

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER, 13TH – 14TH APRIL 2024, Year B

Saturday 13th April Vigil	St Bede's St Joseph's	5pm 5pm	Pat Powell (recently deceased) Susan & Brian Towns RIP
Sunday 14th April 3rd Sunday	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9.30am 10am 11am	People of the Parish Andrew Long RIP 45th Anniversary Jim Walker RIP

First Reading: Peter's Speech to the People of Jerusalem Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

Peter said to the people, "You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses. Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out."

Response to the Psalm: Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

Second Reading: Our Advocate with the Father 1 John 2:1-5

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's. We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

Gospel Acclamation: : Alleluia, Alleluia! Lord Jesus explain the scripture to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

The Gospel: (Luke 24:35-48): Fish for Supper

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you!" In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, "Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes. Then he told them, "This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled." He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."

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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 15th April 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 15th April	St Bede	10am	Dinah Watt RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Priests Intentions
Tuesday 16th April	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Jack & Vera Lawless RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Deceased members of the Men's Choir
Wednesday 17th April	St Bede	10am	Fr. Philip Carroll RIP.
	St John Boste	7pm	Priests Intentions
Thursday 18th April	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Fr Patrick Kennedy RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	Marion & Bob Slavin RIP
Friday 19th April	St John Boste	10am	Deacon John Hawthorn. RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Veronica Farrer RIP
Saturday 20th April St Beuno	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Dave Ranaghan
	St Joseph	5pm	Harriet Rowntree RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Priests Intentions
Sunday 21st April 4th Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday	St John Boste	9:30am	John Frazer RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Alfie Cruddas RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

Chapter 24 of Luke's Gospel covers three momentous events. First, we have the appearance of Jesus to a couple of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, then today's Gospel, and finally a remarkably understated account of the Ascension.

Today's Gospel hangs onto the mystery of the gradual recognition of Jesus as the walking partner as the sun gradually disappears on a parched track. The disciples are deep in debate about the questioning stranger who reveals himself as Jesus in the breaking of the bread as they eat together, taking them back to that final supper in the upper room. The eleven are talking together about Jesus and suddenly he is there with them. Yet again his very physical presence is met with incredulity. And who could blame them? Unlike us, well-versed in the narrative, they are unaware of their position at the pivot of humanity's fate.

Jesus patiently reiterates the significance of what he has preached to them so many times. HE IS the fulfillment of scripture; that yearning for a Messiah through the many pages of scripture and the cries of the prophets. Then comes the key phrase: "He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures." These men of little education as scriptural scholars, are being led into a necessary clarity... This process will be completed when they are filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Then, finally, their human weakness will be subsumed into a missionary fire. Their work will begin.

Jesus emphasizes their key role as witnesses, tasked with spreading the first roots of the message of Christ's Death and Resurrection and salvation for humanity. For them, of course, this witness will culminate in the blood witness of martyrdom.

In the global Christian community we live in, we too are called to witness, through our Baptism.

Pope Francis frequently returns to the nature of witness: "The witness of an authentically Christian life involves a journey to holiness... Witness, therefore, cannot be separated from consistency between what one believes, what one proclaims, and how one lives." 22 March 2023

Just as in today's Gospel, Jesus is nudging his nervous listeners towards their mission, so we should constantly pray for renewal and direction. Let us all be inspired by his constant risen presence in the peaks and troughs of our days.

"Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Luke 24:32

Angela Nichols

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

Special Collection – Next Week - Little Sisters of the Poor: St Joseph's Home in Elswick provides nursing care for Catholics throughout the diocese. The Sisters and lay staff give themselves unstintingly in caring for all of their residents – which include some priests and religious from our diocese. Our collection is to support the Sisters in their work so that we can rely on their services well into the future.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Our Lady Queen of Peace Church is open on Friday afternoons, from 2pm - 3pm for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now available in all of our Churches:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass.

St John Boste - Friday morning, after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning, after Mass.

St Bede's – Saturday after Vigil Mass.

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

International Organ Day Saturday 20th April: Have you ever wondered what it would be like to play such a huge musical instrument? To celebrate International Organ Day why not come along to one or both sessions and enjoy an introduction to two of our historic parish organs. It is an opportunity to learn the story of our own instruments, to discover how they work and a chance to sit at the keyboard and experience the King of Instruments. Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw, at 10.00 a.m. Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington, 1.00 p.m. Open to all ages, musicians and non-musicians. If you wish to attend, please contact Michael.

Contact: Michael Leckenby,

07981396544, mveckenby@yahoo.com

A Year of Prayer - In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. Please visit our Diocesan Year of Prayer [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

Each Wednesday morning there will be silent Eucharistic Exposition at St. Bede's before Mass. From 9.15-9.50am. A time for quiet prayer with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist."

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.

CAFOD Fundraiser Dinner - OBLI Parish Rooms, 25th April at 7pm. Hot & Cold Dinner & Entertainment with soft drinks. £10 per person. Tel 07703855747 to book. You may bring own Alcoholic beverages.

CAFOD fundraiser - support please. Do you have any unused gifts that we could use for Raffle Prizes. Please contact 07703855747 if you can help.

Synod - The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle has been on its own synodal path over the past two years within the universal synod on synodality. The Listening Exercises were intended to 'walk together', to listen to one another, and to see how the Holy Spirit might be speaking through the people of God. The results of this have been published [here](#) if you missed them last month. We want to encourage synodal conversations and there is a day on synod skills being held at Ushaw. To help people gain confidence. I encourage anyone interested in taking a lead in synodal working to come and explore, [please click here](#) for details.

Amy Cameron from the Diocese.

Other News

"The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread." A priest is privileged to walk with people in their journey of life and share in their story. Is God calling you to discern a journey to 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 7th May at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL between 6.00pm - 8.00pm** 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](#)

We Dare to Say: A resource for faith-sharing groups on the Lord's Prayer - We Dare To Say is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The connection of the Our Father with the sacraments and the devotional life is explored, and wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. *'This single short prayer of Christ has everything that needs to be said about God, his kingdom, his life, about all of us'* - Fr Alexander Schmemmann. You can access the 'We Dare to Say' resource by [clicking here](#).

HOLY ISLAND SVP VINNIES CAMP

There are places still available for boys and girls in school years 5-7 (inclusive) at Holy Island Children's camp. A week's traditional holiday with meals and transport costs just £150! If you would like your child to have a week's holiday on Holy Island this Summer please visit our site <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island> If you know of any child who would benefit from this opportunity but may need assistance in paying, please email holyislandapplications@svp.org.uk

"Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help." "The Novena will take place each Thursday evening 7pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, beginning 2nd May - 27th June. A petition box will be at the back of Church each week. Personal petitions may be placed in the box, and at the end of the Novena will be taken to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. After the Resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the descent of the Holy Spirit. A Novena echoes this prayer of waiting and is a traditional way of coming together to pray. Together with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we too pray to God, in thanksgiving, in petition and in praise. It is good to pray, it is important to pray, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, "... with one heart all the apostles joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus." All welcome to make the Novena. Fr. Martin Morris.

St John XXIII Parish Vacancy (Unpaid). Each week we produce a list of prayer requests for the Sick and Recently Deceased. We also send out the Parish newsletter to 540 people by email. We need someone to cover these tasks by the end of May at the latest. You will need a computer and Internet connection. If you can help contact Mark Harris at: sj23it@gmail.com.

Deliver Us From Evil - A set of useful prayers and supplications, humble requests for the Lord's help, that can be used by Catholics in times of fear, distress and temptation. The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) has published a new booklet by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales offering a treasury of prayers drawn from Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition that can be used by Catholics to protect themselves from the powers of darkness. Discover the new booklet [here](#).

A Circle of Prayer - Led by Joyce McAndrew - £45 - Saturday 20th April 2024 from 10am to 4pm. This is an inviting programme which explores the beauty of music whilst incorporating responsive movement which echoes both feelings, and mood as non-verbal self-expression which touches both the soul and the imagination. Throughout this retreat you will have an opportunity to learn both... Please [click here](#) for more information.

Bishop Stephen's Parish Visit. As Bishop Stephen mentioned in last week's pastoral letter he is gradually moving around the Diocese visiting as many parishes as possible. The Bishop will visit our two parishes the weekend of 17th - 19th May, Pentecost weekend. I would like to invite all parishioners to the evening Mass at St. John Boste, with Bishop Stephen on Friday 17th May 7pm, followed by a reception in the hall afterwards. Bishop Stephen will also Celebrate the 5pm Mass at St. Joseph's on Saturday 18th May, and at Our Lady Queen of Peace on Sunday 19th May at 10am. Whilst time doesn't allow the Bishop to visit every Church, all parishioners are welcome to any of the above Masses with Bishop Stephen.

North East Catholic History Society - The North East Catholic History Society is 50 years old this year. It was founded to encourage and promote the very rich Catholic History of our region. They meet five times a year for lectures and have the excellent magazine "Northern Catholic History" published yearly. Excursions to places of interest are organised for members. The Society is looking to attract new members. Currently, they meet on Wednesday afternoons at Joseph's Centre, Gateshead, directly opposite the Metro and bus interchange. We welcome visitors too. After many years of excellent service, their Programme Secretary is retiring, and they are looking for a replacement to organise talks. In recent years, they have established great contact with Ushaw and their fine group of researchers. You can read about The Society on the diocesan website or contact Margaret Henderson [by clicking here](#).

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR APPEAL

St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) urgently need to replace some of the kitchenettes and furnishings. Specialist flooring on the main corridors of the care units requires essential upgrades to ensure the safety, comfort, and well-being of the residents and to maintain required standards of infection control. The flooring not only enhances the homeliness and comfort of St Joseph's Home but also plays a crucial role in maintaining the safety of the residents by providing a hygienic and comfortable surface, thus reducing the risk of trips and falls.

A collection for St Joseph's Home will be taken on Good Shepherd Sunday (20/21 April). If you wish to make a private contribute, you can do so by sending cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' to St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, secure online donations can be made by visiting our website at www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/.

Day of Consolation - Led by Chris Smith - £30 - Wednesday, 1st May from 10am to 4pm. An opportunity to join us on this poignant retreat day, for people who have experienced bereavement, grief, loss or significant change, giving them an opportunity to share a safe space, to be heard, to share with others who have had similar experiences and finding courage, hope and consolation. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Staycation at the Emmaus Village: If you are looking for a staycation in the Derwent Valley, whilst supporting the work that YMT do for the young people of the Diocese, the Emmaus Village is the place for you. For more information and booking rates please [click our website link](#). Please [click this link](#) to download the Emmaus Village brochure.

Eamon Duffy: Holy Name Parish invites you to hear this eminent historian speak on: Celebrity Priest: Robert Hugh Monsignor Benson and the End of the World, on **Saturday 4 May in the church** (North Jesmond Avenue NE2 3JX). Open at **11:00 am for 11:30 am start; ends at 12:30 pm.**

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 3rd Sunday of Easter](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

For the Newsletter, [click here](#).

Prayers - If you would like to request prayers from the parish community for someone who is sick, or recently deceased, please click on the links below and complete the necessary forms. This will enable their names to be included in private prayer and during various Masses.

[For Prayers for the Sick](#)

[For Prayers for the Deceased](#)

or ring 0191 4163583

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

[For St John XXIII](#)

[For St Joseph's](#)

or ring 0191 4163583.

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

Parish Newsletter If you have any comments you wish to make about the Parish Newsletter, [please click here](#).

For the latest information, please go to any of the following Websites:

[Parish of St John XXIII](#)

[Parish of St Joseph's](#)

[Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle](#)

All the Links you will ever need!



Please [click here](#) or Scan the QR Code with your mobile phone to go to a site containing