

# Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph's, Birtley

Incorporating: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw;  
St Bede's, Usworth; St John Boste, Oxclose; St Joseph's, Birtley



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**In the Partnership of Benedict**



**The Most Holy Trinity,  
12th June 2022, Year C**

## **Gospel for 12th June 2022 (John 16:12-15): Father, Son and Spirit**

We can learn a little about the Trinity from this passage. Think of a perfect relationship between a father and a son: complete understanding between them - loving care from the father, loving obedience from the son; complete support from both sides. As soon as one has an idea, the other expresses it, to the perfect satisfaction of the first. As soon as one starts an action, the other has completed it, to the delight of the first. Then the son sends his own spirit, which is not himself, but represents himself fully, makes him present when he is not there and does his work exactly as he would do it.

Two other images, perhaps rather cheeky: three men on a bench outside a pub or three women with supermarket trolleys, all three chatting in perfect harmony and understanding, with complete exchange of ideas and plenty of humour, laughter and warmth. Their friendship is so attractive that you would love to join them but don't dare. They are so welcoming that they seem to invite you to join them. They are so loving that you feel you have found happiness as never before.

These are rather wretched images, straining to express the unity in diversity of the Trinity, but one must at least try to understand. Read the gospel again!

**Can you think of an image for the Trinity, three Persons in one Nature?**

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

Fr Jim O'Keefe 0191 416 3805

Deacon Frank O'Neill 0779 115 5845

Fr Uchenna Odenigbo 0191 416 3583

Deacon Peter Lavery 0730 505 9297

Fr Martin Wheaton 0191 410 2923

Deacon Tony Joy 0779 989 3419

Fr Vincent Waiga 0191 416 3583



## This Sunday's Readings...

*Happy are those who trust in the Lord*



This week we return to the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. This Sunday and next Sunday, however, are designated as solemnities, special days that call our attention to central mysteries of our faith. Today, on the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. This feast invites us to consider what we believe about God, who has revealed himself to us in the Trinity—one God in three persons.

The verses of today's Gospel come near the end of Jesus' long discourse at the Last Supper. In the early part of this discourse, as we saw last week on Pentecost, Jesus offers assurances to the disciples. Even though he must leave the disciples, he tells them that they will have a future because of the help he will send them in the Holy Spirit. In this section he focuses more on the shape of the future, which will include Jesus' victory over the world that they will share in. The disciples of Jesus cannot know the future. They can only know that whatever shape the future takes, they will not have to face it alone. They have the Spirit of Truth, who will continue to provide the teaching of Jesus in the future.

Reading this passage on Trinity Sunday reinforces our understanding of the unity shared by the members of the Trinity. Although the idea of one God in three persons remains a mystery, we have the assurance that, as Jesus and the Father share all, Jesus and the Spirit share all.



## St JOSEPH'S

### ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

#### 200 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW



All profits from this enterprise help to fund SVP food bank in Newcastle so members not only have the opportunity of winning a prize in the monthly draw but, more importantly, will be helping to provide emergency food parcels for the needy and also hot meals for the homeless people who visit the St Vincent's Support Centre each week.

Members do not have to be members of the SVP but it is helpful but not obligatory, if the 'agent' is. New members will be allocated a number between 1 and 200 which they keep for the duration of their membership.

The cost is £1 per number per month – paid annually.

Prize Money:

January–November 1<sup>st</sup> prize £50      2<sup>nd</sup> prize is £25

Christmas Draw 1<sup>st</sup> prize £100      2<sup>nd</sup> prize £50

The draw is done at the beginning of each month, using an automated 'random number generator' and the 'Results Sheet' is sent to the agents for information and display.

Sadly, over the last few years, with conferences going into abeyance, membership of the 200 club has reduced considerably whilst the needs of the poor have increased, so new members are always most welcome.

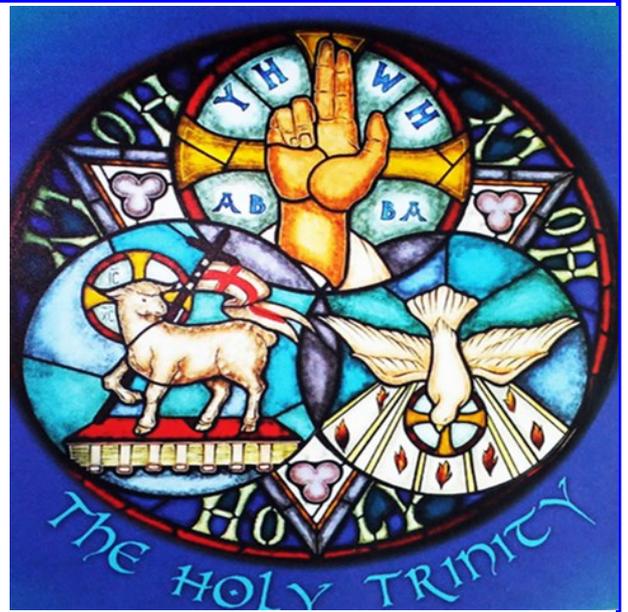
Please contact Elaine Hannon on 07899697622 or [elaine\\_hannon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elaine_hannon@hotmail.co.uk) Thank you.



## The Holy Trinity

The four Gospels mention the three Divine Persons. But there is no direct mention of the term Most Holy Trinity. Instead, they all insist on one important truth about God: God is love. This is truly precise because the key towards the understanding of the Trinity is love. It is the key to the unity of the three Divine Persons. How come that the three Persons are one God? If it is one, it is one; if it is three, it is three. How did it happen that three become one, and one is three? The answer is love.

This is true in our own experience. When a man and a woman, though totally different and distinct individuals, are in love, they become one, and they are called Mr. and Mrs. If the limited and imperfect love of the man and woman makes them one, then it is but logical to conclude that the perfect love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit makes them also perfectly one. Love unites. So, love is the essence of the One and True God. There is unity and trinity in God because God is love.



True love is not just a feeling or emotion. The only description of love is total self-giving: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son..." Yet this giving is intended for a purpose: "...so that those who believe in Him might be saved." God loves us for the most sublime purpose: salvation. In order to save us because of His love for us, He gave us His only begotten Son. That is the essence of love. We see this in people who truly love. They are ready to sacrifice themselves and even offer their lives so that others may live and be saved. Love should lead to salvation. That is true love. So when we truly love according to the command and example of Jesus ("A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you."), we become members of the family of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We become clear images of God. This is the single most important ingredient for us being "created in the image and likeness of God."

The three Divine Persons are distinct from each other. We assign to each of them roles: The Father is the Creator, the Son is the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit is the Paraclete/Sanctifier. The three Persons are only one God. Creation, Redemption and Sanctifying are functions of the same God, and they intertwine, influence and complement each other. St. Paul used the image of the body, with many parts but still only one body. For instance, the action of the hand is not attributed to the hand alone but to the whole body. It is the whole person doing the whole action. The credit goes to the whole body, the entire person.

The Trinity is the perfect model for our communities, parishes, and especially our own families. The trend of the world now is towards division and becoming self-sufficient. Divorce and marital separations are rampant. In search for economic stability, families are divided. The children are taught to live independently as soon as possible. The prospect is never encouraging. Lacking the basic foundation of a strong family, young people go through life without clear direction and stability. One broken family leads to multiple broken families in the next generation. This is not according to the will and plan of God. He wants us to live in family, united in love, peace and harmony. The family is supposed to be the clear and concrete reflection of the family of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is very clear in the example of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

The only key to this is Love.

### St Bede's Water Aid Bingo

St Bede's water aid bingo will be starting back in the Lindisfarne Room on 13th June.

Tea, biscuits and bingo.

Commencing 1pm until approximately 3pm.

Everyone welcome.

## What is a Catholic?

### What does the Catholic Church teach?

### What religious teachings are my children receiving in school?

### What difference does faith make in a person's life?

If these are questions you have asked yourself then maybe you would like to join our parish RCIA – Journey in Faith/Sycamore programme which will begin in mid September until Easter 2023.

There will be an informal information evening at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Station Road Peshaw DH4 7JZ on Wednesday 22 June at 7pm for you to meet the team, meet previous candidates of the course and have any questions answered.

If you are unable to attend the open evening but would like more information please email [maria.ashburner@btinternet.com](mailto:maria.ashburner@btinternet.com).

We look forward to meeting you, supporting you and sharing your journey.

The RCIA team

## Examen

The Examen, or Review of the Day, was a daily prayer included by St Ignatius Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises. It offers a practical help to become more attentive to God's presence and activity in our daily life, finding God in all things, noticing the patterns of our interaction with God in our experiences.

Saturday Examen – the link is [here](#)

The Most Holy Trinity – the link is [here](#)



## Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

The Little Sisters of the Poor at St Joseph's Home in Newcastle are finding the current economic climate increasingly more difficult. The emergency lockdown measures we have had to implement to aid efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and keep our residents safe have had a massive impact on our fundraising activities and the charitable donations we rely on to meet the ever increasing daily running costs of the Home.

We are appealing for urgent donations to help us continue with our work of caring for the Elderly. In these uncertain times, small acts of kindness can make a huge difference in helping our Home. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are extremely grateful to you for the kindness shown to us.

Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' can be sent to: **St Joseph's Home, Westmoreland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA**. Alternatively, secure, online donations can be made by [clicking here](#).



## St Anthony of Padua

On June 13, Catholics honour the memory of the Franciscan priest St. Anthony of Padua. Although he is popularly invoked today by those who have trouble finding lost objects, he was known in his own day as the “Hammer of Heretics” due to the powerful witness of his life and preaching.

The saint known to the Church as Anthony of Padua was not born in the Italian city of Padua, nor was he originally named Anthony. He was born as Ferdinand in Lisbon, Portugal during 1195, the son of an army officer named Martin and a virtuous woman named Mary. They had Ferdinand educated by a group of priests, and the young man made his own decision to enter religious life at age 15.

Ferdinand initially lived in a monastery of the Augustinian order outside of Lisbon. But he disliked the distraction of constant visits from his friends and moved to a more remote house of the same order. There, he concentrated on reading the Bible and the Church Fathers, while living a life of asceticism and heartfelt devotion to God.

Eight years later, in 1220, Ferdinand learned the news about five Franciscan friars who had recently died for their faith in Morocco. When their bodies were brought to Portugal for veneration, Ferdinand developed a passionate desire to imitate their commitment to the Gospel. When a group of Franciscans visited his monastery, Ferdinand told them he wanted to adopt their poor and humble way of life.

He eventually obtained permission to leave the Augustinians and join a small Franciscan monastery in 1221. At that time, he took the name Anthony, after the fourth-century desert monk St. Anthony of Egypt.

Anthony wanted to imitate the Franciscan martyrs who had died trying to convert the Muslims of Morocco. He travelled on a ship to Africa for this purpose but became seriously ill and could not carry out his intention. The ship that was supposed to take him to Spain for treatment was blown off course and ended up in Italy.

Through this series of mishaps, Anthony ended up near Assisi, where St. Francis was holding a major meeting for the members of his order. Despite his poor health, Anthony resolved to stay in Italy in order to be closer to St. Francis himself. He deliberately concealed his deep knowledge of theology and Scripture and offered to serve in the kitchen among the brothers.

At the time, no one realized that the future “Hammer of Heretics” was anything other than a kitchen assistant and obedient Franciscan priest. Around 1224, however, Anthony was forced to deliver an improvised speech before an assembly of Dominicans and Franciscans, none of whom had prepared any remarks.

His eloquence stunned the crowd, and St. Francis himself soon learned what kind of man the dish-washing priest really was. In 1224 he gave Anthony permission to teach theology in the Franciscan order – “provided, however, that as the Rule prescribes, the spirit of prayer and devotion may not be extinguished.”

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Anthony taught theology in several French and Italian cities, while strictly following his Franciscan vows and preaching regularly to the people. Later, he dedicated himself entirely to the work of preaching as a missionary in France, Italy and Spain, teaching an authentic love for God to many people – whether peasants or princes – who had fallen away from Catholic faith and morality.

After Lent in 1231, Anthony's health was in decline. Following the example of his patron – the earlier St. Anthony, who had lived as a hermit – he retreated to a remote location, taking two companions to help him. When his worsening health forced him to be carried back to the Franciscan monastery in Padua, crowds of people converged on the group in hopes of paying their homage to the holy priest.

The commotion surrounding his transport forced his attendants to stop short of their destination. After receiving the last rites, Anthony prayed the Church's seven traditional penitential psalms, sung a hymn to the Virgin Mary, and died on June 13 at the age of 36.

St. Anthony's well-established holiness, combined with the many miracles he had worked during his lifetime, moved Pope Gregory IX – who knew the saint personally – to canonize him one year after his death.

“St. Anthony, residing now in heaven, is honoured on earth by many miracles daily seen at his tomb, of which we are certified by authentic writings,” proclaimed the 13th-century Pope.

### **The True Essence of the Love of God**



Lourdes is a very international place where languages and flags abound in a huge variety. But where a place like Lourdes differs from the average cosmopolitan place, such as a big city, is in the fact that the variety of language and colour adds to the richness of the communion of the Church rather than reveal diversity and subsequent tension, as in the average international city.

What enables such diversity to demonstrate such togetherness and blessing is the fact that people are there, having been called by God (through Mary), to share in His perfect love and togetherness, as demonstrated in the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is the true essence of the love of God, which binds together the Father and the Son in perfect unity. For an international place of pilgrimage to be a 'great' place then it too must demonstrate that its existence calls people into a true sense of perfect love and unity, seeking to mirror the perfect love of God. It's just a shame that it has to be linked to the word's worst place for religious items of very dubious taste!

### **Special Collection Next 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.



# THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI EUCCHARISTIC FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022  
USHAW COLLEGE, DURHAM, DH7 7DW  
3PM-4.30PM



*‘Our Eucharistic Festival is a special opportunity to demonstrate publicly our love and devotion for the Eucharist’*

Rt Rev Robert Byrne  
Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (19th June) we will have the opportunity to celebrate our Eucharistic faith publicly in a Blessed Sacrament procession. Bishop Robert hopes this will be the highlight of the Eucharistic Year with many clergy and faithful taking part. The Festival programme includes a blessing of the newly restored Pugin Altar by Bishop Robert, a Eucharistic procession around the grounds of Ushaw (weather permitting) and benediction.

We ask the main organiser to book on behalf of the people attending in their group, parish or partnership using this link: <https://bit.ly/3FCZ6TF> or visiting [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk).

There are limited places available at this event. We recommend booking early to avoid disappointment. A confirmation email will be sent when your booking is confirmed.

Ushaw has limited parking available. Groups are invited to travel by coach or car share, where appropriate. Please advise at time of booking and check confirmation of booking before arranging transport. Accessible parking is available at the venue.

Refreshments will be available in the refectory after the event. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic and use the grounds. Please expect a short delay while people are being served in the refectory.

Photographs will be taken at this event for use in Diocesan promotional materials.

Anyone showing Covid symptoms within 10 days of the festival is advised not to attend the event.

## Live Simply in May and June 2022

### GET DRASTIC WITH YOUR PLASTIC

#### SINGLE USE PLASTIC IS DEVASTATING OUR PLANET!

**\*Swap plastic bottles and coffee cups for reusable ones**

**\*Use reusable containers or silicone lids instead of plastic bags and cling film**

**\*Buy loose fruit and vegetables when possible**



**\*Use biodegradable baby wipes but never flush them down the toilet**

**\*Use metal or paper straws instead of plastic ones**

**\*Try shampoo and soap bars instead of bottled liquid**

**ALWAYS USE YOUR BLUE BIN OR YOUR LOCAL  
RECYCLING CENTRE TO DISPOSE OF PLASTIC WASTE**

### *Reflections*

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

You can read a monthly reflection titled, 'Post Lent' by Pat Kennedy MPS, which can be found [by clicking here](#).

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations are free email reflections sent every day of the year. Each meditation features Richard Rohr and guest authors reflecting on a yearly theme, with each week building on previous topics, but you can join at any time! In the 2022 Daily Meditations, Father Richard Rohr invites you on a journey of understanding God as Relationship—with ourselves, each other, and the earth—in the theme of Nothing Stands Alone. Despite the uncertainty and disorder, our present moment is a great opportunity to awaken to deeper transformation, love, and hope. Amid the widespread need for healing, reality offers us an invitation to depth, to discover what is lasting and what matters. Please read Richard's Daily Meditations [here](#).

## News and Events in the Parish



As we begin to learn to live with Covid, we expect that more things will start again in the Parish. Are you thinking about re-starting the Craft Group or the Prayer Group or the Bingo? The newsletter team want to put together a page that lets everyone know what is happening in the Parish. If you are re-starting any of

these things, from coffee mornings to Exposition, PLEASE let us know and we will publish them in the newsletter.

In addition, if you have any news you think may be useful to other parishioners, please let us know.

To contact us please just [click here](#).



**Loving God**  
**We pray for the people of Ukraine,**  
**For all those suffering or afraid,**  
**That you will be close to them and protect them.**  
**We pray for world leaders,**  
**For compassion, strength and**  
**Wisdom to guide their choices.**  
**We pray for the world that in this**  
**Moment of crisis, we may reach out**  
**In solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.**  
**May we walk in your ways**  
**So that peace and justice**  
**Become a reality for the people of Ukraine**  
**And for all the world.**  
**Amen**



### 'Our Brothers and Sisters'

This is how Pope Francis refers to all Migrants and Refugees in his 2014 day of prayer for them all. He goes on to say that 'they are to be welcomed, respected and loved.' The Bishops of England and Wales in their recent statement tell us that this plea is as urgent as ever and is based on the dignity of each person made in the image and likeness of God. Our bishops remind us that there are over 80 million people in our world displaced by war, poverty, persecution and the effects of global warming. They also appreciate that it is an extremely complex state of affairs, nonetheless, our country must 'treat them justly and honour their dignity as human persons.' The bishops then go on to say: 'The Nationality and Borders Act fails to do this...there is no illegal asylum seeker; to claim asylum is a human right'.

In this excellent statement, our bishops go on to say: 'Crime is defeated by confronting the perpetrators not by punishing the victims', and that we must give witness through hospitality, a compassionate welcome and campaigning on behalf of refugees. They conclude by saying that they will continue to advocate their cause, after all Jesus said: 'I was a stranger and you made me welcome'.

## Streaming Services

Streaming of our daily and Sunday Masses commenced during the Covid crisis when it was not possible for everybody to attend Mass and other services physically. Now that we are through the major part of the crisis, although Covid is still in our communities and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future, the Bishops of England and Wales have stated:

*“A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”*

A great strength of our community is the ability to attend Mass in person and join with others in worship and communion. We are trying very hard to make sure our Churches are as safe as possible and to enhance the experience for everyone. We have recently reintroduced many aspects of our celebrations that had to be put on hold during the Covid crisis. We now invite you all to come to Church and celebrate Mass with us together. When someone who can join us to celebrate together decides not to, then our celebration is missing someone. You're missed. Our community is more present, our witness is more clear when you can join us. Celebrating Mass really is about being together – when we can be.

We also recognise that, for various reasons such as illness, being away from home, concern about the spread of Covid and self isolation, some people are unable to attend Mass. For that reason we will continue our streaming services as follows:

**MASSES ARE LIVE-STREAMED DAILY AT 10AM EVERYDAY**

**EXCEPT MONDAY WHEN MASS IS LIVE-STREAMED AT 7PM**

**IN ADDITION, WE LIVE-STREAM MASSES FROM ST JOSEPH'S BIRTLEY ON:**

**TUESDAY AT 6.45PM; THURSDAY AT 12 MIDDAY; SATURDAY AT 5PM**

Please [click here to access live streaming of Mass](#) from one of our Churches.

To access live streaming from St Joseph's Birtley, please [click here](#).

Note that live streaming may not start until shortly before the publicized Mass time. The streamed Mass is available to view on a PC, laptop, iPad, iPhone, Android Tablet or Mobile.

When the streamed Mass has ended why not scroll down to the “Watch Videos” part of The Church Services page and select “Featured Videos”? Here you will find various current videos. In the “Watch Videos” area you will also be able to view any recorded services like funerals, baptisms, etc.

### READINGS AVAILABLE

To enhance your experience, this Sunday's readings are available to follow during Mass, or to read at a later time.

[Just click here](#)

**Mass times for the fortnight beginning Saturday 11th June 2022**

| <b>Day</b>  | <b>Church</b>               | <b>Time</b> | <b>Intention</b>  |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|---|
| Saturday 11th June  | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am        | Michael & Lucy Frain Silver Wedding   |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 5pm         | DMs of the Baggott, Walker & Jones families   |
|   | St Bede's                   | 5pm         | Moira and Vincent Lamb (deceased)   |
| Sunday 12th June<br><b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>                    | St John Boste               | 9.30am      | Special Intention (PI)  |
|   | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 10am        | Eileen Smare RIP  |
|   | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am        | Mary & Bill O'Hara  |
| Monday 13th June<br>St Anthony of Padua                             | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 7pm         | Holy Souls  |
| Tuesday 14th June   | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am        | Roy Smith RIP   |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 7pm         | Harriet Rowntree  |
| Wednesday 15th June   | St Bede's                   | 10am        | Elizabeth & Joseph Stephenson (Anniversary) & deceased Stephenson and Monaghan Families |
|   | St John Boste               | 7pm         | Children/Youth of the Parish  |
| Thursday 16th June<br>St Richard of Chichester                      | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 10am        | Deceased members of the Cosgrove and Docherty Families                                  |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 12 noon     | First Holy Communion children   |
| Friday 17th June  | St John Boste               | 10am        | People of the Parish  |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 10am        | Harriet & John Hogan  |
| Saturday 18th June<br>St Barnabas                                   | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am        | The Sick of the Parish  |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 5pm         | People of the Parish  |
|   | St Bede's                   | 5pm         | Kieran Cushlow (birthday of deceased)   |
| Sunday 19th June<br><b>The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord</b> | St John Boste               | 9.30am      | Mary Jordan   |
|   | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 10am        | Dennis Wilson RIP   |
|   | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am        | Margaret, Dennis & Karen Whalen   |
| Monday 20th June<br>St Alban  | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 7pm         |   |
| Tuesday 21st June<br>St Aloysius Gonzaga                            | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am        |   |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 7pm         |   |
| Wednesday 22nd June<br>Ss John Fisher, and Thomas More              | St Bede's                   | 10am        | Lawrence and Cecilia Holland (deceased)   |
|   | St John Boste               | 7pm         | Thomas Andiyapan  |
| Thursday 23rd June<br>The Nativity of John the Baptist              | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 10am        | Vera Cosgrove RIP   |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 12 noon     | 50 years of YMG – past & present members  |
| Friday 24th June<br>Most Sacred Heart of Jesus                      | St John Boste               | 10am        |   |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 10am        | Holy Souls  |
| Saturday 25th June<br>Immaculate Heart of Mary                      | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am        | Janet O'Neil  |
|   | St Joseph's                 | 5pm         | Brian & Susan Towns   |
|   | St Bede's                   | 5pm         | Laurence McAdam   |
| Sunday 26th June<br><b>13th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>             | St John Boste               | 9.30am      |   |
|   | Our Lady Queen of Peace     | 10am        | Alfie Cruddas and Deceased Family   |
|   | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am        | Dorothy Sweeney   |

## URGENT APPEAL

You may remember Bishop Robert's pastoral letter last week was appealing for men who hearing his letter may ask themselves: 'Is God calling me?' As our churches gradually return to some kind of normality, the laity of St John XXIII should be asking themselves, 'Is my church calling me?'

We find that our pool of volunteers that used to take care of all those little activities that keep our churches ticking over is now depleted because some are no longer able or available to perform those roles,

So, is your church calling you to be a volunteer to either welcome others to the community mass, take our collections, serve at mass, read at mass, help distribute Holy Communion, count the collection and then tidy the church afterwards (to name but a few).

Is your church calling you to help with the Children's Liturgy or start one up if your church doesn't already have one? Would you be willing to help families prepare for Baptism or our children and young people prepare for the sacraments?

Is your church calling you to help clean the church, or be part of a team to print newsletters so they can once again be available at the back of **all** our churches. The list is endless.

If the answer is **YES**, you can contact Marian Fletcher (St Bede's) who will be pleased to pass your details to the relevant church groups. You can leave a message and your contact number on 01914174413 or email Marian on [sj23mf@gmail.com](mailto:sj23mf@gmail.com) Alternatively, express your interest to one of our priests. Thanks.

## Bereavement Support

Whilst bereavement is extremely hard at any time, the time spent in lockdown when funerals had to take place in very restricted circumstances have taken their toll on so many. Whilst family and friends can be immensely supportive, sometimes a bereaved person wants to talk to someone outside of their immediate circle. The Emmaus Bereavement Support Team, trained in the Ministry of Consolation, is available to support those who wish to talk about their loss. Due to current restrictions, such conversations will most likely take place on the phone, but we hope as restrictions ease, it may be possible for people to meet face-to-face again.

Since the launch of this service earlier this year, there have been a number of requests for support, and several of our listeners have been able to accompany others on their journey of loss and bereavement. The **Emmaus Bereavement Support Service** number is **07732 980740** a member of the team will contact you promptly.

## Coping with Cancer North East.

We are a cancer charity that offers free support to those affected by cancer, this includes counselling, coaching and complementary therapies. Our services are free to anyone who is or has been affected by a cancer diagnosis, including family, friends, and carers. We offer our services across the whole of the North East.

Almost everybody knows someone who is or has been affected by a cancer diagnosis and we are ready to support them. I am hoping you may be able to help us raise awareness of the charity and the ways in which we can help others. As you may already know 1 in 2 will develop cancer in their lifetime and we want to help as many people as possible. We are not asking for donations or money in anyway, only making people aware of our services.

Please [click here](#) for further information on the help that we provide.

## Prayer Intentions at Mass

When we come together to celebrate mass we 'worship God, support each other on our journey of faith, and are a visible sign of faith to the world'. This phrase is from the note our Bishops prepared to invite us all to seriously consider joining the community to celebrate together. In fact our communities are only truly communities when everyone who can, does in fact gather, there's something missing if parishioners who can gather, don't do so. When we gather we bring our whole selves, our hopes and our worries, what we long for and what we regret. Some people want to invite the whole community to join them in their prayer and memories, so they ask for their 'Intention' to be included and mentioned during mass. This may be because someone is sick, about to sit exams, are expecting a baby, or are looking for a job. It may be because it is the anniversary of death of a family member or friend, family or friends getting engaged or married. You may want to pray for peace in Ukraine, bring to mind those who have suffered abuse in the Church or anywhere else, those struggling with a relationship or are about to celebrate 60 years of marriage. We can always invite others to join us in our prayers, hopes and aspirations, and when we do, we are invited to come closer to one another and become more attentive to what matters to all of our brothers and sisters. If you would like others to pray alongside you, then simply take a Mass Offering envelope from the back of church and fill in whatever details you want to. We look forward to praying with you.

Jim O'Keefe

## Encountering the Son

The Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced the '**Encountering the Son**' booklet, which is the second of a series of three booklets to accompany the Year of the Eucharist and our Diocesan Synodal reflection.

The booklet is available by [clicking here](#).

## Young Adult Prayer Group

Young Adults (including uni students) from across the area are invited for a time of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with some music and reflection.

Held every Monday in term time from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at St. Andrew's Church, Worswick Street, Newcastle, followed by social time in a local pub.

Drop in for a few minutes even if you cannot stay for the whole hour!

## Listening Ear Service

Would you like someone to talk to?

Trained listeners are available who can offer a confidential listening service to anyone who needs a listening ear. We are fortunate to have three trained in our parish, or you can request someone from another parish if you prefer. Issues might include loss, anxiety, loneliness or other matters of concern. An initial phone call can be made with the option of meeting one to one after that or continuing on the telephone.

Please contact 07384853672 leaving your name and contact details and a listener will get in touch.

*'Being listened to and heard is one of the greatest desires of the human heart.'*

## News from the Diocese

### Catholic Social Teaching:

Catholic Social Teaching have their own monthly newsletter bringing a variety of information from its members of how CST has helped them and examples of CST in action around the Diocese. You can [read or download](#) the latest issue (May 2022) now.

### Pray for Peace

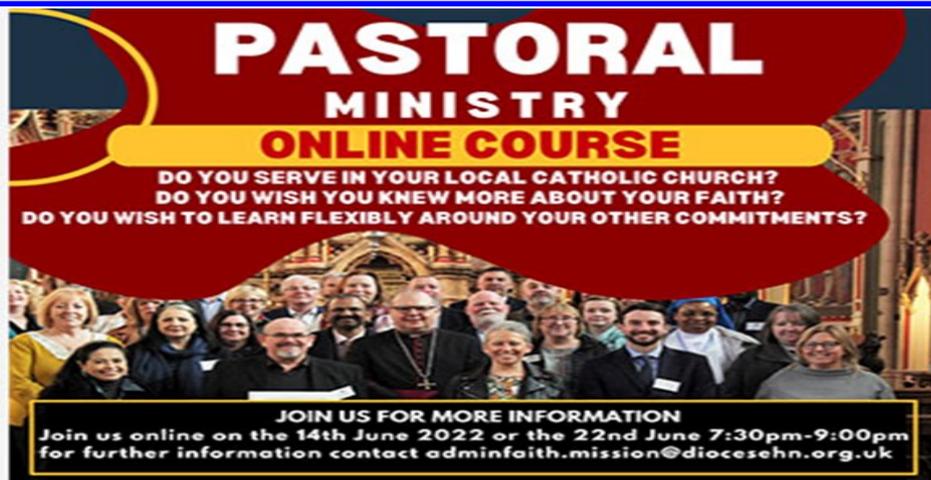
Joint Christian / Muslim visit to Pray for Peace, an event for women and young children only.

Taking place on Saturday 25 June 2022 at 2.30pm. Being held at St Mary's Chapel, Reid Park Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. The event is free to attendees.

### Minsteracres Retreat Centre present a Preached retreat with Fr Donald Senior, 'Christian life in a new world'.

The experiences of the past three years; the pandemic, the effects of climate change, raging political and social conflicts have brought profound change to our world. It is time Pope Francis has noted, to set out as pilgrims on a new and life-giving journey. The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles provided direction to the early Christian community as it, too, entered a new time and a new place. This retreat will draw on this biblical wellspring to reflect on discipleship the possibilities of Christian discipleship now. This will take place on 11—15 July 2022 and cost £560.

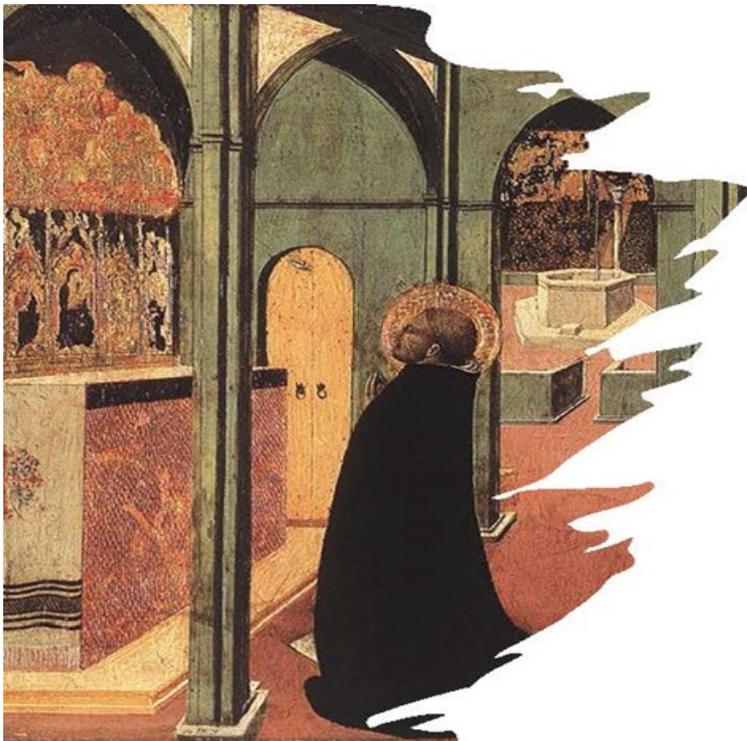
To register [please click here](#).



**PASTORAL  
MINISTRY  
ONLINE COURSE**

DO YOU SERVE IN YOUR LOCAL CATHOLIC CHURCH?  
DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH?  
DO YOU WISH TO LEARN FLEXIBLY AROUND YOUR OTHER COMMITMENTS?

JOIN US FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Join us online on the 14th June 2022 or the 22nd June 7:30pm-9:00pm  
for further information contact [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk)



Lay Dominicans North East invite you to

A DAY OF STUDY, PRAYER and REFLECTION

on the theme of

THOMAS AQUINAS, THE EUCHARIST AND SALVATION

Main Speaker: Dr Rik van Nieuwenhove,  
Associate Professor of Medieval History at  
Durham University

at St Cuthbert's Catholic Church, Durham, DH1 3HL  
on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 10:45am to 3:30pm

including talks, Mass, Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and a  
buffet lunch

There is no charge for the day but please help us to manage numbers  
by booking ahead.

Contact Andy Doyle on 0798 543 4185 or [andydoyle1066@sky.com](mailto:andydoyle1066@sky.com)



## Ukrainian families in our Parish Update

We currently have two families, that we have been made aware of, stopping with Parishioners. The host families have everything that they need and have been helping their guests settle in and also navigate through the paperwork to register for schools, work etc.

**What can we do to help our Ukrainian families?** The Ukrainian families want to support the country that has given them refuge, by working and paying taxes as well as sending some money home to support their families who are still there. As they are looking for work, are you aware of any jobs advertised on social media. in shop windows or word of mouth? If so, could you please contact the host families with this information.

Louise is host to a mother with a young child. Her guest is a former Deputy HR Director for a large Ukrainian hotel chain and feels that she would be most suited to admin work in an office or in retail. As she doesn't drive and has a young child, she would prefer something not too far away. Her level of English is good.

Louise's mobile number is 07432 532142.

Rachael's family are host to a mother and father with young children. The father would be happy to do most types of work, but his main skills are in construction, house maintenance and repairs and car repairs. The mother asked if there was some cleaning work she could do.

Rachael's email is rachaelreid@live.com

If you are hosting a family or are wanting to support or house Ukrainian individuals/families, there are several support groups in Facebook:

\*Homes for Ukraine Sunderland & surrounding areas support group

\*Sunderland for Ukraine

\*UK hosts for Ukrainian families support group

\*We UKrainians (this is Rachael's brother and his partner, Nadia, who can match people. You may have seen him on TV or heard him on the radio). The link to Paul's website - they have regular updates about the work they are carrying out, as well as links to donate or offer other kinds of help: <http://weukrainians.org/>

Many thanks for your continued support and prayers.

## Certificate in Pastoral Ministry – starting in September 2022

Are you currently involved in Church ministry but wish you knew more about your faith? Do you sometimes lack confidence and feel you could benefit from further training and formation? Do you want to grow in your faith and ministry and perhaps find new ways to share your gifts with others? We have a course designed just for you.

The Certificate in Pastoral Ministry is an online, two-year learning experience created with the busy person in mind. It will take you on a journey of discovery about key aspects of the Catholic faith while helping you to reflect upon your own ministry and the ministry of others.

To find out more join us online for one of our information evenings: Tuesday 14th June 2022 or Wednesday 22nd June 2022 from 7:30pm - 9:00pm. To register your interest for one of the information evenings, or for further information please email [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk).

## Charity Dinner Dance at Rainton Arena - for the Peru Mission

On Friday 17th June 2022 at 7pm the Peru Mission is hosting a Charity Dinner Dance at Rainton Arena, Mecatle Road, Houghton Le Spring, DH4 5PH.

This may be your first chance to dress up for more than two years. There will be a three course meal, a brief overview of The Peru Mission's work, raffle, auction and dancing. Entertainment will be supplied by

VIRAMUNDO, a Brazilian Dance Band based in

London. Tickets cost £60 each. Please contact Tony Joy at [tony.joy@lambtonpm.co.uk](mailto:tony.joy@lambtonpm.co.uk) to make a reservation for a seat, several seats or for a table of ten persons.



## St Bede's Church

Glynis Rutter along with Denise Quinn have started a parent and toddler group, all are welcome every Monday at St. Bede's Church Hall.

It runs from 9.30am to 11.15am. If anyone is interested they can email Glynis at: [glynis.rutter@ntlworld.com](mailto:glynis.rutter@ntlworld.com)



## Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre.

You might remember a few weeks ago we appealed for items to make up 'Friendship Packs' for the women at the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre. The Centre is now operational and will have 80 women who are seeking asylum. A local visitor group has been set up and can give 'Friendship Packs' to the women. More packs will be greatly appreciated, if you can contribute any of the items below, please leave in the box provided at the back of church or in the container outside Fr Keith Walker's back door at St. Peter's in Low Fell.

### The friendship packs are made up of;

Shower gels

Moisturisers

Eye masks (for sleeping)

Ear plugs

Slipper socks

Hand-written cards saying we are thinking of them in solidarity.

## QUEEN'S JUBILEE PICNIC

at

**ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY, CHURCH GROUNDS**

on

**SUNDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

Many thanks to everyone who attended our Jubilee Picnic, which was a resounding success. Over 100 people attended of all ages, not only from St Joseph's Parish but also from the Partnership, including visitors from Sacriston and Chester-le-Street. It was a lovely occasion, just like old times, and great to gather as a community again. The children enjoyed playing games and the adults were able to catch up with each other.

Special thanks must go to the volunteers who moved the memorial benches, put up the bunting, sorted the PA system and played music, served the tea and coffee, shared out the Jubilee Cake, judged the "Best Crown Competition", organized the games for both children and adults, manned the children's craft stall and those who cleared away afterwards.

The Grounds looked fabulous, thanks to those who maintain the flower beds and lawns all year round on a voluntary basis, and we were truly blessed with good weather on the day. In fact, the event was so successful that it was suggested that we could maybe serve refreshments in the Church Grounds after some Masses, giving parishioners a brilliant opportunity to meet up socially in the fresh air after a difficult two years of Covid restrictions.



### CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts are CAFOD's alternative charity gifts that transform lives. Perfect for Baptisms, birthdays and anniversaries, you can choose a unique, virtual gift that will make a real difference to a family living in poverty. And that warm and fuzzy feeling comes with free delivery!

♥ Choose your gift ♥ Receive a beautifully illustrated card of your chosen gift ♥ Give your personalised posted card to your friend or loved one ♥ Transform the lives of poor families in the developing world with the money you spend on your gift.

Please follow this link to transform lives: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/pages/how-it-works>

## Prayers for the Sick or Recently Deceased

It is important that we have the opportunity to pray for our loved ones who are sick or indeed, those who have sadly died. The parish community can help and would like to include those loved ones in their 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. (This is also to comply with Government GDPR instructions.)

[For Prayers for the Sick](#)

[For Prayers for the Deceased](#)

If you would like to include the sick, or recently deceased, in your daily prayers the names are published separately to this newsletter. They are also available on our website and will be sent with this newsletter on a regular basis.

If a request is made for prayers for someone who is currently sick their name will remain on the list for four weeks only. If you would like prayers to continue please submit another request form.

### Changes to the Sick List

The circumstances of those listed on our sick list may change. If that is the case with the person you have requested prayers for, please [click here](#) and complete the form to advise us of the change in circumstances.

## ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY YOUNG MOTHERS GUILD 50 Years Golden Anniversary June 1972 - June 2022

Were you ever in our Young Mothers Guild at St Joseph's?

If so, come along and help us celebrate 50 years of friendship and fellow support, when we will remember all past and present members.

A good opportunity to catch up with friends old and new!

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022  
Open Air Mass at 12 noon  
followed by a picnic in the church grounds  
(weather permitting, otherwise indoors)

Bring your own picnic & refreshments  
Please spread the word - everyone welcome!

## Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal: How you can help

Like you, CAFOD is deeply disturbed by the ongoing attacks on Ukraine.

Together, we stand in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and send our prayers to our sister organisation Caritas Ukraine, and those Caritas agencies in neighbouring countries, who are already helping people affected by this conflict.

As one Caritas, we stand united with them.

We are part of one of the largest aid networks in the world – Caritas Internationalis, and because of our global reach and local presence, we are there when an emergency hits.

To read more please [click here](#).



## Returning to Mass at Pentecost

An invite by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to 'Return to Mass at Pentecost' was approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference on Friday 6 May 2022.

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

To Read the full statement please [click here](#)

## Migration Issues in the UK

A Statement by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on 'Migration issues in the UK' was approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference on Friday 6 May 2022.

To read the full statement please [click here](#).

## A Parish Gathering

Would you like to be involved in organising or volunteering to help in a St John XXIII parish gathering, this is to help all parishes in the Washington and Penshaw cluster to come together as one? This could be either a summer fair, parish picnic, bring & buy, sports day etc, all suggestions are welcome, this is your gathering. All ages are welcome to organise, or volunteer, so this event is fully inclusive of all parishioners. Forms are available at the back of each church for suggestions and volunteers, please write down your name and contact details so we can get in touch. We hope to organise the event for the beginning of July before the school holidays. For any other details contact Stewart Bell (St John Boste) 07758934818

## Red Box Collection - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate

Could you please bring Your Red Box to Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Sunday 12 June or Sunday 19 June to be emptied.

James McGee will be at the back of the church after 11am Mass & will be pleased to see you & thank you for your donation.

### New Social Media for the Whole Parish is Here!



Check out our new Facebook for the Parish of St John XXIII as well as a totally new Instagram video & photo sharing service.

Just go to <https://www.facebook.com/ParishStJohn23>  
for our parish Facebook

and to <https://www.instagram.com/stjohnxxiiiparish/>  
for our parish Instagram.



If you don't have an account, it's easy to set one up to keep up to date with what's happening in our parish.

We would welcome brief articles and photographs of church groups and their activities. If you have any suggestions for content just send them to [sj23social@gmail.com](mailto:sj23social@gmail.com)

If anyone would like to support the development of the new sites please contact Lisa  
@ [sj23social@gmail.com](mailto:sj23social@gmail.com)

### HOLY ISLAND VINNIE CAMP 2022 - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED URGENTLY

Holy Island Camp will be running holidays for children in 2022.

Our helpers are all volunteers and in order to go ahead successfully in 2022 we urgently need new volunteers to help in the kitchens, preparing food, washing up and clearing the dining hall. We also need caretaking staff who would be able to carry out a cleaning role. The work is tiring but also fun (you would be joining an established and very welcoming team) and the young people benefit enormously from a traditional seaside type holiday. The commitment can be for as little as three days a year in Term Time or more if you are able to help on multiple weeks or through the Summer Holidays. Camp 2022 will run for the first two separate weeks of the Summer Holiday and the last two. All helpers will be required to obtain a free Diocesan DBS check and some training. If you are interested, please [click here](#)



### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



Our Lady Queen of Peace Church will be open on Friday afternoons, 2 pm to 3.30 pm for quiet prayer before the

Blessed Sacrament.

All are welcome



## Celebrating Mass Together Safely



We have carefully considered the safety of our parishioners in our Churches and have therefore decided to put the following in place. This will allow our Churches to be more open for Easter and beyond - so that we can celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord with a sense of Joy and Hope for the future.



**We have removed the requirement to use every other bench.** However, we need to respect people who remain nervous of the current situation, therefore we will offer a A4 sheet to use if space is wanted between individuals and other people.

**Stewards** will be available to welcome and guide as necessary.

**Sanitizer – we encourage the continued use of sanitizer on entering and leaving our Churches.** Please make use of this facility.

**Sacristans can once again prepare all vessels for mass and arrange their clearance afterwards.**

**We strongly recommend the continued wearing of face coverings in our Churches.**

**Eucharistic Ministers** are available once again to assist with Holy Communion.

We will offer a **safe Sign of Peace** during Mass.

**Altar Servers can once again serve at Mass,** using best safeguarding practices.

These arrangements have been put in place to maintain safety for our parishioners in our Churches, so we ask everyone to walk with us and adhere to the new arrangements.



### Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered by request.

Please contact either Fr Jim, Fr Martin, Fr Vincent or Fr Uchenna to arrange.

### *Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network*

Each month the Holy Father will have a main prayer intention for people to use as part of their daily prayer, and he will also announce an "urgent intention" for people's prayer. A short video based on the main intention published each month and known as 'The Pope Video'. These videos can be viewed through our [YouTube Channel Playlist](#), visit now and watch this month's intention.



## Gift Aid and Parish Finances

For those who pay Tax the Parish can gain an extra 25% if you use Gift Aid. Now is an ideal time to start Gift Aid as we are at the start of a new financial year. You can opt to use a numbered box of envelopes, or you can pay by Standing Order. Simply fill-in the form for Gift Aid (writing "envelopes" or "standing order" at the top) and if applicable the Standing Order form. The Gift Aid form should be handed-in at church and the Standing Order form posted to your bank.

We will claim 25% of your total donation for the year so be sure that you have paid enough Tax to cover the claimed amount.

The organisers at each church are Theresa McIntyre at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Paul Carpenter/Pat McAdam at St Bede's, Michael Purdy at Our Blessed Lady's, Peter Brewster at St John Boste and Tracy Wilson at St Joseph's.

Every year at this time, some donors drop out of the scheme due to retirement etc - many thanks to them for their support, sometimes over a period of decades. The extra income the Parish has received over the years has added-up to extremely large amounts and has been invaluable.

If you have any questions at all please telephone 01914168693 and we will be pleased to assist.

For those unable to Gift Aid, please donate using cash or blue envelopes (boxes are available at the back of each church - help yourself) placing your donations on the Offertory plate at church. Under "The Gift Aid Small Donation Scheme" we are able to claim 25% of these donations but only on the first £8000 donated at each Mass centre. On the main Gift Aid scheme there is no limit.

Revised Standing Order forms and Gift Aid forms are available by clicking on the following links:

[For St John XXIII](#)

[For St Joseph's](#)

**We are deeply grateful for all the support we receive from our congregation, our community and visitors.**

**Thank you for your help. It is appreciated.**

## Did you receive this newsletter by email?

**If not, why not sign up for the next issue to be delivered straight to your inbox!**

To join the 490+ parishioners who get this newsletter directly into their email inbox [Click Here](#) and complete a simple form.

Once downloaded it can be read on the screen of your computer, tablet or mobile and you will have direct access to the links in the newsletter. Of course you can also print it out for your own use or to hand on to anyone without access to email or the internet.

Did you know that this Parish Newsletter is emailed weekly to people in far off places around Britain and even to Brazil as well as parishioners in St John XXIII and St Joseph's.

For many people during recent weeks and months, faith has been greatly supported through the use of technology. We, like many other parishes, have been able to live stream Mass and have produced this Newsletter to connect with all our parishioners.

We know however, that there are many people in our Parishes who do not have access to the internet. Whenever possible we ask you to print this newsletter (you do not have to print it in colour) and provide it direct to people that you may know who do not have an internet connection.

In addition, the Diocese has established a central Diocesan prayer resource line. This phone number, 07375 934713, allows you to leave your name and address and request a posted paper prayer resource. So if you know of someone who might benefit from this service please pass this information on.

**QE Hospital, QE Avenue, Gateshead, NE9 6SX**

Chaplain: Deacon Peter Jones

4820000

**Durham University Hospital**

3332333

Chaplain: Fr Paul Tully

3332183

**Newcastle Freeman & RVI**

2336161

Chaplain: Fr Mariadass Pagyasamy

Church: 2733903

**Sunderland Royal Hospital**

5656256

Chaplain: Mrs Linda Longstaff

5699180



**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](#)

You can find prayers, reflections and images on the various websites throughout the liturgical year.

[To post a notice on this Newsletter, please click here](#)