

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

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

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) and Father's Day, 19th June 2022, Year C

Feast of Corpus Christi

It seems that the feast of Corpus Christi was inspired by the religious experience of St Juliana, a 13th century Belgian nun, who had a recurring dream about the church under a full moon which had a black spot. The story goes that she had a vision in which the dream was interpreted by Jesus: the moon was the church's calendar of feasts and the black spot represented the fact that there was no festival to celebrate the Eucharist. She spoke to her local bishop and he issued a decree that the festival should be celebrated in the diocese. Later in that century, the pope made it a feast to be celebrated throughout the whole church emphasising the joy of the Eucharist being the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus.

Throughout the church on the feast of Corpus Christi, there is often a procession of the Blessed Sacrament and a period of Eucharistic adoration followed by Benediction. In our own diocese this year, there is the opportunity to take part in a Blessed Sacrament procession, witness the blessing of the newly restored Pugin altar and benediction at Ushaw College. Bishop Robert hopes that this will be a highlight of the year of the Eucharist and that many clergy and faithful will take part.

The feast celebrates that Jesus took flesh in bodily form like all of us and reminds us particularly that he identified his body and blood with bread and wine in the Last Supper. This food has sustained the faith of believers ever since and, as we take into our own bodies the body of Christ, Jesus is once again made incarnate in each of us, unworthy as we are. Such a miracle is undoubtedly worthy of commemoration and veneration.

We should also, however, be mindful that at the Last Supper, Jesus commanded his apostles *'Do this in memory of me!'*. This means more than simply fulfilling a Sunday obligation to attend mass. In identifying his body and blood with the bread and wine, Jesus is inviting us to imitate his sacrificial love which took him to the cross for our redemption. *'Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking on the nature of a slave, made in human likeness ... He humbled himself by being obedient to death, death on a cross.'* (Philippians 2:6-8)

So today, when we hold that fragile wafer in our hand at communion time, let us honour the gift of God's Son made flesh for our salvation and, as we consume the host, let us commit ourselves to imitate the example of Jesus by being active in living out our faith.

John Kavanagh SJ writes: *'When we labour for human rights, when we shelter the poor, when we dismantle the bombs, when we protect the unborn, when we reach out to the criminal, we do these things not as political activists or social workers. We do them not as liberals or conservatives. We do them as people who worship the incarnate God. The body and blood of Christ is not only our redemption – it is our task!'*

Frank O'Neill

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...

They all ate and were satisfied

Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. At one time, this day was called *Corpus Christi*, Latin for "the Body of Christ." In the most recent revision of the liturgy, the name for this day is expanded to be a more complete reflection of our Eucharistic theology.

The feeding of the 5,000 is the only one of Jesus' miracles to appear in all four Gospels. Luke places it between Herod's question, "Who is this about whom I hear such things?" and Peter's response to Jesus' question about who he thought Jesus was: "You are the Messiah of God." In Luke the feeding is not the result of Jesus' compassion for the crowd but is instigated by the disciples. They wanted Jesus to send the crowd away to town. Instead, Jesus tells the disciples to give them some food on their own.

The passage is meant to remind us of two feedings in the Old Testament: the feeding of the Israelites in the desert and Elisha's feeding of 100 people with 20 loaves. It is also connected to the institution of the Eucharist. As in the Last Supper accounts in Matthew, Mark, and Luke and in Paul's account in 1 Corinthians 11:23-24, Jesus takes bread, looks up to heaven, blesses the bread, breaks it, and then gives it to the disciples. In using this exact language, Luke is reminding his readers that in this miracle Jesus is doing more than feeding hungry people as God did for the Israelites and the prophet Elisha did as well. The bread he gives is his body, which he will continue to give as often as the community breaks bread in remembrance of him in the Eucharist.

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 1st prize £50 2nd prize is £25

Christmas Draw 1st prize £100 2nd 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 Thank you.

MISSIO ST JOSEPH'S



The summer edition of the Red Box magazine is at the back of the church for people to take and read.





THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI EUCCHARISTIC FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 19TH 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.

We ask the main organizer to book on behalf of the people attending in their group, parish or partnership using this link: <https://bit.ly/3FCZ6TE> or visiting 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.

Games Evening - OLQP

After a long gap since the last one, we'll be hosting a games evening for young people on Sat 25th June at Our Lady Queen of Peace church 6-7.30pm. You can arrive any time from 5.30pm. If the weather is good we'll be outside, if not we'll be indoors, but wherever we are and whatever the weather there'll be plenty of fun and silliness. The invitation is open to everyone from Year 7 to Year 13, and in particular to the group who were Confirmed last November. It'll be wonderful to see you again. Please feel free to bring a friend too. All are welcome – please do come along and join in. Laughter guaranteed, sunshine not. Drinks and snacks provided. Any queries ask Katharine on 07757 137235.



Special Collection Today – 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.

Special Collection Next Week – Peter's Pence

In the year 725, the Saxon king, Ina, brought a 'contribution' to the Pope Gregory II for him to use to help poor people. Wealthy landowners were charged 'one penny' each to make up the donation to the Pope. Over the centuries this custom, which probably started in this country spread throughout the world so that the Pope can make emergency grants to people suffering terrible hardship, resulting from earthquakes, famine and violent aggression.



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 Penshaw 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.

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 Body and Blood of Christ – the link is [here](#)



The Body and Blood of Christ

Happy Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, our Lord and God! What a Gift we celebrate today!

The Eucharist is everything. It's all things, the fullness of life, eternal salvation, mercy, grace, happiness, etc. Why is the Eucharist all this and so much more? Simply put, the Eucharist IS God. Therefore, the Eucharist is all that God is.

In his beautiful traditional hymn, *Adoro te Devote*, St. Thomas Aquinas writes, "I devoutly adore You, O hidden Deity, truly hidden beneath these appearances. My whole heart submits to You, and in contemplating You, it surrenders itself completely. Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgment of You, but hearing suffices firmly to believe..." What a glorious statement of faith in this wondrous gift.

This statement of faith reveals that when we worship before the Eucharist, we worship God Himself hidden under the appearance of bread and wine. Our senses are deceived. What we see, taste and feel do not reveal the reality before us. The Eucharist is God.

Throughout our lives, if we were raised Catholic, we were taught reverence for the Eucharist. But "reverence" is not enough. Most Catholics revere the Eucharist, meaning, we genuflect, kneel, and treat the Sacred Host with respect. But it's important to ponder a question in your heart. Do you believe the Eucharist is God Almighty, the Saviour of the world, the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity? Do you believe deeply enough to have your heart moved with love and profound devotion every time you are before our divine Lord present before us under the veil of the Eucharist? When you kneel do you fall down prostrate in your heart, loving God with your whole being?

Perhaps this sounds like it's a bit excessive. Perhaps simple reverence and respect is enough for you. But it's not. Since the Eucharist is God Almighty, we must see Him there with the eyes of faith in our soul. We must profoundly adore Him as the angels do in Heaven. We must cry out, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty." We must be moved to the deepest of worship as we enter into His divine presence.

Ponder the depth of your faith in the Eucharist today and strive to renew it, worshiping God as one who believes with your whole being.



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

You can read a monthly reflection titled, 'Mary and Pentecost' 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](#).

Have Faith in God

How quickly the mind can turn to God when a crisis situation arises! Many will have turned to God over the past two years for comfort and support during this trying time.

The Lord is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, rich in kindness – as we all should be if we are responding to the Spirit. It is hardly surprising that when Israel rejected God and turned to idolatry, worshipping a golden calf, Moses should appeal to the Lord for forgiveness and beg for reassurance. Even in the most serious crisis, God will listen to our prayers.

The doctrine of the Trinity helps us to be reassured that there is nowhere on earth where God is not present and no aspect of our lives that does not concern Him. The Trinity is perfect unity, harmony and peace. If only the world would allow God to be recognised and celebrated in every aspect of our lives so that we could experience that same unity, harmony and peace every day.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God Almighty.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We have come from east and west, north and south.

We are the Body of Christ,

The people who have come to the feast of the glory of God.

We have come from different places.

We see things in different ways.

But we have come together as the Body of Christ to worship the name of Jesus.

Forgive us for our divisions which make life difficult for so many.

Make us one body, The Body of Christ.

Jesus Gives Food to the Crowds

On the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ should we not have the gospel reading about the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper? No, the Church puts before us this reading of the wonderful gift of food from Jesus. It is a sort of open-air picnic Eucharist. It begins with Jesus talking to the crowd about the Kingdom of God; this is what happens in the earlier part of our Eucharist, as we listen to the Word in the readings and to the homily which interprets the Word for us. Then the Lord heals those who are in need of healing, and that means all of us, for we are always in need of healing in various ways. Only then does Jesus raise his eyes to heaven, bless the bread and distribute it, just as he gives himself to us in the Eucharist. A sign of the generosity and plenty of Jesus' gifts in the Eucharist is represented by the twelve baskets of left-overs, ready for consumption by the twelve tribes of the new Israel. In the same way, on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ we share joyfully in the sustenance which Jesus gives to us and to the huge numbers of his followers across the world. How can I participate more fully in Jesus' gift of the Eucharist? Perhaps I could make better preparation before Mass begins; take time for reflection afterwards; give fuller attention during the Mass.



Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

The Eucharist is a celebration of the Body of Christ, in which we are all united in love

St Thomas More

Thomas More was born in London on February 7, 1478. His father, Sir John More, was a lawyer and judge who rose to prominence during the reign of Edward IV. His connections and wealth would help his son, Thomas, rise in station as a young man. Thomas More entered Oxford in 1492, where he would learn Latin, Greek and prepare for his future studies. In 1494, he left Oxford to become a lawyer and he trained in London until 1502 when he was finally approved to begin practice.

From 1517 on, Henry VIII took a liking to Thomas More, and gave him posts of ever-increasing responsibility. In 1521, he was knighted and made Under-Treasurer of the Exchequer.

The King's trust in More grew with time and More was soon made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, which gave him authority over the northern portion of England on behalf of Henry. More became Lord Chancellor in 1529.

During his tenure as Lord Chancellor, More prosecuted those accused of heresy and worked tirelessly to defend the Catholic faith in England. This was an arduous, but achievable task as long as he enjoyed Henry's favour. However, in 1530, as Henry worked to obtain an annulment from his wife, Catherine, More refused to sign a letter to the Pope, requesting an annulment. This was More's first time crossing Henry.

In 1532, More found himself unable to work for Henry VIII, whom he felt had lost his way as a Catholic. Faced with the prospect of being compelled to actively support Henry's schism with the Church, More offered his resignation, citing failing health. Henry accepted it, although he was unhappy with what he viewed as flagging loyalty.

In 1533, More refused to attend the coronation of Anne Boleyn, who was now the Queen of England. More instead wrote a letter of congratulations. The letter, as opposed to his direct presence offended Henry greatly. The king viewed More's absence as an insult to his new queen and an undermining of his authority as head of the church and state.

On April 13, 1534, More was ordered to take an oath, acknowledging the legitimacies of Anne's position as queen, of Henry's self-granted annulment from Catherine, and the superior position of the King as head of the church. More accepted Henry's marriage to Anne but refused to acknowledge Henry as head of the church, or his annulment from Catherine. This led to his arrest and imprisonment. He was locked away in the Tower of London.

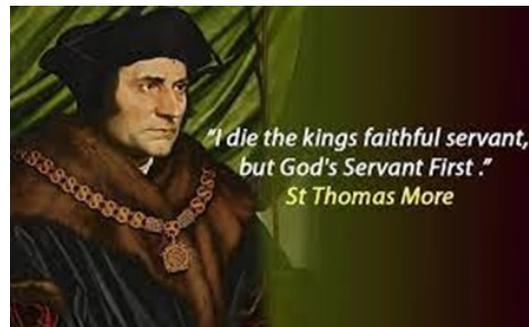
He faced trial on July 1 and was convicted by a court that included Anne Boleyn's own father, brother and uncle, hardly an impartial jury. Despite a brilliant defence of himself and persuasive testimony, grounded in truth and fact, More was convicted in fifteen minutes. The court sentenced him to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, which was the traditional punishment for treason.

As a final act of mercy, Henry commuted More's punishment to mere decapitation.

More ascended the scaffold on July 6, 1535, joking to his executioners to help him up the scaffold, but that he would see himself down. He then made a final statement, proclaiming that he was "the king's good servant, but God's first."

Thomas More has been widely remembered as a man of tremendous integrity, and he has since been described as a martyr and canonized a saint.

Pope Leo XIII beatified More in 1886, and he was canonized by Pope Pius XI on May 19, 1935.



The theme for the tenth World Meeting of Families (WMOF) is Family Love: a vocation and a path to Holiness. The World Meeting of Families was instituted by Pope St John Paul II in 1994. The week 22 – 26 June is organised and promoted by the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life. Although physically hosted by the Diocese of Rome, in 2022 the event will be multi-centred and spread out throughout the world's Catholic dioceses. Watch the Pope's [video message](#) or visit the [WMOF22](#) website.

Visit our website for more information about [Family & Sacraments](#).



Mass times for the fortnight beginning Saturday 18th June 2022

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Saturday 18th June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	The Sick of the Parish
St Barnabas	St Joseph's	5pm	People of the Parish
	St Bede's	5pm	Kieran Cushlow (birthday of deceased)
Sunday 19th June	St John Boste	9.30am	Mary Jordan
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Dennis Wilson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Margaret, Dennis & Karen Whalen
Monday 20th June	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	People of Ukraine
St Alban			
Tuesday 21st June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Philip Murphy
St Aloysius Gonzaga	St Joseph's	7pm	Schoolchildren of the Parish
Wednesday 22nd June	St Bede's	10am	Lawrence and Cecilia Holland (deceased)
Ss John Fisher, and Thomas	St John Boste	7pm	Thomas Andiyapan
Thursday 23rd June	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Vera Cosgrove RIP
The Nativity of John the Baptist	St Joseph's	12 noon	50 years of YMG – past & present members
Friday 24th June	St John Boste	10am	The Sick of the Parish
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	St Joseph's	10am	Holy Souls
Saturday 25th June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Janet O'Neil
Immaculate Heart of Mary	St Joseph's	5pm	Brian & Susan Towns
	St Bede's	5pm	Laurence McAdam
Sunday 26th June	St John Boste	9.30am	People of the Parish
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Alfie Cruddas and Deceased Family
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Dorothy Sweeney
Monday 27th June	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Alan Bickle R.I.P.
St Cyril of Alexandria			
Tuesday 28th June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Andrew Lawton
St Irenaeus	St Joseph's	7pm	Joseph & Rita Oberc
Wednesday 29th June	St Bede's	10am	Joe Erskine (Sick)
Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles	St John Boste	7pm	Owen Edgar
Thursday 30th June	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	David Gardner R.I.P.
First Martyrs	St Joseph's	12 noon	Catherine & Harold Leeder
Friday 1st July	St John Boste	10am	Celebration of 50 years of marriage
St Oliver Plunkett	St Joseph's	10am	People of the Parish
Saturday 2nd July	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Celebration of the Life of Andrew Lawton
	St Joseph's	5pm	Hogan, Hattam & Barrett Families
	St Bede's	5pm	Fr Michael McCoy (deceased)
Sunday 3rd July	St John Boste	9.30am	Deceased SVP Members
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Linda Harrighan
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of Ukraine

St John Boste Walk

The 38th annual walk in honour of St John Boste will take place on Sunday 24th July 2022. A bus will leave St John's after the 9.30 Mass and return at approximately 6pm.

The walk is about 9 miles and will start at Waterhouses where St John Boste was captured. It then proceeds along the Deerness Valley into Durham with the opportunity for a well-earned rest and picnic lunch. Then on to Durham Cathedral for the rosary (Galilee Chapel at 4.30) and finally the walk to St Leonard's School, the site where St John Boste was executed in 1594.



To book a seat on the bus, please add your name to the sheet at the back of St John Boste Church or telephone 01914168693. Remember to bring a picnic lunch.

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

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.'

URGENT APPEAL

You may remember Bishop Robert's recent pastoral letter 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 Alternatively, express your interest to one of our priests. Thanks.

ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY YMG 50 YEARS

Thursday, 23rd June 2022
Mass 12 noon followed by a Picnic
in the Church Grounds

Were you ever in the
Young Mother's Guild at St Joseph's?

If so, come along and help us
celebrate 50 years of friendship and
fellow support, when we will remem-
ber all past and present members. A
good opportunity to meet up with
friends old and new!

Bring your own picnic & refreshments
Spread the word & come with friends
Everyone Welcome!

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 sis-
ters 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



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 (June 2022) now.

Pray for Peace

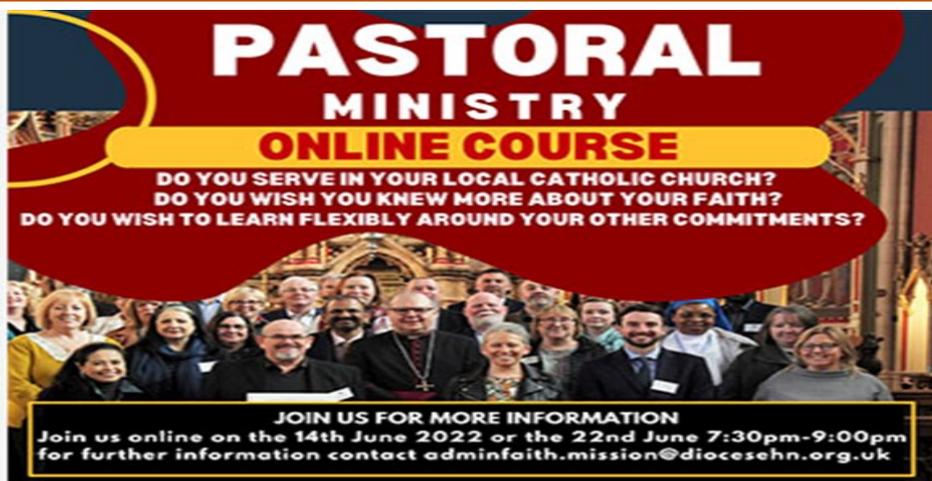
Joint Christian / Muslim visit to Pray for Peace, an event for women and young children only.

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.

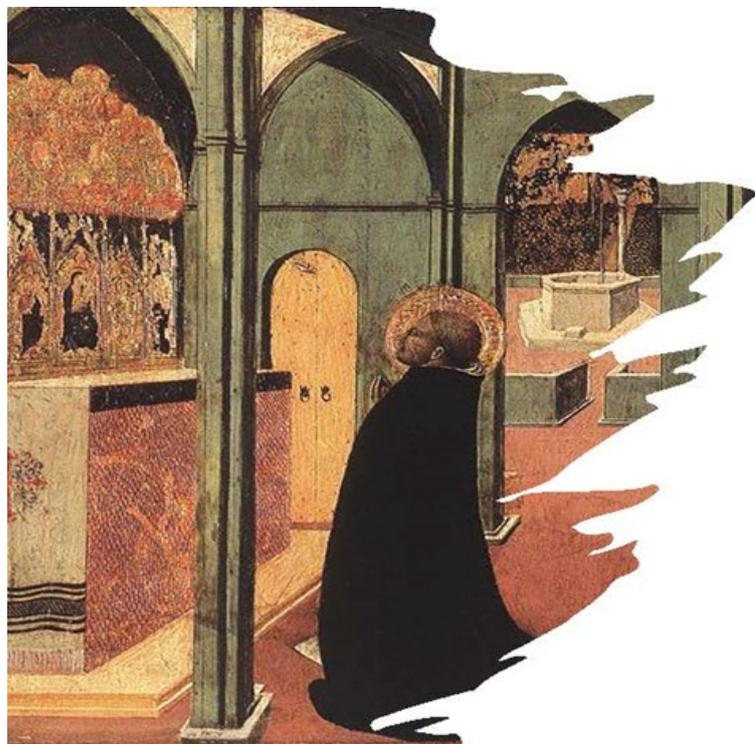
To register [please click here](#).



**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



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 25th 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



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.

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.

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.

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.

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](#).

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](#).



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

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



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**

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.



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



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 recognize 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](#)

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.



Celebrating Mass Together Safely



We have carefully considered the safety of our parishioners in our Churches and a number of measures have been taken to achieve this. This will allow our Churches to be more open - so that we can celebrate Mass with a sense of Joy and Hope for the future.



We have removed the requirement to use every other bench.

Stewards will be available to welcome and guide as necessary.

Sanitizer – we encourage the continued use of sanitizer on entering and leaving our Churches.

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.

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.

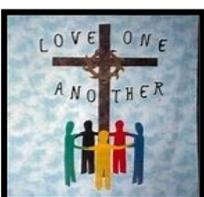
We would welcome brief articles and photographs of church groups and their activities. If you have any suggestions for content just send them to sj23social@gmail.com

If anyone would like to support the development of the new sites please contact Lisa
@ sj23social@gmail.com

Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered by request.

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



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.

Gift Aid and Parish Finances

For those who pay Tax the Parish can gain an extra 25% if you use Gift Aid. 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.

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.

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](#)