are gathering the whole Church to celebrate our faith in Jesus. This festival is brand new and you are invited to build it with us.

SVP Sing And Chat at the Black Bush.

Everyone is welcome to join us at The Black Bush, Washington Village, from 12:15 until 3 pm on Friday 27th June.

Holy Island pilgrimage 13th of September 2025

Coaches will depart from two of our churches at approx. 9.00am. A donation of £10 per person to cover the cost of the coaches would be very much appreciated. For those who do not want to walk across the sands there will be a liturgy held in St Aidan's on the island at 12.00. A list and further details are provided at the back of church to add your name and contact details. **Please note** that places are limited so please do not add your name if you are unsure of going. Also if anyone is interested in helping with the music or singing for the mass on the island please contact Michael Gallagher on (07740) 872817. **Closing date for submitting names will be Sunday 6 July to enable coaches to be organised.**

Bishop Stephen will say Mass in St Joseph's Birtley at 6.00pm on Friday 4th July to celebrate the 50th anniversary of a group of volunteers from the Diocese going to Lourdes to serve with the Hospitalite Notre Dame de Lourdes. Everyone is welcome at this Mass.

St John Boste Walk

This year is the 42nd St John Boste walk and in this Holy Year of Pilgrims of Hope we would like to encourage this year's walk to be a Partnership event. Having walkers from all our churches would be wonderful. A coach will leave from St John Boste on **Sunday 20th July** after the 9.30 Mass. If you are unable to join in the walk you could join us in Durham Cathedral at 4.30 for the Rosary. Lists will be available next week for the coach and for the Rosary. More details next week.

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.

Other News

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/>

Witness: Sharing Our Faith in Today's World – A Year of Jubilee Formation Opportunity. Saturday 28 June, 9.20am -1.30pm, Emmaus Village

All are welcome to join us for: A day 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 formation event will lead into the **Significance Festival** with Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen at 3pm followed by a BBQ, live music and ceilidh.

For more information and booking details visit: <https://bit.ly/DHNWitness-Significance> or contact the Formation & Mission team at adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk or call 0191 243 3316.

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.

Little Sisters of the Poor

The Little Sisters of the Poor (St Joseph's Home), Westmorland Road, Newcastle will hold a Summer Fayre on Saturday 5th July from 12-3pm. All are welcome to attend. See further details on the poster on the notice board.

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: Be a Sustainable Consumer - Fast Fashion has many negative connotations - the urgency to produce clothes that quickly go out of fashion means more products in landfill and more carbon. Sourcing clothing from companies adopting organic standards means support for environmentally friendly sources. An alternative is to buy second-hand clothes. Find out more: [Fast Fashion and Its Environmental Impact in 2025 | Earth.Org](#)

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor". Do you listen to the voice of truth, the voice of Jesus Christ? Maybe he is inviting you to discern a vocation to the Priesthood. For more information, speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

Reflections

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

Examen -Please follow 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.

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