

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, 20TH – 21ST APRIL 2024, Year B

Saturday 20th April Vigil	St Bede's St Joseph's	5pm 5pm	Priests Intentions Harriet Rowntree RIP
Sunday 21st April 4th Sunday Good Shepherd Sunday	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9.30am 10am 11am	John Frazer RIP Alfie Cruddas RIP People of the Parish

First Reading: Carrying on the Life of Jesus

Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said, "Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved."

Response to the Psalm: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

Second Reading: Sharing the Heritage of Jesus

1John 3:1-2

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation: : Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

The Gospel: (John 10:11-18): The Good Shepherd

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father."

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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 22nd April 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 22nd April	St Bede	10am	Connie & Barney Casey, Daughter maurenn and Grandson Christopher RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	David Bentham RIP
Tuesday 23rd April St George	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	John Barker RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Dave Rackie RIP
Wednesday 24th April Ss Fidelis of Sigmaringen & Adalbert	St Bede	10am	Catherine Connolly (RIP Anniversary)
	St John Boste	7pm	Priests Intentions
Thursday 25th April St Mark	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Priests Intentions
	St Joseph	12 noon	Frank McEnaney RIP
Friday 26th April	St John Boste	10am	Priests Intentions
	St Joseph	10am	Michael Johnson RIP
Saturday 27th April Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Repose of the soul of Doug Grant & Mother Doreen
	St Joseph	5pm	Mary & Rob Bryson & Alan McGuinness RIP
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 28th April 5th Sunday of Easter	St John Boste	9:30am	Clem Shannon RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Edward Ashburner RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Ronnie Adams & Deceased McAdam Family RIP

We are ALL called to be Shepherds!

One of the most popular images of pastoral care is that of the Shepherd who leads his large flock and protects them from harm. Its also an image many people use to describe the relationship between the local priest and parishioners. This is a bit of a shame, really, because we've grown used to the idea that it is the priest who is THE pastoral worker in the community, rather than the responsibility belonging to all of us who are baptised.

When Jesus walked the earth, shepherding was a hazardous occupation. Outdoor living was tough. During the long dry season, they had to move their flocks in search of new pastures and watering places, they often trespassed on 'private land' so were unpopular with landowners. In common with tax collectors, they were forbidden to hold public office or give evidence in court. They weren't really respected by the local community.

The wandering figure of the good shepherd, anxiously tending his sheep to the point where he is prepared to surrender his life for them, is the image Jesus uses about himself in today's Gospel. It's a mixture of care, tenderness, toughness and self-sacrifice. It summarises his approach to leadership. It is not about

defensiveness or detachment. The image is not about religious authority, pleased with its own importance and sense of entitlement. It is of a deeply loving, caring person – something we're all called to. When we see how Jesus *actually* behaved as a leader, we see that he:

- Tackled his opponents face to face.
- Warns his followers about the tough times ahead.
- Endures being misunderstood when he includes the excluded.
- Endures insult and isolation.
- Commits to compassion and forgiveness.
- Seeks out the least, the lost and the last.

We all sign up for this when we're baptised! Though we might not realise it!

It is true that we do 'pray for Vocations' today – maybe we need, first of all, to pray that we all realise we are all called, and when our communities become compassionate and missionary communities, then there will indeed be women and men willing to explore what it might mean to be leaders within them. Let us pray heartily for that!

Fr. Jim O'Keefe

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 – This 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!

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.

Mass for Pentecost - We will be hosting a Mass for Pentecost at St Mary's Cathedral Church at 1.00pm on Saturday 11 May 2024. Pope Francis, in his recent address, also emphasised that CHARIS' role is to point all communities of the Charismatic Renewal, which he called a "current of grace" to "communion, on the path ahead." The annual Mass for Pentecost is proving to be a blessed opportunity for sisters and brothers in Renewal to come together in communion on the path ahead for us in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle.

Other News

"The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep." Jesus laid his life down for you, might you consider following in the footsteps of the Good Shepherd and discern a vocation to the

priesthood? **Come and See!** We invite men aged 18+ who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. The next Discernment Evening is on **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](#).

NEW SONG!

Our monthly prayer event here at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church is happening this Sunday 21 April at 4.00 pm. We invite you to join us to praise and worship our loving God, to be inspired by praying and reflecting on God's Word and to build friendship and community with others on our shared faith journey. We are happy to welcome Fr Shaun O'Neill who will be speaking on the theme of God's love. All are welcome!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS

When: 21 April / 12 May / 9 June / @ 4.00 pm

Email: newsongne@gmail.com

Instagram: @newsongne

"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.

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

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](#).

The Joy of the Gospel - "Whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world. Every form of authentic evangelization is always "new" Evangelii Gaudium, the Joy of the Gospel, looks at the new evangelisation for the transmission of the faith and has chapters on the following subjects: The Church's Missionary Transformation; The Crisis of Communal Commitment; The Proclamation of the Gospel; The Social Dimension of Evangelization; Spirit-Filled Evangelizers. The full text of Evangelii Gaudium can be downloaded [here](#). Quick Link: [Sharing the Faith](#).

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/.

"Mgr. Fr. Philip Carroll. RIP." It was with real sadness we heard the death of Fr. Philip Carroll, 9th April, 2024. Fr. Philip served here in Washington for a number of years, and will be fondly remembered for his kindness and pastoral support to so many. He served at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate August 1972- September 1978 & St. Bede's October 1996 - June 2006. Mgr. Phil's body will be received into St. Agnes Crawcrook, on Wednesday 1st May, with Mass at 7pm. His Requiem will be at St. Mary's Cathedral at 12.05pm on Thursday 2nd May 2024. All welcome. "

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.

Reflections

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

Reflections

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

[Saturday Examen 4th 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](#)

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