

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: sj23office01@gmail.com



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 10TH - 11TH AUGUST 2024, Year B

Saturday 10th August Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	Conceicao Lucas Gonclaves RIP Pat and Jim Keerie, Dennis Craig and the Craig Family
Sunday 11th August 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	People of the Parish Vincent Kelly RIP Dorothy Sweeney RIP

First Reading: Elijah's Breakfast

1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah went into the wilderness, a day's journey, and sitting under a furze bush wished he were dead. "Lord," he said, "I have had enough. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down and went to sleep. But an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked round, and there at his head was a scone baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. But the angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too long for you." So he got up and ate and drank, and strengthened by that food he walked for forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.

Response to the Psalm: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading: The Seal of the Spirit

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God who has marked you with his seal for you to be set free when the day comes. Never have grudges against others, or lose your temper, or raise your voice to anybody, or call each other names, or allow any sort of spitefulness. Be friends with one another, and kind, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ. Try, then, to imitate God, as children of his that he loves, and follow Christ by loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place as a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

The Gospel: John 6:41-51: Belief as Eternal Life

The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus, because he had said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." "Surely this is Jesus son of Joseph," they said. "We know his father and mother. How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus said in reply, "Stop complaining to each other. No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'They will all be taught by God', and to hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it, is to come to me. Not that anybody has seen the Father, except the one who comes from God: he has seen the Father. I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert and they are dead; but this is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that a man may eat it and not die. I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world."

Fr Martin Morris	0191 649 8257	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Peter Lavery	0730 505 9297
Fr Luke Wilkinson	0191 649 8257	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 12th August 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 12th August St Jane Frances de Chantal	St Bede	10am	Holy Souls
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	12 Noon	Requiem Mass Sarah Patricia Purvis
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Priest's Intention
Tuesday 13th August Ss Pontian & Hippolytus	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Margaret Hodgson RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Mark Douglas RIP
Wednesday 14th August St Maxamilian Mary Kolbe	St Bede	10am	Living and deceased members of the Banks and Fletcher Families
	St John Boste	7pm	Norah Morris RIP
Thursday 15th August The Assumption of the BVM	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Cecily McDevitte 90th Birthday
	St Joseph	12 Noon	People of the Parish
Friday 16th August St Steven of Hungary	St John Boste	10am	John & Jane Prendergast on celebrating 60 years of marriage
	St Joseph	10am	Christine Thompson RIP
Saturday 17th August Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Teresa Laidler RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Patrick Riordan RIP
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 18th August 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Oswald Stephenson RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Stephenson Family & Alfie Cruddas RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Olive & George Bland RIP

I am the bread of life.

About 23 years ago I was privileged to experience a celebration of the Eucharist that I will remember for the rest of my life. I was helping out, for the first time, preparing young people for the sacrament of Confirmation. Fr Tony Currer was leading the programme and had planned an awayday in Osmotherly. The week before he had asked the young people to each bring a small quantity of various ingredients: flour, salt or oil.

At the beginning of day, the first activity was a talk by Fr Tony who told us several stories from the bible connected to bread as a gift from God. The story from Exodus, of the Manna from heaven while the Jewish nation was in the wilderness. Today's story from 1 Kings where Elijah is transformed by God himself through sleep and a scone and water, left for him while he slept. The feeding of the five thousand from the Gospels and the last supper. While he was reminding us of these bible stories Fr Tony was pouring out the ingredients, then adding water and working the dough into a flat, stottie like 'cake' (or scone) on a baking tray. The Confirmation candidates were captivated by the experience. He had them the palm of his hand. While we all explored other parts of the Confirmation programme the baking tray was placed into the oven and was baked.

We finished the day with a small intimate Mass in the chapel, with 12 to 15 people there, as I remember. The bread that was made earlier was consecrated and used for our holy communion. We were reminded that it was to be treated with the same reverence and respect as the Holy Communion on the altar in our home churches.

Fr Tony spoke about the last supper in his homily, and I have never felt so close to Jesus and his disciples as I did that day. I would like to think that those young people who were Confirmed a few weeks later will also remember that Eucharistic celebration with the same affection as I do.

This bread of life, this gift from God, is central to our Faith and I am sure we all appreciate how privileged we are to have such a gift.

Deacon Tony

Masses are live-streamed daily at 10am everyday, except Monday when Mass is live-streamed at 7pm

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: Tuesday at 7pm; Thursday at 12 Noon; 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

Thursday 15th August is the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, it is also a Holy Day of Obligation. Please note the evening Mass at St John Boste is the vigil Mass of the Assumption.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

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

St Bede's each Wednesday 9.15am - 9.50am;

St. Joseph's (until November) 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 is now available in all of our Churches:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass and Saturday morning from 10am-11am.

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!

NEW SONG! Join us for the **NEW SONG GARDEN PARTY!** This Sunday 11 August 12.30 pm in the church grounds behind the Emmaus Room. Bring a picnic with beverages of your choice and something to sit on: games, music, raffle, fun and, most of all ... guaranteed sunshine!! Look forward to seeing you there!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS.

Email: newsongne@gmail.com **Instagram:** [@newsongne](https://www.instagram.com/newsongne)

Deacon Frank O'Neill

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR) The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency(CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives names are displayed on church notice boards, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

St Bede's Church - If you know someone who can no longer get to Holy Mass because they are sick or housebound, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Marian Fletcher Tel: 01914174413. We also would like to encourage those from **all our churches** that are no longer able to attend mass to have a Special Minister call with Holy Communion, Please ask or get in touch with any of our Priests or Deacons.

Fr Jim has compiled a short booklet on his pilgrimage in the "Footsteps of St Paul". The booklet is available on the parish website [here](#).

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Washington

From September, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will be offering 30 hour nursery places for children who are three years old with either an eligible voucher code or paid 30 hour places. Further information and application forms can be obtained by contacting

the school office. The school newsletter can be found [here](#).

Mass Intentions

Please be aware that there are a significant number of Mass Intentions already allocated and any request for a specific date may not be possible due to an Intention previously received and allocated to the Mass on that date. If the date requested is already filled, then the intention will be allocated to the first available Mass in the preferred church which could be a few weeks after the requested date.

St Bede Toddler Group

The toddler group is now full so we have opened a waiting list. However, we will have places from September as there are several children leaving to go to nursery. Please contact Joan Formosa on 07504 579591 if you wish to add a name to the waiting list. Joan will contact you when a place becomes available.

Sarah Patricia (Sally McIlroy) Purvis

Died 27 July 2024. Requiem Mass 12 August at Our Lady's RC church at 12 noon.

The 40th annual St John Boste Walk to honour St John Boste on Sunday 28 July was a great success with 19 parishioners, mostly 'old timers', but also a group of parishioners from St John Boste Parish in Durham. The walkers were then joined by other parishioners to say the rosary in the Galilee Chapel, before continuing the walk to St Leonard's School, the site where St John Boste was executed. Many thanks to those who walked and a warm invitation to journey with us in 2025 for the 41st walk.

Eucharistic Adoration at Our Lady Queen of Peace this Sunday afternoon 11 August, 4-5pm, followed by Rosary and Benediction. Refreshments in the hall, all welcome.

Eucharistic Congress Birmingham 14 September 2024.

The Bishops of England and Wales have called the Congress to help parishes reflect more deeply on the great gift of the Eucharist and how our Faith in this Sacrament can be strengthened and renewed. Representatives from each parish community will attend the event and share with us at a later date the ideas put forward at the Congress. I am very grateful to those who have offered to attend the event as reps. for our partnership of parishes.: Sophie Taylor, Andrew French, Dominique Lentchou, Tom Kelly, Darren Trotter, Paddy Denton, Stanley Duru and Chibuzo Kabul. Thank you, Fr Martin.

Other News

What is the Lord calling us to Be and Do? Over the last six weeks people across the Diocese have been undertaking spiritual conversations discerning What is God calling us to Be and Do? Workshops have taken place in Stockton, Consett and Washington with plans in place for Hexham and Amble. With further modelling of spiritual conversations taking place at Ushaw and with the Diocesan Lay Pastoral Forum. The discernment workshops will continue into the Autumn term with a number of Partnerships now inviting training into their area. In Rome the latest document for the universal synod has been released aimed at those who will be attending the meeting in October 2025. A link to this document can be found by [clicking here](#). We continue to pray and unpack the draft Diocesan vision, exploring what is God calling us to Be and Do in our community? Find out more by [clicking here](#).

Amy Cameron.

Holy Hour - The Association of the Eucharist will be holding their monthly Holy Hour on Sunday 1 September at St Andrew's, [9 Worswick Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6UW](#), from 2.30pm to 3.30pm followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome. No booking required.

The Liturgical Formation Team will be delivering a number of courses for those who wish to become an **Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** in the Autumn at St Michael's, Houghton-le-Spring in September. I have placed the link to the online booking form [here](#).

People booking for liturgical formation courses (e.g. Eucharistic Ministers) need to be endorsed by their parish priest/deacon. A parish can book up to 5 people using the online form. The cost of the course is £20 per participant and an invoice will be sent to the parish following the course.

The Medjugorje Centre (North East)

has organised a Medjugorje Retreat at Minsteracres from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 October. The Spiritual Director for the weekend is Fr Martin Morris. The weekend is an opportunity to come together for prayer, talks and friendship. The cost is £195 per person. A £48 Deposit is required and more information and booking forms are available from Marian Fletcher (St Bede's) Telephone 0191 4174413.

"Try, then, to imitate God as children of his that he loves and follow Christ loving as he loved you, giving himself up in our place as a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God." Can you be like Christ, loving others as he did? God might be calling you to discern a vocation to the priesthood. **Come and See!** We invite men aged 18+ who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. The next Discernment Evening is on **Tuesday 3 September at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL between 6pm and 8pm** There will be a time of prayer, talk/discussion, followed by a meal together If you would like to attend, or for more information, speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

Catholic Pastoral Leadership Course - Are you involved in any ministry in the Church? Are you interested in doing more for the Church? Do you want to expand your skills in pastoral leadership? A new online course in Catholic Pastoral Leadership might be what you are looking for. Liverpool Hope University has partnered with several Catholic dioceses across England and Wales to help people like you to gain fresh perspectives on Scripture and Church teaching. You will look at real-world issues in the light of our tradition and consider the best ways of exploring Christian faith and life with others. The 2-year course is split into 4 modules and you can complete most of the work at a time that suits you. To find out more information about the course, please visit our [website](#).

The Justice and Peace Refugee Project continues to welcome hundreds of people who use our services every month, with new clients registering each week from many places in the world. Your continued donations of food, toiletries and finance are very welcome. Items most urgently needed can be [found here](#). In addition to these items, we also try to source fresh produce, which is gratefully received by our clients. Unfortunately, *Lidl*, one of our supermarket contributors, recently stopped supplying food to the project, so we are now in contact with *FareShare* to ensure that we are able to continue to provide fresh food items to our clients. *FareShare* is a national network of charitable food redistributors, made up of 18 independent organisations, which takes good quality surplus food from across the food industry to community groups and charities. For more information please [click here](#).

The Joy of the Gospel *"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."* *Evangelii Gaudium*, the Joy of the Gospel, looks at the new evangelisation for the transmission of the faith and has chapters on the following subjects:
The Church's Missionary Transformation; The Crisis of Communal Commitment; The Proclamation of the Gospel; The Social Dimension of Evangelization; Spirit-Filled Evangelizers. The full text of *Evangelii Gaudium* can be downloaded [here](#). Quick Link: [Sharing the Faith](#).

Will you help CAFOD to support farmers around the world in the fight to keep their rights to their own seeds? As the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, CAFOD is reaching out to people living in poverty with practical help. But CAFOD's mission also calls on us to challenge the structures that bring about poverty and injustice in the first place. This is at the core of the [Fix the Food System](#) campaign which was supported last year by parishes in each of the 22 dioceses in England and Wales. This CAFOD initiative aims to re-think the current global food system and, as Pope Francis says, transform it for the benefit of people and planet. Globally, just [nine crops account for more than 65%](#) of all crop production, which are traded and transported by a few big businesses. This lack of crop diversity makes the current food system unfit to cope with the challenges brought about by the climate crisis and also makes it unsuitable for quickly adapting to disease and conflict.

Reflections

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

Examen -Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go

[Saturday Examen 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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](#)

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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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