

# 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

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, 10TH - 11TH JANUARY 2026 Year A

Saturday 10th January	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Betty Lee RIP</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Bede	5pm	<b>Veronica Strumbec RIP</b>
Sunday 11th January	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>Raymond Lyons Anniversary RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Michael Farrell Anniversary RIP</b>

#### First reading: The Servant of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. 'I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.'

#### Response to the Psalm: *The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

#### Second Reading: Peter Preaching

Acts 10:34-38

In those days: Peter opened his mouth and said: 'Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all — you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'

#### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded:

'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia.

#### The Gospel: The Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:13-17

At that time: Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptised, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

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 12th January 2026 (\* Streamed Mass)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 12th January <b>Ss Aelred of Rievaulx &amp; Benet Biscop</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Tony Ingoe (Lately Dead)</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace		<b>No Mass</b>
Tuesday 13th January <b>St Hilary</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate		<b>No Mass</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Deceased members of the Hattam Family</b>
Wednesday 14th January	St Bede	10am	<b>Sophia Willey RIP</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Percy, Lillian, Brian &amp; John Mills</b>
Thursday 15th January	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	<b>John Smare RIP</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Marlene Tindale (Nee Ford) RIP</b>
Friday 16th January	St John Boste	10am*	<b>Intentions of McClurey Family</b>
	St Joseph @ St Benet's	9.15am	<b>Priest's Intention</b>
Saturday 17th January <b>St Anthony</b>  <b>Vigil</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	<b>Tony Madden Birthday Memory</b>
	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Fred Farrar &amp; Baby Oscar</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Paul Cockburn RIP Anniversary</b>
Sunday 18th January <b>The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Andrew Bell RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	<b>Josie O'Leary</b>

### The Baptism of the Lord

The reading from Matthew's Gospel today is often used as the scripture reading in a Baptism service. Inevitably there will be several people in the congregation who are not regular church goers, so when I do a short reflection on this reading, I ask everyone to consider the enormity of what we are about to do. How important the sacrament is. Jesus insisted on being baptised, even though John said it should be the other way round – Jesus should be baptising John. Jesus would not hear of this saying, 'Let it be so for now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness.' Jesus was setting an example for all those present and indeed everyone, right through to us today. Also, at the end of St. Matthew's Gospel, the last thing Jesus commands the disciples to do is, 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

These two parts of Matthew's Gospel show with great clarity, how important the sacrament of Baptism is; so important that Jesus chose to be baptised as an example to us, and the last thing he commanded his disciples to do was to baptise the nations. We would do well, now and again, especially when we attend a Baptism, to fully appreciate how important this beautiful sacrament is. We are obeying Jesus's command to baptise the nations more than 2000 years after he issued the command.

Tony Joy

**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 here](#) to view from one of our Churches

## **A very Happy and Holy New Year**

**Fr's Martin, Martin & Luke** would like to thank all parishioners for their kindness during the Christmas season. May God Bless you all and we wish you every Blessing for the New Year, a Happy, Healthy 2026.

## **What's On in the Parish**

**Change to Masses in January** - Please note there will be no 7pm Mass on Monday 12th January at Our Lady Queen of Peace, or 10am Mass on Tuesday 13th January at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate due to reduced Clergy availability.

### **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. Fr Martin Morris.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in all of our Churches:

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 (Our Lady's Over 50's club)** - Please note, the club is on a Tuesday at 1pm in the Lindisfarne Room, at St Bede's! All most welcome!

**This Sunday** we celebrate The Feast of The Baptism of The Lord. There will be a retiring collection for 'The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child.' The annual White flower appeal helps the society promote the dignity of every unborn child. Thank you.

### **Join us on our parish Alpha course**

**Who is it for?** everyone and anyone who wants to learn more about our Christian faith and journey.

**What is it?** 10 weeks course to discuss life and our Christian faith in an informal friendly environment.

**When is it?** Wednesday 14th January 6.30pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Penshaw

For further information contact Maria Ashburner 07752984178.

**Safeguarding** - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is a priority in every parish and diocesan organisation. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is fully committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults which is at the heart of the Church's mission. The Diocese operates a zero-tolerance approach. We adopt and implement fully the policies and procedures of the Catholic Church of England and Wales, which is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact a safeguarding officer in any of our churches – their details are on the noticeboard in the porch, or follow the contact details on our Parish Website under '[Safeguarding](#)'. Details of our Diocesan policy can be found by [clicking here](#).

**Goodbye & God Bless** - Thank you for the many kind words and support. As you may have heard, Friday 16th January is my last day working for the parishes. It is the right time to move on, an opportunity arose that I had to pursue due to family circumstances, I will truly miss working with you and for you. My days working for our Churches have been varied but always a pleasure. I can only dream that the new job will offer the same. I will miss you all, may you all be happy and blessed, see you at Mass sometime Audrey xx

**St Bede's Christmas Raffle** - Many thanks to everyone one who supported our Christmas raffle a total of £332 was raised, also a big thank you to everyone who donated for the Christmas flowers and Tree your kindness was very much appreciated. Happy new year to everyone.

**'NEW SONG'!** Happy New Year! Come and join us for the first New Song of 2026! We welcome back Fr Shaun O'Neill as our speaker. Come and be nourished by God's word and some great company! All are welcome! (NB. We're in the Emmaus Room - not the Parish Room over at the school!) **Where:** Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Emmaus Room. NE38 7HS. **When:** 11 January 2026 @ 4.00 pm. **Email:** [newsongne@gmail.com](mailto:newsongne@gmail.com) **Instagram:** @newsongne

**Defibrillator Training Course.** Ten Our Lady Queen Of Peace parishioners completed a Defibrillator Training Course on 27 November. This Training was funded by OLQP SVP, so a massive thank you goes to them for their generosity. Because of the success of this training, if others at OLQP would like to complete this Defibrillator Training give your name to any OLQP SVP member, photos of whom are in the foyer at the church. If there is enough interest shown another training course will be organised.

## **Other News**

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, 7 - 14 June 2026.** Flying from Newcastle to Dubrovnik. Further info at '[Medjugorje North East](#)'. Led by Fr Martin Morris.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes - 31st July – 7th August 2026.** Celebrating 100 years since the First Diocesan Pilgrimage. Bookings are now open for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We travel on Friday 31st July and return on Friday 7th August. 2026 is the 100th anniversary since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage took place led by Bishop Joseph Thorman. If you would like to book, or for further information, please contact Tangney Tours, our Tour Operator by going to their website <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle/> or by calling 01732 886 666.

**Diocesan Holocaust Memorial - 21 January 2026, 7pm.** St Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7PE. The theme for this year's commemorations 'Bridging Generations', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors – it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. The Interreligious Relations Team are delighted to welcome **Professor Yitka Graham** and **Mr Nicu Ion** as the guest speakers for 2026's Diocesan Holocaust Commemoration. To book [please click here](#).

**Appeal for Lourdes Medical team, 2026.** The diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes marks its centenary in 2026. The pilgrimage relies on the generosity of nurses, student nurses, healthcare assistants, and other volunteers. If anyone would like further information on helping with the pilgrimage, please contact the lead nurse Michelle Hall via [e-mail](#).

**"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](#)

**Fostering North East** – The fostering team is currently recruiting foster carers in Washington and will be at Asda Washington on Thursday 22 January from 10am-1pm. This would be a perfect opportunity for anyone in the parish that is considering fostering to chat to our team and gain more information. Alternatively, if you can't attend and are interested in fostering, you could visit their website and arrange to speak to the team directly. [Homepage - Fostering North East](#)

**Celebration of Marriage & Family Life 2026** - Bishop Stephen has kindly agreed to preside at the annual Celebration of Marriage and Family Life Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 14 February 2026 at 12:00pm. This open invitation will focus on couples celebrating significant anniversaries in 2026; we are sure there will be couples celebrating 25 or 50 or 60+ years anniversaries but is open also to engaged couples preparing for marriage, those who have been married since our last Mass in 2025 and all married couples. We include those widowed and bereaved during this time and all who were unable, perhaps, to visit wives and husbands in hospital and homes prior to their deaths. In these unprecedented times, we remember couples in crisis and individual adults and children experiencing difficulties and abuse in their family relationships. We wish all to know that no-one is forgotten and that the Sacramental life, despite the pressures of contemporary life and their experiences throughout the past year, is very much alive and prayed for. Anyone celebrating a special anniversary can request a certificate by completing a form with their details: <https://bit.ly/MarriageMass2026> or scan the QR code using a smartphone camera; this will take you directly to the form or contact [marriage@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:marriage@diocesehn.org.uk) or ring 0191 243 3316. Such certificates will be presented to couples by Bishop Stephen within our Mass.



**The Catechism in a Year** - Sign up for Ascension's [Catechism In A Year](#) podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz, and you can: Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days; Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter; See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture; Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition; Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness; Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

**The Bible in a Year** - Ascension's [Bible in a Year](#) Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: Two to three scripture readings; A reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz; A guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word

**Emmaus Bereavement Listening Service:** If you are struggling after the death of a loved one, or suffering any significant loss, and would like to share your story with someone outside your family, then a member of the Emmaus Team may be able to help. The members of the Emmaus team are trained in bereavement listening skills and are experienced in supporting those who are suffering loss. If you think we could help, please ring the Emmaus Bereavement Support Team on 07732 980740. Please leave your name and number and a member of the team will get in touch with you.

**Diocesan Vacancy** - Education Business Manager - Salary Scale from £35,000 to £37,323. Based within our Education Team at St Vincent's Diocesan Offices, Newcastle upon Tyne. Importantly you will be working in or have experience of education, ideally in a primary or secondary school setting. Similarly, knowledge and experience with Education Trusts will be distinctively advantageous. Moreover, you will need to show us how you have undertaken, reported upon and delivered professional evaluation processes, presenting findings for example to a committee, board or agency. You will lead on event planning, delivering no less than three annual conferences within the region liaising with our Communications Manager. If you are interested in being at the forefront of developing this role please get in touch with us to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Annie Leaver Head of Human Resources at [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk) The closing date for applications is 12 noon Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026 although we reserve the right to close the post early.

## 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

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

**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.

**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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