

# 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](mailto:StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk)  
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



## In the Partnership of Benedict

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

### SS PETER AND PAUL - 28TH – 29TH JUNE 2025 Year C

Saturday 28th June	St Joseph	5pm*	<b>Michael Johnson (RIP)</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Bede	5pm	<b>Kieran &amp; Gerard Cushlow (RIP) Birthday</b>
Sunday 29th June	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Peter McElhenny (RIP)</b>
<b>Ss Peter &amp; Paul</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Bill Gaffney (RIP)</b>

#### First Reading: Peter's Narrow Escape

Acts 12:1-11

In those days: Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, delivering him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the church. Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, 'Dress yourself and put on your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. When Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

#### Response to the Psalm: From all my terrors, the Lord set me free.

#### Second Reading: Paul in the evening of his life

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing. The Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Alleluia.**

#### Gospel

Matthew 16:13-19

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'

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 30th June 2025 (Streamed Mass \*)

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 30th June <b>The First Martyrs</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Holy Souls</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	<b>Carl Poulter</b>
Tuesday 1st July <b>St Oliver Plunket</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Alan Callaghan</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Allen Watson RIP</b>
Wednesday 2nd July	St Bede	10am	<b>Priests Intention</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Priests Intention</b>
Thursday 3rd July <b>St Thomas</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Vera Cosgrove RIP</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Terry Cantwell RIP</b>
Friday 4th July <b>St Elizabeth of Portugal</b>	St John Boste	10am*	<b>Eleanor &amp; Maldwyn RIP</b>
	St Joseph @ St Benets	9.15am	<b>Dorothy Hattam RIP</b>
	St Joseph	6pm	<b>Bishop's Intention</b>
	St. Bede (First Friday)	7pm	<b>Peter &amp; Rose Hackney RIP</b>
Saturday 5th July <b>St Anthony Mary Zaccaria</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>John &amp; Betty Egan 65th Wedding Anniversary</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm*	<b>Hogan &amp; Barret Families</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Margaret &amp; Thomas Banks (RIP)</b>
Sunday 6th July <b>The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	Deceased members Appleby, Carr & Snaith Families
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Priests Intention</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	<b>People of the Parish</b>

### Ss Peter and Paul

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.

As Christians, Jesus' promise to build His Church on Peter 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 or friends and acquaintances or great thinkers, we ultimately understand that Jesus was one with the Father, and we are called to be one with each other. The Pope, is the public sign and guarantor of this spiritual reality.

How do you celebrate day by day this wonderful presence of Christ in our midst?

The Newsletter Team

**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.

**St. Bede on Friday 4th July** Eucharistic Adoration 6.15pm - 6.50pm **before 7pm First Friday Mass.**

### 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!

### Appeal for new volunteers – Can you Help out?

We are blessed with many parishioners who give of their time and effort in enabling our Parishes to run so well, I am very grateful for everyone's support. However, we are in need of more help with the following area's of Parish life: Accounts/Book-keeping, Administration/office work, Catechist's for Baptism, Gardening/grounds maintenance. If you think you could help out in any of these areas please visit the following link and leave your details, and one of the Priests will contact you. **Paper copies of the form are also available at the back of church.** Thank you, Fr. Martin Morris. <https://forms.churchdesk.com/f/8slindpmrg>

### Special Collection This 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.

### 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 it's 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@sib.bwcet.com](mailto:mainschool@sib.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.

### 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.

### Eucharistic Ministers (OBLI)

There is an increasing demand for Eucharistic Ministers to visit the sick, housebound and care homes. Could Eucharistic Ministers from Our Lady's please attend a meeting on Thursday 3rd July at 6.00 pm in the Emmaus Room to discuss this issue. Many thanks.

## Other News

### 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.

### 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.

### **Vacancy - Parish Secretary**

A Parish Secretary is required for Newcastle parishes for 17 hours per week.

The hours are split as follows:

- English Martyrs, Newcastle and St Cuthbert's, Newcastle: 6 hours per week
- St Robert's, Newcastle and All Saints, Newcastle: 11 hours per week

This change reflects the growing administrative needs of the parish, including support with parish finances and planning.

The closing date for applications is 11th July 2025. If you have any questions or require further information please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/> or contact [human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk) or 0191 243 3301.

### **Cleaner Required – St Charles, Gosforth**

The Diocese is looking to appoint a cleaner for 5 hours per week: Mondays 7–9am and Wednesdays 12–3pm.

For more information and to apply, please visit:

[www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies)

or contact HR Department on 0191 243 3301.

**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.

### **Diocesan Education Mass**

School Directors and Governors are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving for their dedication and service to Catholic education. The Mass will be at 6.30pm on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle and will be celebrated by Bishop Stephen.

### **Little Sisters of the Poor**

The Little Sisters of the Poor Summer Fayre, planned for 5<sup>th</sup> July, has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.

**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](#)

**Heavenfield Partnership Pilgrimage to Walsingham** - Heavenfield Partnership invite you to join their pilgrimage from 4 – 6 July 2025 to the National Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham for the Jubilee Year, calling us to be Pilgrims of Hope. A place of pilgrimage since 1061, with the Shrine restored in 1897, Walsingham is a sign of hope where Our Lady is honoured in perpetual memorial of Our Lord's Incarnation. Coach transport is from Hexham (free parking available), ensuite accommodation, and a programme of daily Mass, Confessions, Adoration, devotions to Our Lady, a trip to the coast, and fun social activities in addition to journeying through the Shrine's Holy Door. We look forward to welcoming you to join us in a journey of faith, hope and love. £320 per person which includes travel, half board accommodation and Sunday lunch included. Spaces are limited, so if you have any queries or to book, please [email](#) St Mary's Parish Office, Hexham or call 01434 603 119.

**Newman Tyneside Circle** invites you to come and hear **Gerald Williams** speak about **Jubilee: Redemption - a Hebrew Contract, a Christian Reconciliation**, in the hall of Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle, on **Tuesday 8 July, at 2.30pm**.

**Youth2000 Holy Hour** of Adoration, praise and worship, sacrament of reconciliation, plus some social time afterwards, to be held at Durham University Chaplaincy on Saturday 5th July at 2pm. Aimed at age 18-35. All welcome.

### **Reflections**

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

**Examen** -Please follow this link to go to pray as you go [Saturday Examen Ss Peter and Paul](#)

### **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 stjohn23bulletin@gmail.com](#)