

Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph, Birtley



Incorporating: **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate**, Washington;
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw; **St Bede**, Usworth;
St John Boste, Oxclose; **St Joseph**, Birtley
 Fr Martin Morris, Parish Priest, Tel: 01916498257
 Administrator: Audrey Huntley tel: 0191 4163583
 (Tuesday & Wednesday 8am—1pm, Thursday 11am—4pm & Friday 12– 5pm)
 Email: sj23office01@gmail.com



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 29TH - 30TH JUNE 2024, Year B

Saturday 29th June Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	People of the Parish Margaret Hodgson RIP
Sunday 30th June 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	Fr. Graham William's (RIP) People of the Parish 35th Wedding Anniversary Marie and Chris OLeary and Bill Gaffney (RIP)

First Reading: Peter's Narrow Escape

Acts 12:1-11

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly. On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. "Get up!" he said "Hurry!" - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, "Put on your belt and sandals." After he had done this, the angel next said, "Wrap your cloak round you and follow me." Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. "Now I know it is all true," he said. "The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me."

Response to the Psalm: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

Second Reading: Paul in the Evening of his Life

2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!

The Gospel: Peter the Rock (Matthew 16:13-19)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But you," he said, "who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."

Fr Martin Morris	0191 649 8257	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Peter Lavery	0730 505 9297
Fr Luke Wilkinson	0191 649 8257	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 1st July 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 1st July St Oliver Plunkett	St Bede	10am	Priest Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Margaret Hodgson RIP
Tuesday 2nd July	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Catherine Naughton
	St Joseph	7pm	Deceased members of the Men's Choir
Wednesday 3rd July St Thomas	St Bede	10am	Charley Hurley (RIP)
	St John Boste	7pm	Maldwyn & Eleanor Roberts RIP
Thursday 4th July St Elizabeth of Portugal	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Stephenson Family
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Terry Cantwell RIP
Friday 5th July St Anthony Mary Zaccaria	St John Boste	10am	Priest Intention
	St Joseph	10am	Special Intention (MK)
Saturday 6th July St Maria Goretti	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Margaret Hodgson RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Michael Johnson RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Colin Heslop (RIP anniversary)
Sunday 7th July	St John Boste	9:30am	Lesley Thompson RIP
14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Richard (Richie)Gordon RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

Saints Peter and Paul

Why do saints Peter and Paul share a feast day when many other apostles have a day to themselves?

One tradition suggests that they were both martyred on the same day. This is not likely, but they were both martyred in Rome during the persecution by Nero. Saint Augustine of Hippo suggests a more likely reason for the joint feast.

Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labours, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith. (Saint Augustine of Hippo)

Peter

After Jesus' death Peter, who had three times denied his Master after his arrest, became the point of **reference** for the other apostles, and for all the disciples. He will be the one to initiate the **preaching of the Good News**, after the descent of the Holy Spirit on all of them at Pentecost. He will be the one to assume in his own hands all the duties of the **Vicar of Christ on Earth**.

Speaking of how Peter denied Jesus we cannot fail to dwell on his **weakness**, on the **flaws** that make him a human being among human beings. It is incredible to think that this man whom Jesus called of little faith, when he did not believe he could walk on water to reach him (Matthew 14:22-36), will become the very **foundation of the Christian Faith** and the stable and cohesive rock on which the Church will be founded!

Paul

Paul was called Saul of Tarsus before he converted. **He never knew Jesus**, but is remembered as **His first missionary**, the supreme preacher of His Word to Hebrews, Greeks and Romans, the so-called 'gentiles', in fact, understood as pagans, not Christians. It was thanks to him and to Saint Peter that the Gospel message spread throughout the Mediterranean. His exceptional writings make him the **first theologian** in the history of **Christianity**. He was a Hellenized Jew, an aristocrat, a Roman citizen. A fierce supporter of Jewish traditions, he dedicated the first part of his life to **persecuting Christians**, whom he saw as a dangerous sect to eradicate by any means.

It was while he was carrying out his duty as an exterminator of Christians that he knew his destiny. In the **Acts of the Apostles** (Acts 9:1-9) we read how, on his way **to Damascus** to pursue a group of Christians who had fled from Jerusalem, Saul was struck by a dazzling light that made him blind. In the glow he heard a voice that said: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). After that miraculous event, the man wandered for three days, arriving in Damascus, where he was welcomed and cared for by **Ananias**, head of the Christians of the city.

(The above summary is from [Saint Peter and Paul, why are they celebrated together? - Holyart.com Blog](#), use this link to find out more)

Peter and Paul were flawed, very human men, but through their encounters with Jesus and blessings from the Holy Spirit they formed the bedrock of the Christian faith and its spread across the Roman empire. We should take heart from their example, that despite our weaknesses the Holy Spirit can work through us to spread the Good News in our world today.

Tony Joy

Masses are live-streamed daily at 10am everyday, except Monday when Mass is live-streamed at 7pm

Please click the link <https://www.churchservices.tv/penshaw> to view from one of our Churches.

In addition, we live-stream Mass from St Joseph's, Birtley on: Tuesday at 7pm; Thursday at 12 Noon; Saturday at 5pm.

To access live streaming from St Joseph's Birtley, please click the link <https://www.churchservices.tv/birtley>.

What's On in the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

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

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass

St Joseph - Thursday after noon Mass

St John Boste - Friday morning, after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning, after Mass.

St Bede's - Saturday after Vigil Mass.

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

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

NEW SONG!

Join us for our next family-friendly New Song prayer event at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church on Sunday 14 July at 4pm. We'll give praise to our loving God, be inspired by praying and reflecting on God's Word and build friendship and community with others.

We look forward to welcoming back Fr Mark Millward to talk to us about God's love. All are welcome - see you there!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS.

When: 14 July and 11 August @ 4pm.

Email: newsongne@gmail.com **Instagram:** [@newsongne](https://www.instagram.com/newsongne)

Deacon Frank O'Neill

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

Marriage

Congratulations to Marie & Chris O' Leary who celebrate thirty Five years of Marriage this Weekend. Let us also pray for all couples preparing for Marriage in the coming Month's; " Riccardo Michelle Dunnigan & Francesca Marie Valente, Adam Michael Gilmartin & Alexandra Cox. & Gabriella Di Giorgio & Kevin Felix Ange Tita." May the Lord's Blessing be upon them all.

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR)

"The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency(CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative's names are displayed on church notice boards, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk "

St Bede's Church - If you know someone who can no longer get to Holy Mass because they are sick or housebound, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Marian Fletcher Tel: 01914174413. We also would like to encourage those from **all our churches** that are no longer able to attend mass to have a **Special Minister** call with **Holy Communion**, Please ask or get in touch with any of our Priests or Deacons.

ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS. Bishop Stephen , Writes, We continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. I am very grateful to the many parishes who set aside a dedicated time of prayer for these intentions. We may all wish to consider a regular publicised time of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament praying that the Lord will send labourers into his harvest. We now have **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** at Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2-3pm. Each Wednesday morning at St. Bede's 9.15am - 9.50am. & St. Joseph's (starting 4th July until November) each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm. I do encourage as many of you as possible to spend some time in quiet prayer with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration in response to Bishop Stephen's appeal. Thank you, Fr. Martin Morris **Priestly Ordination**- Please pray for Deacon Joe O'Brien who will be ordained to the Priesthood in St. Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 20th July.

Congratulations - to all our Children making their First Holy Communion during June. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

"But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?'" Is Jesus asking you that question? What will you answer? Jesus might be inviting you to discern a vocation to the priesthood in the Church built on the foundations of the Apostles. **Come and See!** We invite men aged 18+ who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. The next Discernment Evening is on **Tuesday 9th July at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL between 6.00pm - 8.00pm** There will be a time of Prayer, talk/discussion, followed by a meal together If you would like to attend, or for more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

Directors and Governors Mass of Thanksgiving - Directors and Governors are invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving for their dedication and service to Catholic Education, celebrated by the Rt Rev'd Bishop Stephen Wright to be held at the Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle on Thursday 11 July 2024 at 6.00pm. RSVP by [clicking here](#) by 5th July.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Washington

From September, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will be offering 30 hour nursery places for children who are three years old with either an eligible voucher code or paid 30 hour places. Further information and application forms can be obtained by contacting the school office. The school newsletter can be found [here](#).

What is the Lord Calling Us to Be and Do?: Engaging with the Synodal Vision for the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle

Modelling Spiritual Conversation Workshop: Wednesday 10 July, Washington

Location: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Village Lane, Washington, NE38 7HS

Time: 6.30pm - 7.45pm. Please arrive early for refreshments.

Booking link: <https://bit.ly/MSCWorkshop-Washington1>

Cost: Free.

THE 40th ST JOHN BOSTE WALK The 40th annual walk will take place on Sunday 28th July. The bus will leave at 10.45 and return at approx 6pm. The walk will start at Waterhouses and follow the route along the Deerness Valley taken by John Boste after his arrest. There will be the opportunity for a well-earned rest and a picnic lunch. Then on to Durham Cathedral for the rosary in the Galilee Chapel at 4.30pm and finally the walk to Dryburn (St Leonard's School) where St John Boste was executed in 1594. The walk is about 9 miles. If, for any reason, you are unable to join us for the walk, we would be delighted to see you for the rosary at 4.30. For a place on the mini-bus add your name to the list at the back of St John Boste Church or telephone 4168693 for further information.

Benedict Partnership—Our Partnership of Parishes is under the patronage of St. Benedict. To mark St. Benedict's Feast Day, and ask the Lord's Blessing on our two communities there will be a Mass in St. Bede's on Thursday July 11th at 7pm. Refreshments in the hall afterwards. All are welcome.

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY ISLAND – Saturday 13th July

The coach for the above has now been booked for our Parish and will be leaving from Our Lady Queen of Peace at 8.30 prompt. Please make sure you arrive in plenty of time. A reminder that if you are walking across the sands as part of the Pilgrim's walk then please ensure you bring additional clothing with you. For those not walking there will be a service held in St Aidan's Catholic Church on the island at 12.00 noon.

Mass will be celebrated in **St Mary's church at 3.00 pm by Bishop Stephen and Fr Jim O'Keefe**. The coach will be departing from Holy Island at 17.30.

There are still a few places available on the coach. If you would like to go, please contact Malcolm Bengston on 07746 973132.

Fr Jim has compiled a short booklet on his pilgrimage in the "Footsteps of St Paul" – a trip enabled by the generous donation of parishioners and friends. A small number of the booklets will be available in each church this weekend and it will also be available on the parish website. Additional copies can be made available if needed.

Other News

Youth 2000 is holding an afternoon of prayer & praise, reflection and social on Sunday 7th July from 2.00pm to 4pm at St Cuthbert's R C church Old Elvet. Open to Young people aged 16-35 (under 16s will need to request a Parent Consent form from frnickjennings@uwclub.net) Further enquiries email irishanthony12@gmail.com Don't forget to book for the Youth2000 Summer festival in Ampleforth Abbey August 23-26 <https://www.youth2000.org/events/summerfestival2024>

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2024-2025

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The 2024-2025 CCRS course programme is now available on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/professional-development-and-formation/#ccrs>. If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk.

Would you like to take part in the Great North Run for CAFOD?

If so, we'd love to invite you to take on the challenge. The Great North Run happens on Sunday, September 8th in Newcastle and is the biggest Half Marathon in the world! If you'd like a place to run for CAFOD, please follow this link here: [Great North Run](#) or email events@cafod.org.uk.

New Lectionary - A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. Visit the CBCEW [website](#) to find out more.

The Diocesan Liturgical Formation team are running a day for readers of all levels of experience to explore the new translation of the Lectionary on Saturday 12 October at St Patrick, Consett, DH8 5AX. This day will provide an opportunity to look at the background of the new Lectionary and to be ready to proclaim the Scriptures. For more information and to book, please visit: bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents. Details of other Liturgy days are also available on the Diocesan website.

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen SS Peter & Paul](#)

Catholic Social Teaching

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

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

[For Prayers for the Sick](#)

[For Prayers for the Deceased](#)

or ring 0191 4163583

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

[For St John XXIII](#) [For St Joseph's](#)

or ring 0191 4163583.

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

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

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

Websites:

[Parish of St John XXIII](#)

[Parish of St Joseph's](#)

[Diocese of Hexham and](#)

[Newcastle](#)

All the Links you will ever need!



Please [click here](#) or Scan the QR Code with your mobile phone to go to a site containing **All the Links You'll Ever Need.**

[To post a notice on this Newsletter, please click here](#)