

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

**6th Sunday of Easter,
22nd May 2022, Year C**

The Continuing Presence of Our Lord

Jesus completes His mission on Earth and ascends into Heaven to take His seat on His glorious throne for all eternity. Or does He? The answer is yes and no. Yes, He does take His seat on His glorious throne, but no, He does not complete His mission on Earth. The Ascension is both the end and the beginning. It's a transition to the next phase in the perfect plan of the Father. And understanding the way this plan unfolds should leave us in wonder and awe.



The Apostles were probably somewhat frightened and confused. Jesus was with them, then He died, then He rose and appeared various times, and then He ascended to the Father before their eyes. But He also told them that it is good that He goes. In fact, He said that it's better that He goes. They must have been confused. Jesus also told them His Advocate would come to lead them into all Truth. So the Apostles went from joy, to fear, to relief and more joy, to confusion and sorrow, to curiosity and uncertainty.

Sound familiar? Perhaps that's the way some find their lives to be. Ups and downs, twists and turns, joys and sorrows. Each phase reveals something new, something challenging, something glorious or something sorrowful. The good news is that the Father's plan is unfolding perfectly.

The part of the perfect plan we find ourselves in with this solemnity is the part where Jesus begins to direct His mission of establishing the Kingdom of God from Heaven. His throne is, in a sense, the driver's seat of our lives. From Heaven, Jesus suddenly begins to descend continuously into our lives fulfilling His mission in and through the Apostles, as well as all of us. The Ascension does not mean Jesus is gone; rather, it means Jesus is now present to each and every person who turns to Him and surrenders their life to His mission. From Heaven, Jesus is able to be present to all. He is able to live in us and invites us to live in Him. It's the new beginning of the Church. Now all the Apostles need to do is wait for the Holy Spirit to descend.

Think upon the abiding and intimate presence of our Lord in your life. Know that Jesus invites you to share in His mission. From His glorious throne He wants us to "preach everywhere." He wants to invite each one of us to do our part. The part of the Father's plan entrusted to each one of us is not entrusted to another. We all have a share in that plan. What is your part? How does Jesus direct His mission through you? Ponder this question today and know that He accompanies you as you say "Yes" to your part in the glorious unfolding of His perfect plan.

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...

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you

The **First Reading** concerns the Council of Jerusalem which falls in the middle of the book of Acts and describes the turning point for the Church when the council officially recognized the evangelization of the Gentiles. This evangelization had been initiated by Ss Peter, Barnabas and Paul.

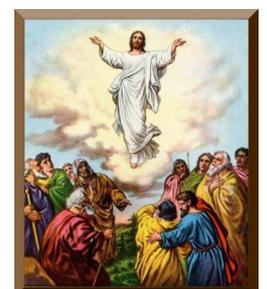
The Second Reading continues the description of the Heavenly Jerusalem. In the heavenly Jerusalem there is no longer any need for God to have a dwelling-place, because God the Father himself and the Lamb are always present. The Godhead does not need to be brought to mind by the temple, because the blessed will always see God face to face. This sight of God is what causes the righteous to be forever happy. In the first reading at today's Mass, we were given the story of the first General Council ever held by the Church authorities. There we saw that a vital decision was reached through the guidance and assistance of the Holy Spirit. "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and ours" (Acts 15:28) was how the authorities announced the conclusion they had reached. In the Gospel, Christ promised his Apostles, the night before his death, that when he returned to the Father, the Holy Spirit would be sent to them. He would teach them all things and recall to their minds all that Christ had taught them.

So our prayer this week may well centre around peace, as we try to love our neighbour – not just for ourselves, but also for those around us or for the world at large. We can perhaps also ask the Lord for greater trust in him.

The Ascension of the Lord

On 26th May, 2,000 years ago, Jesus passed on to us, his followers, the responsibility to let him be present in our modern world. 2,000 years ago, Jesus also passed on to us, his followers, the responsibility to let him continue to speak, love, and reach out to people in our modern world. 2,000 years ago, Jesus also passed on to us, his followers, the responsibility to let him continue to work in our modern world. This is the reason that we gathered together here today. This is the mystery that we celebrate in this liturgy today. This is the challenge that Scripture holds out to us today. Important opportunities for prayer.

Are you ready for the challenge?



St Philip Neri

St. Philip Neri was a Christian missionary and founder of the Congregation of the Oratory, a community of Catholic priests and lay brothers. He was born in Florence on July 21, 1515 as one of four children to Francesco Neri.

In 1544, on the eve of Pentecost, Philip saw what appeared to be a globe of fire. It is said the fire entered his mouth, causing Philip to feel his heart dilate. Philip was filled with such paroxysms of divine love that caused him to scream out, "Enough, enough, Lord, I can bear no more." Philip then discovered a swelling over his heart, though it caused him no pain.

His efforts to reach out to the lay people of Rome and not simply associate with the clergy made him one of the great figures in the Counter Reformation of the Catholic Church. Sadly, the Catholic Church had fallen into clericalism. He soon earned the title, "Apostle of Rome."

Around midnight of May 26, 1595, Philip suffered from a haemorrhage and passed away at 80-years-old. His body lays in the New Church, where the Oratorians still serve.

St. Philip Neri was beatified by Pope Paul V on May 11, 1615 and canonized by Pope Gregory XV on March 12, 1622.



The Love of God

Jesus said to his disciples: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him." John 14:23

Do you want our Lord to come to you and dwell within the depths of your soul? Presumably the answer is an easy "Yes." The way to make this happen is to love God and keep His word. When you do that, the Blessed Trinity will come and dwell within you.

It's interesting that the love of God appears to be contingent upon our love of Him. In other words, does God only love us when we love Him first? Strictly speaking, God loves us with a perfect love regardless of whether we love Him or not. But with that said, love takes on a whole new form when it is received and reciprocated. Therefore, when we choose to love God we suddenly realize that our love of Him opens the door for Him to come and dwell within us, transforming us and making our heart His holy sanctuary. What a glorious gift!

It's also interesting to note that love of God means, in part, that we are obedient to Him. But that's the nature of God. He is Love itself and, therefore, loving Him necessarily involves a complete submission of your will to His. Perfect obedience to Him in all things is a powerful way of loving Him. It's a way of allowing Him to dwell within you and, in that act, to take over your will. Only then can you love Him even more fully with your whole being.

Think especially upon your desire to have the Most Holy Trinity come and dwell within your soul. This should be the primary goal of our lives. If God lives within us then all else in life will fall into place. All things will work for the good and God will be glorified in and through us. Make the choice to love Him through your obedience, this day, and your relationship of love will grow by leaps and bounds.

Most Holy Trinity, I do love You and desire to love You in a more perfect way this day. Help me to submit to Your perfect will in all things. Help me to embrace perfect obedience to You always. In that act of love and submission, come and make Your dwelling within me. Jesus, I trust in You.

The Promise of the Spirit

In these final discourses of Jesus at the Last Supper (as he sketches the outlines of his future Church) there are four passages which promise the coming of a Paraclete or Advocate, the Holy Spirit. 'Paraclete' and 'Advocate' mean the same: someone who is called to your side as a supporter, often in a legal situation. The Father will send this Paraclete, in the name and power of Jesus, so that the Paraclete will make Christ present in the Church, not physically but in a new way. The Paraclete will strengthen Jesus' disciples with Christ's own strength. The Paraclete will lead the disciples into all truth, so that they gradually come to a fuller understanding of all the implications of the teaching of Jesus. Like any legal advocate, the Paraclete will provide the followers of Jesus with the power in teaching and argument to withstand opposition. This is the power which will guide the Church in ages to come, not only the official teachers of the Church, the successors of the apostles, but all the faithful who preserve and enrich the tradition of the Church by their prophetic office. The decree of Vatican II on the Church leaves no doubt that not only the call to sanctity but also participation in the prophetic office of Christ extends to all the members of the Church; this is an inspiring and awesome responsibility for us all.



For what special task do I most need the Paraclete's strength and guidance?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

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](#).

Red Box Collection - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate

Could you please bring Your Red Box to Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Sunday 12 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.

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](#).

When you go onto the Church Services TV page for our Parish you will see that there are two labels which refer to the two different cameras used for streaming. These cameras are labelled Camera one and Camera two. If you click on a camera and it does not give you the live-stream, please click on the other camera. 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.

Please take this opportunity to experience one or more of the live-streamed Masses from your local Church.

READINGS AVAILABLE

This Sunday's readings are available to follow during Mass, or to read at a later time.

[Just click here](#)

CHURCH SERVICES – STREAMING MASS NOT AVAILABLE?

Sometimes we experience technical issues and the streaming of Mass from St John XXIII or St Joseph's fails. If this happens then, as we are using Church Services TV to stream, it is easy to find an alternative Mass. You can look at "What's On Now" or the schedule and select a Mass or search for a church by country, or region with in the country – there are two other churches listed in Tyne and Wear: St Charles, Gosforth and Sacred Heart, North Gosforth.

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](#).



Mass times for the fortnight beginning Saturday 21st May 022

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Saturday 21st May	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	The sick of the Parish
St Matthias	St Joseph's	5pm	All our loved ones
	St Bede's	5pm	Leo, Jenny & Paul Bottoms (deceased)
Sunday 22nd May	St John Boste	9.30am	The carers of the Parish
6th Sunday of Easter and	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	All those who are away from home
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Sick of the Parish and their carers
Monday 23rd May	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Lloyd McLinden
Tuesday 24th May	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	People of Ukraine
	St Joseph's	7pm	Marion and Bob Slavin
Wednesday 25th May	St Bede's	10am	Deceased members of the Legion of Mary
St Bede the Venerable	St John Boste	7pm	Malden and Eleanor Roberts RIP
Thursday 26th May	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Brendan Ford
The Ascension of the Lord and St Philip Neri	St Joseph's	12 noon	Dennis Duffy & Gerry Williams
Friday 27th May	St John Boste	10am	People of war afflicted countries
St Augustine of Canterbury	St Joseph's	10am	School children of the Parish
Saturday 28th May	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	School children of the Parish
St Godric of Fincale and St Christopher Magallanes	St Joseph's	5pm	Brian and Susan Towns
	St Bede's	5pm	Laurence Mc Adam
Sunday 29th May	St John Boste	9.30am	People of the Parish
7th Sunday of Easter	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	James McDevitte
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of war afflicted countries
Monday 30th May	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	People of the Parish
Tuesday 31st May The Visitation of the Blessed	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Margaret, Dennis & Karen Whalen
	St Joseph's	7pm	Mark Toni
Wednesday 1st June	St Bede's	10am	Marjorie and Tommy Scott (deceased)
St Justitn	St John Boste	7pm	People of the Parish
Thursday 2nd June	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of war afflicted Countries
Ss Marcellinus & Peter	St Joseph's	12 noon	People of the Parish
Friday 3rd June	St John Boste	10am	Repose of the soul of Mary Davidson
Ss Charles Lwanga	St Joseph's	10am	Holy Souls
Saturday 4th June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Nancy & Bernard Hodgson
	St Joseph's	5pm	Frank McEnaney
	St Bede's	5pm	William, Eileen Harland and deceased Family
Sunday 5th June	St John Boste	9.30am	People of the Parish
Pentecost Sunday	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Children of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Margaret Mary Wanlles & Owen & Mary Fagan

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 6th Sunday of Easter – the link is [here](#)



Laudato Si Week

Pope Francis invites Catholic communities around the world to participate in **Laudato Si'** Week 2022 from May 22-29.

The weeklong global event will mark the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on creation care and unite the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to listen and respond to the cry of God's creation.

We will celebrate Laudato Si' week within our Diocese by holding a Mass at **St Mary's Cathedral** at 7pm on Monday May 23. Bishop Robert will preside at the Mass and Fr Chris Hughes will give the homily on hearing the cry of the poor and the earth. Music will be provided by pupils from Sacred Heart High School, Fenham. Everyone is welcome to attend this special Mass focusing on creation care.

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.

Special Collection Next Week – World Communications Sunday

OK – so who doesn't have a 'Smart Phone'? How does Bishop Robert learn to respond to local newspaper, TV and radio interviews? It is said there are tons of ways of communicating with people – just ask someone you know from Year 4! Our Church needs to learn how to be in touch with the world we live in. This Collection helps to train Church leaders to cope with media questions, and how to train local people to work with local media.

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

'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'.

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.

Update from Justice & Peace Co-ordinating Council

This month's update from the Justice & Peace Co-ordinating Council includes; Nationalities and Borders Bill and the sending of asylum seekers to Rwanda, continued Prayer Vigils at the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, Medomsley and details of the NJPN Annual Conference. To read more please [click here](#).

Update from Justice & Peace Refugee Project

The project continues to see an increasing number of people using our services each month and your donations of food, toiletries and finance are welcomed even more than ever. Toiletries are very much in demand – while we once had ample stock of toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gels, deodorants, shampoo and conditioners – these now frequently run low. To read more [please click here](#).

Interreligious Relations

Save the date: The annual Christian Muslim Prayer Gathering for women and young children is provisionally booked for Saturday 25 June. The gathering will take place at the historic Lady Chapel in Jesmond Dene. More details to follow soon.

Missio - Mission Boxes

Missio would like to thank all those who contributed through the red boxes and the increasing number who have now signed up to do regular bank transfers. A special thanks to those who collect the red boxes and counted the money. If anyone would like to contribute through a Standing Order please go to the web site (<https://missio.org.uk/donate/>) and follow the directions.

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.'

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

The Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

The Bishops' Conference establishes that, at all Sunday Masses on 4–5 June 2022, each parish prays for Her Majesty the Queen to mark her Platinum Jubilee by including an intention in the Prayer of the Faithful and by reciting at the end of Mass (after the Prayer after Communion and before the Final Blessing) the Prayer for the Queen. Parishes may also wish to sing the chant *Domine, salvum fac* and/or the National Anthem.

Model intention for the Prayer of the Faithful

We pray for Elizabeth, our Queen; may she continue to know the steadfast love of God and serve her people faithfully.

Domine, salvum fac



Domine, sál-vam fac * réginam nóstram E-lí-sa-beth: et ex-áudi nos
in dí-e, qua invocavé-rimus te.

(O Lord, save Elizabeth, our Queen and hear us on the day we call upon you.)

PRAYER FOR THE QUEEN

O Lord, save Elizabeth, our Queen. **R:** And hear us on the day we call upon you.

O Lord, hear my prayer. **R:** And let my cry come before you.

The Lord be with you. **R:** And with your spirit.

Almighty God, we pray, that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen,
who, by your providence has received the governance of this realm,
may continue to grow in every virtue,
that, imbued with your heavenly grace,
she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil and,
being blessed with your favour may, with the royal family,
come at last into your presence,
through Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life
and who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen

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**

you are invited to
QUEEN'S JUBILEE PICNIC

at

ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY, CHURCH GROUNDS

on

SUNDAY, 5TH JUNE 2022 from 2.00pm - 4.00pm

(we can use Parish Centre Lounge if weather inclement)

Theme Colours - **Red**, White & **Blue**

Fancy Dress Optional

Bring your own picnic, refreshments & flags

Prize for best home-made crown



Music

Games

Craft Table

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, Mecatile 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 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



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.

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.

CHARIS (Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service)

Arrangements are now in place for **'Celebrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit: A Mass for Pentecost'** at **St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle**, at **1.00pm on Saturday 28 May 2022**. More details will be made available in the events section of the Diocesan website and shared with sisters and brothers in our contact list.

Thanks go to those from the Vicariate who have redesigned our presence on the Diocesan Website. Several people who participated in our launch events spoke of a difficulty they had experienced in finding prayers groups they could join. In our Diocese we are blessed with five well established Charismatic Prayer groups; **Anawim in Newcastle, Agape in Sunderland, New Life in Durham, Theotokos in Stockton and Bethany in Darlington**. Descriptions of each prayer group and contact details on the **CHARIS** section of the Diocesan website will hopefully now make it much easier for people to find a prayer group they can join, in addition to information on occasional larger gatherings for people from the prayer groups hosted by Emmanuel.

Please continue to pray for the work of the team.

John Wheeler

Co-ordinator

Hexham & Newcastle Diocesan Service of Communion

St John Boste receives Defibrillator

Great news for St John Boste, on Tuesday the 24th of May a new defibrillator will be placed outside the Church. This defibrillator can be used in case of emergencies by anyone. To use this vital equipment all you have to do is call 999 and you will be given a code to be able to gain access to the defibrillator and the emergency services will talk you through how to use it.

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](#).

Year of the Eucharist

This Diocesan Year aims to celebrate the Eucharist at the heart of the life and mission of the Church and to gather people back to the Mass and the Sacraments. We are to grow as a Diocese in our love and appreciation of the Eucharist. We are to deepen our appreciation of its celebration through the liturgy. We are to revitalise and renew our faith through a deepening prayer and devotion of the Eucharist. And we are to go out and serve the world through the nourishment we receive.

Eucharistic Festival – Save the date! On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, our Diocese will celebrate a Eucharistic Festival at Ushaw on Sunday 19 June 2022. Further details will follow.

Bishop Robert's [Reflections](#) are available on the Year of the Eucharist page. The second Year of the Eucharist [reflection booklet](#) 'Encountering the Son' is available to download and read. The booklet contains reflections written by voices from across the Diocese and invite us to reflect on our relationship with the Son.

All are welcome to attend the monthly **Holy Hour** on the first Sunday of each month between 2.30pm and 3.30pm, held at St Andrew's Church, Worswick Street, Newcastle. The next Holy Hour will be held on Sunday 5 June. Organised by the Association of the Eucharist, we invite you to spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament as part of this Diocesan Year of the Eucharist. Refreshments are served afterwards.

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 Alternatively, express your interest to one of our priests. Thanks.



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



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

If anyone would like to support the development of the new sites please contact Lisa @ 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](#)



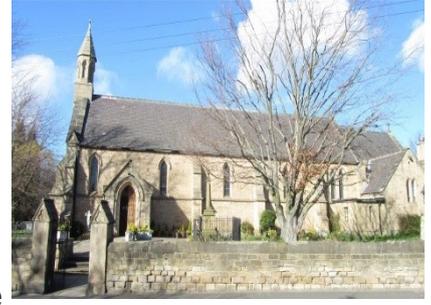
HOLY ISLAND CAMP SOCIAL- CEILIDH - CALLING EXISTING AND NEW CAMP VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS

Holy island Vinnies Camp will be holding a free social/ Ceilidh
Saturday 28th May 7:30pm - 11:30pm
(Bar open)
Blackfriars @The Ouseburn
All 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



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

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

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.