

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



Administrator: Audrey Huntley 0191
4163583 sj23office01@gmail.com



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 26th June 2022, Year C

The Elisha In Me.

On reading Charles Dickens's great historical novel, A Tale of Two Cities, I thought no other storyline could so much resonate with our experiences today until I read the story of Elisha whose call we follow in this Sunday's First Reading.

Elijah and Elisha lived through an exciting and challenging period, best described in the word of C. Dickens in A Tale of Two Cities: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity."

Elijah was a fearless prophet who had the vision of God (on Mount Horeb) and resolutely fought against idolatry (the prophets of Baal) and injustice by the king (Naboth's Vineyard). Elijah is now old and tired and looked for a successor in Elisha.

Elijah passed near Elisha who was at the plough in his fields and threw his cloak over him, without saying a word. Why? Elijah's gesture of throwing his cloak over Elisha is to claim Elisha as his own. His response is telling and evocative of each one of us. He left his oxen and ran after Elijah.

Elisha must have been a rich person to have twelve yokes of oxen ploughing his field. But he did the unthinkable. He slaughters the oxen, burns the tools of his profession as fire to roast the meat and shares it with people around. You can't mistake the gesture: he is giving up everything, he abandons and renounces his former comfortable way of life to embrace the new calling to follow Elijah.

Like me, Elisha had a profession, property, possessions, friends, family and future, and he left all to follow the call. He reminds me that the person called is not a loafer or lazy. He is one with great talents, a profession and a future. He invites me today not to be afraid to let go and follow my calling. To serve, support and give back to the community, the church and the world.

Elisha could well be like some who came to church today perhaps with the only intention of being there for their nephews or nieces' First Holy Communion or Baptism or Wedding. You hear the Word of God proclaimed, and you are touched and moved by God's love. Like Elisha, I am prompted to respond to God's call to believe and belong.

It is remarkable how he breaks with his past. A follower of Jesus, prompted by the love of God, has to resolutely "burn" all that in his/ her former way of life does not support the new way of life as a Christian.

This is what Jesus asks of you and me in today's gospel: "Leave the dead to bury their dead; your duty is to go and spread the news..." 'Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

You and I are here on a mission, and like Jesus, we shall "resolutely take the road for Jerusalem."

Uchenna Odenigbo

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...

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening ; you have the words of everlasting life.

In the First Reading, we have an account of the call of Elisha to the prophetic office.

St. Paul, in the second reading, tells the Galatians that they were called for freedom. He then makes an important distinction that needs to be reiterated often in our world, and that is the distinction between freedom and license. St. Paul says "do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love." Many people seem to have the idea that freedom is all about doing what I want, when I want, how I want, etc. This is not freedom, but license. License is selfish, the opposite of the love to which St. Paul exhorts us.

Among the various incidents gathered together by Luke in these verses of his gospel, perhaps the lesson that should strike all of us most is his insistence on total dedication on the part of his true followers to his service. We cannot be for Christ and against him at the same time. "He who gathers not with me, scatters," he himself said. We are followers of Christ since our baptism. In theory this is the fact, but in practice how real is this fact for many of us? Are we really following Christ during the twenty-four hours of every day of our lives? Are our eyes always fixed on the true future which awaits us? How few of us can answer "yes, we are," to these straight questions?

If we only realized how reasonable God's demands are, and how every demand he makes on us is for our own benefit and not his, we would be a little more generous in our response to his calls. He does not need us—we need him. We could slip in a few more short prayers during the day: we could find more time to take a true interest in the eternal and less in the temporal. We could manage to give a helping hand and a word of encouragement to a needy neighbour. Yes, all of us could do a lot more to show to Christ and to the world that we are following him gladly and honestly.

Special Collection Today— 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.

Invitation from Bishop Robert

Bishop Robert would like to invite you to a Mass to mark the 80th birthday of Bishop Seamus. This will be on Thursday 30th June 2022 at 12.05 pm at St Mary's Cathedral. All are most welcome to attend.

VACANCIES

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

Safeguarding Advisor – full-time, permanent. Closing date for applications: 27 June 2022

Refugee Project Co-ordinator – part-time (18 hours), initial 12-month contract. Closing date for applications: 4 July 2022

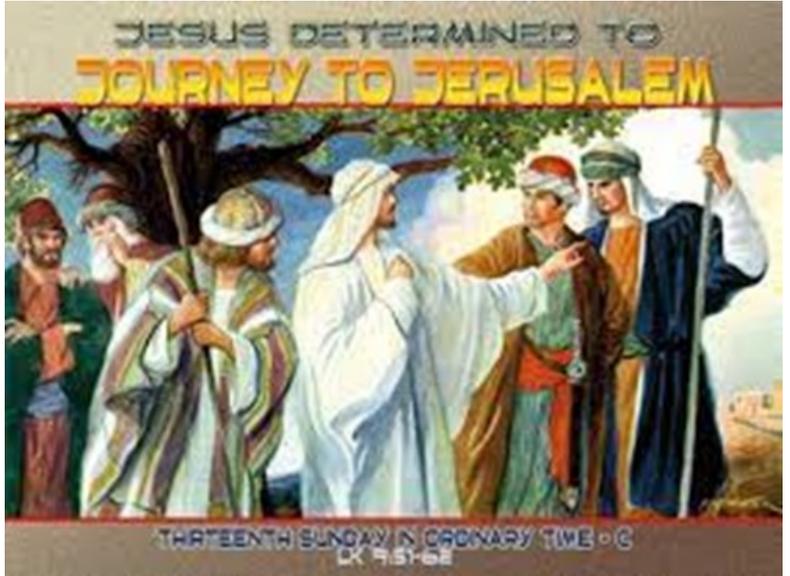
Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us 0191 243 3301

Being Resolute

'As the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and he sent messengers ahead of him. Luke 9:51-52

Jesus was determined in His mission to travel toward Jerusalem. The significance of this line can easily be lost.

There are two things to point out about this passage. First, Jerusalem was the destination where He would ultimately die for the sins of the world. It was His place of glorification through the Sacrifice of the Cross. Thus, the disciples did not want Jesus to go to Jerusalem since they knew it was a risk. But Jesus saw through the suffering He would soon endure to the future glory of the Sacrifice He would offer.



Second, the fact that Jesus was “resolute” in His determination to go to Jerusalem and sacrifice His life reveals His courage and perfect love. He did not fear what would happen to Him because He had the bigger picture in mind. He saw the good fruit of the salvation of many souls, and this overshadowed any temptation to be deterred from His divine mission.

We can learn much from Jesus’ determination to sacrifice His life in Jerusalem for the salvation of the world. Certainly, we should see the fruit of this sacrifice and be eternally grateful for it. But we should also see it as an invitation to imitate Jesus’ actions. In our own lives there are many opportunities we are given to choose a life of selfless sacrifice for the good of others. These opportunities come in many forms, but in the end, they are always opportunities of love and self-giving. Though sacrifice will tempt us to flee in a different direction, if we keep our eyes upon the good fruit of all selfless sacrifice, we will be encouraged to be resolute in our determination of love.

Think about whatever your “Jerusalem” is. What is it that you are invited to sacrifice your life for out of love. When you discover what it is, look also at your willingness to embrace this sacrifice for the good of others and strive to imitate the firm determination of our Lord.

My determined Lord, I offer my life to You and accept Your invitation to offer my life for the good of others. Give me the courage and determination I need to see the value of selfless living and fill me with unwavering love of Your holy will. Jesus, I trust in You.



Little Sisters of the Poor
Caring for the elderly - inspired by our faith

St Joseph’s Home (LSP), Newcastle are looking for volunteers to help throughout the Home (e.g. helping with residents’ activities, administration duties, fundraising and other various duties). If you are interested and would like to help, please contact Sister Evelyn or Mother Deirdre at St Joseph’s Home on 0191 2731279 for further details.

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.

Together...

Seafarers can lead hard and dangerous lives. This Sea Sunday your gifts and prayers will help seafarers and fishers get the support they need.

£20

£20 could help to send a chaplain to support a sick or injured seafarer in hospital. Please donate now at Stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday



...we can give the gift of friendship



STELLA MARIS

Registered charity in England and Wales number 1069833. Registered charity in Scotland number SC043085. Registered company number 3320318

SEA SUNDAY 2022

Sea Sunday will be held this year on 10 July. Please kindly remember seafarers and fishers in your prayers. Many parishes will hold a second collection for Catholic charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea). This organisation provides

Christian Life in a New World: A Preached Retreat with Fr Donald Senior

11-15 July 2022

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. Find out more by [clicking here](#), by tel: 01434 673248 or by [email](#).



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](#).

Our prayers continue...

Interfaith Prayer Vigil 2022

CHURCHES AND FAITH COMMUNITIES ARE STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST THE DETENTION OF WOMEN SEEKING ASYLUM

Join us every 1st Sunday of the Month of 2022 at 3 pm, at the barriers to Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (Hassockfield) Corbridge Road, Medomsley DH8 6QY



5th June

3rd July

7th August

4th September



For more details, please contact lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com

Only one thing lasts—God’s love for us

The LORD said to Elijah: “You shall anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah, as prophet to succeed you.” There are times when it is hard to envisage that someone will take your place but take your place they will. A world record holder knows that there is someone around the corner ready to take from them the thing they treasure so much. The winners of the FA Cup or the league championship know that very soon they must defend their position and could so easily be knocked off their perch. On a serious note, parents know that when their children start school, they will soon realise that their teachers may have more influence over their offspring than they appear to have. This is the way it is meant to be! Nothing lives forever in this world, no matter how good we are or how important we think we are. Only one thing lasts and that is God’s love for us - this we can pass on to others with healing hands, with reassuring hands or simply with hands that acknowledge that we do not think only about ourselves.

INSPIRE LADIES' CHORIR

ST JOSEPH'S WASHINGTON

Felling CONCERT CHOIR

TICKET FOR AN AFTERNOON OF *music*

with Inspire Ladies Choir, St. Joseph's RC Primary School and Felling Concert Choir

SATURDAY 2ND JULY 2022 | 2.00PM

at Our Lady Immaculate RC Church, Washington Village, Washington, NE38 7HS

Proceeds to: Our Lady's RC Church, Felling Concert Choir, Inspire Ladies Choir and St. Joseph's RC Primary School.

For more information please contact Clare Hampson by [clicking here](#).



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

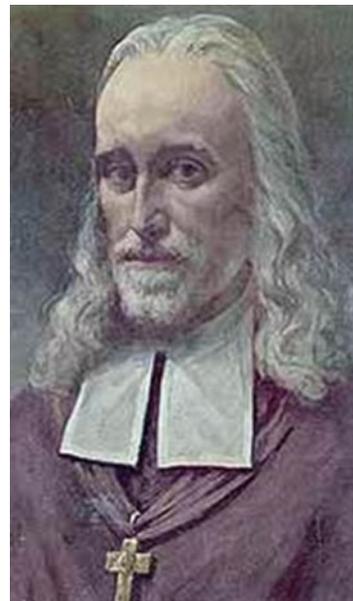
You can read a monthly reflection titled, 'Mary and Pentecost' by Pat Kennedy MPS, which can be found [by clicking here](#).

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](#).

St Oliver Plunkett

Oliver Plunkett was born on 1 November 1625 (earlier biographers gave his date of birth as 1 November 1629, but 1625 has been the consensus since the 1930s) in Ireland to well-to-do parents. A grandson of James Plunkett, 8th Baron Killeen (died 1595), he was related by birth to a number of gentry families. Until his sixteenth year, the boy's education was entrusted to his cousin Patrick Plunkett, Abbot of St Mary's. As an aspirant to the priesthood, he set out for Rome in 1647. At this time war was raging in Ireland; these were essentially conflicts between native Irish Catholics, English and Irish Anglicans.

He was ordained a priest in 1654 and deputed by the Irish bishops to act as their representative in Rome. Meanwhile, the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland (1649–53) had defeated the Catholic cause in Ireland; in the aftermath the public practice of Catholicism was banned, and Catholic clergy were executed. As a result, it was impossible for Plunkett to return to Ireland for many years. He petitioned to remain in Rome and, in 1657, became a professor of theology. Throughout the first years of Charles II's reign, he successfully pleaded the cause of the Irish Catholic Church. On 9 July 1669 he was appointed Archbishop of Armagh, the Irish primatial see, and was consecrated on 30 November at Ghent. He eventually set foot on Irish soil again on 7 March 1670, as the English Restoration of 1660 had begun on a basis of toleration.



After arriving back in Ireland, he tackled drunkenness among the clergy, writing: "Let us remove this defect from an Irish priest, and he will be a saint". He was able to establish a Jesuit College in Drogheda in 1670. A year later 150 students attended the college, no fewer than 40 of whom were Protestant, making this college the first integrated school in Ireland. His ministry was a successful one and he is said to have confirmed 48,000 Catholics over a 4-year period. The government in Dublin extended a generous measure of toleration to the Catholic hierarchy until the mid-1670s.

In 1678 the so-called Popish Plot, concocted in England by clergyman Titus Oates, led to further anti-Catholic action and Plunkett again went into hiding. The Privy Council of England, in Westminster, was told that Plunkett had plotted a French invasion. Despite being on the run and with a price on his head, Plunkett refused to leave his flock. He was arrested in Dublin on 6 December 1679 and was tried for conspiring against the state by allegedly plotting to bring 20,000 French soldiers into the country, and for levying a tax on his clergy to support 70,000 men for rebellion. Lord Shaftesbury knew Plunkett would never be convicted in Ireland, irrespective of the jury's composition, and so had Plunkett moved to Newgate Prison in London in order to face trial.

Archbishop Plunkett was found guilty of high treason in June 1681 "for promoting the Roman faith" and was condemned to death. In passing judgement, the Chief Justice said: "You have done as much as you could to dishonour God in this case; for the bottom of your treason was your setting up your false religion, than which there is not anything more displeasing to God, or more pernicious to mankind in the world". The jury returned within fifteen minutes with a guilty verdict and Archbishop Plunkett replied: "*Deo Grátis*" (Latin for "Thanks be to God").

Plunkett was executed at Tyburn on 1 July 1681 aged 55, the last Catholic martyr to die in England. His body was initially buried in the courtyard of St Giles in the Fields church. The remains were exhumed in 1683 and moved to the Benedictine monastery in Germany. The head was brought to Rome, and from there to Armagh, and eventually to Drogheda where since 29 June 1921 it has rested in Saint Peter's Church. Most of the body was brought to Downside Abbey, England, where the major part is located today, with some parts remaining at Lamspringe. On the occasion of his canonization in 1975 his casket was opened, and some parts of his body given to the St Peter's Church in Drogheda Ireland.

Oliver Plunkett was beatified in 1920 and canonized in 1975, the first new Irish saint for almost seven hundred years, and the first of the Irish martyrs to be beatified.

In 1997 Plunkett was made a patron saint for peace and reconciliation in Ireland, adopted by the prayer group campaigning for peace in Ireland, "St. Oliver Plunkett for Peace and Reconciliation".

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.



Uncompromising Discipleship

As Jesus embarks on his great journey to his death at Jerusalem, the latter half of Luke's gospel is marked by Jesus' teaching on the difficulties and challenges of discipleship. Right at the beginning of this section Jesus teaches the little lesson that the disciples must not be surprised or take vengeance when they are rejected. Then three lessons follow on the uncompromising demands of discipleship. These are not 'counsels of perfection', but demanded of every disciple of Jesus. First, the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. The disciple has no right to creature comforts. Second (perhaps the most counter-cultural of all Jesus' demands), burying a dead father was regarded as a sacred duty, and yet not even this may stand in the way of a response to the call of Jesus. Third (a more rigorous condition than even Elijah demanded of Elisha), there must be no backward glance even to bid the family farewell. Not even the most sacred of natural ties may stand in the way of the demands of following Jesus. Jesus expresses his teaching with maximum vigour; these conditions may seem unfeeling and unacceptably harsh. This is partly the nature of the Semitic language (the Aramaic which Jesus spoke), which rarely uses a comparative, 'more than...' It is either day or night, no dusk! There are no half measures. We must beware of softening what remains hard. Where does following Jesus currently fit on your list of priorities? Do any of your goals, activities, interests or desires for material comforts keep you from following Christ more closely? Is there anything that you wouldn't give up for Christ?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Congratulations

Congratulations to all our children who are making their First Holy Communion at this time.

Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.



St JOSEPH'S

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

200 CLUB MONTHLY DRAW



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

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

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

Prize Money:

January–November	1 st prize £50	2 nd prize is £25
Christmas Draw	1 st prize £100	2 nd 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.

Mass times for the fortnight beginning Saturday 25th June 2022

Day	Church	Time	Intention
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	Peter McElhenny
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 St Cyril of Alexandria	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Alan Bickle R.I.P.
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 First Martyrs	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	David Gardner R.I.P.
	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	Joan & Joseph Donkin
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Linda Harrigan
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	James McGee 50th Birthday Celebration Mass
Monday 4th July St Elizabeth of Portugal	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Cosgrove & Docherty Families
Tuesday 5th July	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	People of Ukraine
St Anthony Mary Zaccaria	St Joseph's	7pm	People of the Parish
Wednesday 6th July	St Bede's	10am	Joe Erskine (Sick)
St Maria Goretti	St John Boste	7pm	Deceased SVP Members
Thursday 7th July	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Sick People of the Parish
	St Joseph's	12 noon	Tom Callaghan
Friday 8th July	St John Boste	10am	First Holy Communion Children
	St Joseph's	10am	Holy Souls
Saturday 9th July	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Anne & Duncan MacDiarmid
St Augustine Zhao Rong	St Joseph's	5pm	Frank McEnaney
	St Bede's	5pm	Margaret & Thomas Banks (Deceased)
Sunday 10th July	St John Boste	9.30am	Rita & Jim Kirkwood
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time and Sea Sunday	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Bill Hughes
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Tom & Tina Lamb R.I.P.

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.

Synod

As the Synod moves on from the Diocesan phase to the national phase, our Diocesan submission is with the Bishops Conference of England and Wales. Bishop Robert and members of the core team are part of the national conversation entering into the dialogue of what will be sent on from England and Wales. While the Synod moves to the universal synthesis it is important for us to remember that this was not intended as a short period of conversation but that it was proposed by Pope Francis to move us to new ways of working as Church. You will find our [Diocesan submission here](#). Please take time to pray and reflect on what is contained in this document, as we do likewise.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your participation to the universal synod so far and we want to encourage you, that you are the Church and your contribution makes a difference. Please keep the dialogue open and the conversations taking place, considering what is within your circle to effect change and to help the local community to journey together and grow.

Liturgical Formation / Days of Reflection

The Liturgy team are planning more Liturgy courses for formation and Days of Reflection for the Autumn, including:

- Courses for new Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- A study day for leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Days of Reflection for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Further information about each of the courses/events, along with booking information, will be made available through the [Liturgy and Prayer webpage](#).

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 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time – the link is [here](#)



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.

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.



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



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.



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.



Confessions

The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be offered by request.
Please contact either Fr Jim, Fr Martin, Fr Vincent or Fr Uchenna to arrange.

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](#).

Encountering the Son

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

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

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



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



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



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.

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**

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. 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 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.

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](#)

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. We encourage the continued use of sanitizer on entering and leaving our Churches. Sacristans can once again prepare all vessels for mass. We 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. Thank you for your help.

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](#)