

# 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**



## **Pentecost, 5th June 2022, Year C**

### **Pentecost Sunday**

It should be no surprise that all four readings today (including the psalm) are about the Spirit, because today is the feast of Pentecost. This is the day when the Apostles were given the understanding of the teaching of Jesus and the courage to go out and proclaim all they had learned while he was with them. Since His death they had spent much time in hiding in fear and grief, trying to comprehend what had happened and what Jesus would want them to do. Once visited by the Holy Spirit they understood all Jesus taught them and knew, with absolute certainty, what was expected of them. They proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ with total confidence, regardless of the danger and consequences.

In John's gospel today, we hear Jesus telling the disciples that Pentecost would happen, and that the Father will send them an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will 'teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.' When Jesus told them this, they did not grasp the full meaning of his words. Now today, they understood!

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear the promise of Jesus being fulfilled where the Holy Spirit descended on them in the form of tongues of fire. One of the important aspects of fire is that it can be passed on without diminishing the original flame. The Holy Spirit was fully available to all the disciples, and they welcomed it. The power of the Holy Spirit continues to be available to everyone of us as fully as it was to the disciples. We all received the fullness of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and Confirmation, but we need to open ourselves to being an instrument of the work of the Holy Spirit.

In St Paul's letter to the Romans today, we hear that, 'unless you possess the spirit of Christ you would not belong to him'. We all possess the spirit of Christ, but do we allow that spirit to give us the strength and courage to be examples of the Kingdom of God?

May I suggest a simple exercise, that I often do, to bring the Holy Spirit to mind and open yourself to be guided by the Spirit. When you make the sign of the cross and say, 'and of the Holy Spirit', touch the very tip of your left shoulder and then the very tip of your right shoulder and think of a sturdy piece of wood in between those two points. Imagine that piece of wood as the Holy Spirit within you giving you strength and courage to be a faithful and bold follower of Jesus Christ our saviour.

Deacon Tony Joy

Fr Jim O'Keefe 0191 416 3805

Fr Uchenna Odenigbo 0191 416 3583

Fr Martin Wheaton 0191 410 2923

Fr Vincent Waiga 0191 416 3583

Deacon Frank O'Neill 0779 115 5845

Deacon Peter Lavery 0730 505 9297

Deacon Tony Joy 0779 989 3419



## This Sunday's Readings...



***“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”***

The season of Easter concludes with today's celebration, the feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles gathered in the upper room in Jerusalem; this event marks the beginning of the Church. The story of Pentecost is found in the Acts of the Apostles, today's first reading.

In the context of the feast of Pentecost, this reading reminds us about the integral connection between the gifts of peace and forgiveness and the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus greets his disciples with the gift of peace. Jesus then commissions his disciples to continue the work that he has begun, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” As he breathes the Holy Spirit upon them, Jesus sends his disciples to continue his work of reconciliation through the forgiveness of sins.

In the second reading, Paul encouraged these "spiritual" behaviours as a sign of God's presence. Prophecy, utterances of wisdom, speaking in tongues, teaching, all were different gifts of the Spirit for the good of the community. Notice, Paul pointed to everyone in the community as a person with a spiritual gift. He implied the use of such gifts should be exercised, not suppressed. But, at the same time, he pointed to the reason the gifts were given: the good of others. Gifts were not to be a sign of self-glorification. No, they were for the glory of God!

The account in today's Gospel, taken from the Gospel of John, also recounts how Jesus gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples. It is enough to know that, after his death, Jesus fulfilled his promise to send to his disciples a helper, an advocate, who would enable them to be his witnesses throughout the world. This reconciling presence is also to be a way of life for Christians. In situations of conflict, we are to be agents of peace and harmony among people.

So, our prayer this week may well centre around peace and harmony – 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.

### **St Bede's Water Aid Bingo**

St Bede's water aid bingo will be starting back in the Lindisfarne Room on 13th June. Tea, biscuits and bingo. Commencing 1pm until approximately 3pm. Everyone welcome.

### **Special Collection This Week – Lay training Fund**

The Lay Training Fund (LTF) is for all areas of adult formation and education which are not normally provided as part of parish life. The suitability of an application will be assessed by the Lay Training Fund Committee which is made of the Episcopal Vicar for Faith & Mission, lay coordinator for Faith & Mission, a clergy expert in formation, a member of the Finance team and a lay representative, normally the chair of the lay Pastoral council.

Whether we work in the Diocese or in the wider world, whether we are involved in parish life in catechesis, liturgy or other ministries, we need to understand our Faith and we need to know what the Church teaches, and be able to discern our calling, so that we can live out our vocation and mission and thus witness to the faith we have, in response to the changing needs of the Church within society. The Lay Training Fund is available to support this vision.

## The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.

Do you think there was really a noise “like a powerful wind” at this first outpouring of the Holy Spirit? And do you think there really were “tongues of fire” that came and rested on everyone? Well, there most likely was! Why else would have it been recorded that way in the Scriptures?

These physical manifestations of the coming of the Holy Spirit were made present for numerous reasons. One reason was so that these first recipients of the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit would have concretely understood that something amazing was happening. By seeing and hearing these physical manifestations of the Holy Spirit they were more properly disposed to understand that God was doing something awesome. And then, upon seeing and hearing these manifestations, they were touched by the Holy Spirit, consumed, filled and set on fire. They suddenly discovered within themselves the promise Jesus made and they finally began to understand. Pentecost changed their lives!

We most likely have not seen and heard these physical manifestations of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but we should rely upon the witness of those in the Scriptures to allow ourselves to arrive at a deep and transforming faith that the Holy Spirit is real and wants to enter our lives in the same way. God wants to set our hearts on fire with His love, strength and grace so as to effectively live lives that effect change in the world. Pentecost is not only about us becoming holy, but also about us being given all we need to go forth and bring the holiness of God to all those we encounter. Pentecost enables us to be powerful instruments of the transforming grace of God. And there is no doubt that the world around us needs this grace.

As we celebrate Pentecost it would be helpful to ponder the primary effects of the Holy Spirit in a prayerful way. The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, piety, fear of the Lord, understanding, counsel, knowledge and fortitude. These Gifts are the primary effects of Pentecost for each and every one of us. Use them as an examination of your life and let God show you where you need to grow more deeply in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

*Lord, send forth Your Spirit in my life and set me on fire with the Gifts of Your Spirit. Holy Spirit, I invite You to take possession of my soul. Come Holy Spirit, come and transform my life. Holy Spirit, I trust in You.*

### Pentecost

At Pentecost, we recall the Spirit of truth being poured out on the disciples of the Lord. In Acts, we see the dramatic signs that accompanied the coming of the Spirit of truth. Some may be concerned with the outward signs of our religion: a beautiful building, dignity in our worship, order in our services. Familiar words, whether thirty or three hundred years old, are preferred.

Our faith is often kept private, never mentioned outside our faith communities. Others may hope for more freedom in religious expression, for more lively and less traditional music, for less restricted buildings.

At Pentecost, the disciples shouted about their faith. They enthused about it and expressed their feelings openly to the world. We should all have a desire for challenge and to be inspired to new ways through our religion. Whatever is our preference, we are all called today to be filled anew with the Holy Spirit.

Our challenge is to recognise the Holy Spirit in ourselves, but also in each other, then we can recognise that whatever our preference in church music, we are all singing from the same hymn-sheet.

## The Paraclete

In Jesus' final speech to his disciples after the Last Supper he is preparing them for life after the Resurrection. He several times mentions a mysterious figure called the 'Paraclete.' 'Paraclete' is Greek for 'advocate,' that is someone who is called to your side to help, to guide you through a tricky patch.

In Hebrew teaching about the Last Judgement there would be an Accuser and an Advocate on either side. In the gospel, Jesus asks the Father to send this Advocate to his followers to be his own presence when Jesus is no longer there and to guide the Church into all truth. That is the inspiring situation which Jesus speaks of: the Church and every one of her members will continue through the power of the Spirit to grow in understanding of the mysteries of God, as a people over the centuries and as individuals over the years of life.

Before the Spirit was given, even the disciples who had been with Jesus throughout his ministry failed to understand his real significance, and certainly lacked courage to proclaim it. The coming of the Paraclete was the booster-rocket which set off the Church on its course and keeps it on course.

Now it is the duty and privilege of each of the members of the Church to fulfil the prophetic office of the Church, understanding more deeply and declaring more clearly the truth about Christ in the world.

**What does the Holy Spirit teach?**

**What difference does the Spirit's presence and teaching make in our lives?**

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

## St Robert of Newminster

Robert was born in what is now the district of Craven, near Skipton in North Yorkshire, probably in the village of Gargrave. He studied at the University of Paris, where he is said to have composed a commentary - since lost - on the Psalms. He became a parish priest, returning to serve Gargrave where he was made rector. He became a Benedictine joining the monks of St Mary's Abbey in York.

A group of monks, including Robert were expelled from York and established a monastery in a valley near Skeldale, on land given them by Archbishop Thurstan in winter 1132. The first two years were difficult, and the monks struggled in extreme poverty. Initially they lived in a makeshift structure on the banks of the river. Despite the hardships, the monks were known for their holiness, austerity and dedication to the strict Benedictine way of life. Their fame brought a new novice, Hugh who relinquished all his wealth to the community who built more suitable facilities. Because of the many natural springs in the area, the monastery was called Fountains Abbey.

Robert was described as a devout, prayerful, and gentle man. He is known for being merciful in his judgment of others and a warm and considerate companion. He was zealous regarding his own vows of poverty. About 1138 he headed a group of monks sent out from Fountains to establish Newminster Abbey near the castle of Ralph de Merlay, west of Morpeth in Northumberland. Abbot Robert was said to be favoured with the gift of prophecy and miracles. During his abbacy three colonies of monks were sent to found new monasteries.

Robert ruled and directed the monks at Newminster for 21 years. The small monastery of only 17 monks was one of the first to be dissolved in 1535 by Henry VIII, and the site has been privately owned since.

On the night Robert died, Godric of Finchale is said to have seen a vision of Robert's soul, like a ball of fire, being lifted by angels on a pathway of light toward the gates of heaven. As they approached, Godric heard a voice saying, "*Enter now my friends.*"

Robert is often depicted in church art as an abbot holding a church.

## The Cross, the Eucharist and the Blessed Mother

On March 3, 2018, Pope Francis announced that a new memorial would be celebrated on the Monday after Pentecost Sunday, entitled "The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church." Henceforth, this memorial is added to the Calendar and is to be universally celebrated throughout the Church.

In instituting this memorial, Cardinal Robert Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, said:

This celebration will help us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the Mother of the Redeemer and Mother of the Redeemed, the Virgin who makes her offering to God.

"Anchored" to the *Cross*, the *Eucharist*, and the *Blessed Virgin Mary* who is both "Mother of the Redeemer" and "Mother of the Redeemed." What beautiful insights and inspiring words from this holy Cardinal of the Church.

The Gospel chosen for this memorial presents to us the holy image of the Blessed Mother standing before the Cross of her Son. While standing there, she heard Jesus say the words, "I thirst." He was given some wine on a sponge and then declared, "It is finished." Jesus' Blessed Mother, the Mother of the Redeemer, stood as a witness as the Cross of her Son became the source of the redemption of the World. As He took that last drink of wine, He completed the institution of the New and Eternal Passover Meal, the Holy Eucharist.

Additionally, just prior to Jesus expiring, Jesus declared to His mother that she would now be the "Mother of the Redeemed," that is, the mother of each member of the Church. This gift of Jesus' mother to the Church was symbolized by Him saying, "Behold, your son...Behold, your mother." As we celebrate this new and beautiful universal memorial within the Church, ponder your relationship to the Cross, to the Eucharist and to your heavenly mother. If you are willing to stand by the Cross, gaze at it with our Blessed Mother, and witness Jesus pour forth His precious blood for the salvation of the world, then you are also privileged to hear Him say to you, "Behold, your mother." Stay close to your heavenly mother. Seek her maternal care and protection and allow her prayers to daily draw you closer to her Son.

## 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](mailto:sj23mf@gmail.com) Alternatively, express your interest to one of our priests. Thanks.



# THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI EUCCHARISTIC FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022  
USHAW COLLEGE, DURHAM, DH7 7DW  
3PM-4.30PM



*‘Our Eucharistic Festival is a special opportunity to demonstrate publicly our love and devotion for the Eucharist’*

Rt Rev Robert Byrne  
Bishop of Hexham & Newcastle

On the Solemnity of Corpus Christi (19th June) we will have the opportunity to celebrate our Eucharistic faith publicly in a Blessed Sacrament procession. Bishop Robert hopes this will be the highlight of the Eucharistic Year with many clergy and faithful taking part. The Festival programme includes a blessing of the newly restored Pugin Altar by Bishop Robert, a Eucharistic procession around the grounds of Ushaw (weather permitting) and benediction.

We ask the main organiser to book on behalf of the people attending in their group, parish or partnership using this link: <https://bit.ly/3FCZ6TF> or visiting [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk).

There are limited places available at this event. We recommend booking early to avoid disappointment. A confirmation email will be sent when your booking is confirmed.

Ushaw has limited parking available. Groups are invited to travel by coach or car share, where appropriate. Please advise at time of booking and check confirmation of booking before arranging transport. Accessible parking is available at the venue.

Refreshments will be available in the refectory after the event. Guests are welcome to bring a picnic and use the grounds. Please expect a short delay while people are being served in the refectory.

Photographs will be taken at this event for use in Diocesan promotional materials.

Anyone showing Covid symptoms within 10 days of the festival is advised not to attend the event.

## 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**

### *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](#).

## 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](#).



**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**



### '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'.

## Streaming Services

Streaming of our daily and Sunday Masses commenced during the Covid crisis when it was not possible for everybody to attend Mass and other services physically. Now that we are through the major part of the crisis, although Covid is still in our communities and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future, the Bishops of England and Wales have stated:

*“A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”*

A great strength of our community is the ability to attend Mass in person and join with others in worship and communion. We are trying very hard to make sure our Churches are as safe as possible and to enhance the experience for everyone. We have recently reintroduced many aspects of our celebrations that had to be put on hold during the Covid crisis. We now invite you all to come to Church and celebrate Mass with us together. When someone who can join us to celebrate together decides not to, then our celebration is missing someone. You're missed. Our community is more present, our witness is more clear when you can join us. Celebrating Mass really is about being together – when we can be.

We also recognise that, for various reasons such as illness, being away from home, concern about the spread of Covid and self isolation, some people are unable to attend Mass. For that reason we will continue our streaming services as follows:

**MASSES ARE LIVE-STREAMED DAILY AT 10AM EVERYDAY**

**EXCEPT MONDAY WHEN MASS IS LIVE-STREAMED AT 7PM**

**IN ADDITION, WE LIVE-STREAM MASSES FROM ST JOSEPH'S BIRTLEY ON:**

**TUESDAY AT 6.45PM; THURSDAY AT 12 MIDDAY; SATURDAY AT 5PM**

Please [click here to access live streaming of Mass](#) from one of our Churches.

To access live streaming from St Joseph's Birtley, please [click here](#).

Note that live streaming may not start until shortly before the publicized Mass time. The streamed Mass is available to view on a PC, laptop, iPad, iPhone, Android Tablet or Mobile.

When the streamed Mass has ended why not scroll down to the “Watch Videos” part of The Church Services page and select “Featured Videos”? Here you will find various current videos. In the “Watch Videos” area you will also be able to view any recorded services like funerals, baptisms, etc.

### READINGS AVAILABLE

To enhance your experience, this Sunday's readings are available to follow during Mass, or to read at a later time.

[Just click here](#)

## Mass times for the fortnight beginning Saturday 4th June 2022

Day	Church	Time	Intention
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 <b>Pentecost Sunday</b>	St John Boste	9.30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Children of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Margaret Mary Wanless, Owen & Mary Fagan
Monday 6th June Mary, Mother of the Church	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Sick of the Parish
Tuesday 7th June St Robert of Newminster	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Children/Youth of the Parish
	St Joseph's	7pm	Deceased members of the Men's Choir
Wednesday 8th June	St Bede's	10am	John Fletcher and deceased Family
	St John Boste	7pm	Sick of the Parish
Thursday 9th June <b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High King</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Sick of the Parish
	St Joseph's	12 noon	Frank McEnaney
Friday 10th June	St John Boste	10am	Sick of the Parish
	St Joseph's	10am	Holy Souls
Saturday 11th June St Barnabas	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Michael & Lucy Frain Silver Wedding
	St Joseph's	5pm	DMs of the Baggott, Walker & Jones families
	St Bede's	5pm	Moira and Vincent Lamb (deceased)
Sunday 12th June <b>The Most Holy Trinity</b>	St John Boste	9.30am	Special Intention (PI)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Eileen Smare RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Mary & Bill O'Hara
Monday 13th June St Anthony of Padua	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Holy Souls
Tuesday 14th June	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Roy Smith RIP
	St Joseph's	7pm	Harriet Rowntree
Wednesday 15th June	St Bede's	10am	Elizabeth & Joseph Stephenson (Anniversary) & deceased Stephenson and Monaghan Families
	St John Boste	7pm	Children/Youth of the Parish
Thursday 16th June St Richard of Chichester	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Deceased members of the Cosgrove and Docherty Families
	St Joseph's	12 noon	First Holy Communion children
Friday 17th June	St John Boste	10am	People of the Parish
	St Joseph's	10am	Harriet & John Hogan
Saturday 18th June St Barnabas	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	The Sick of the Parish
	St Joseph's	5pm	People of the Parish
	St Bede's	5pm	Kieran Cushlow (birthday of deceased)
Sunday 19th June <b>The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord</b>	St John Boste	9.30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Dennis Wilson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Margaret, Dennis & Karen Whalen

## 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 Feast of Pentecost – the link is [here](#)



## Our Lady Queen of Peace

On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we are having a special coffee morning after 10.00 a.m. Mass. Perhaps you would like to wear your 'Posh Hat' or a tiara just like our lovely Queen Elizabeth II. Everyone is welcome.

## 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.

## 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



**A TASTE OF  
FOREST CHURCH**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am – 1.00pm**

**St Mary's Parish Church,  
Shincliffe, Durham DH1 2ND**

**A morning of activities to give an  
experience of the Forest Church  
movement, to be led by practitioners  
Julie Goodhart (Shincliffe Wild Church)  
Jean Andrews (Wychwood Forest Church)**

**Cost: £6**  
**Bring a packed lunch: Drinks will be provided**

For more information contact Joanne Thorns:  
regionallofficer@necat.org.uk



**NORTH EAST CHURCHES  
ACTING TOGETHER**

## MONTHLY PRAYER VIGIL AT DERWENTSIDE IRC

A monthly interfaith prayer vigil has been held outside the barrier to the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre since August. During the last few weeks, women have been moved into the Centre which is now England's main IRC for women and will eventually detain 80 women who are seeking asylum. The prayer vigils will continue - both to pray for the women and to stand in solidarity with them. As a faith community, we are called to witness to justice and compassion. Please participate in the prayer vigil if you can.

**The next vigil is planned for Sunday 5th June.** The vigil begins at 3.00pm and the short prayer service incorporates a time of silence. The postcode for the centre on Corbridge Road, Medomsley is DH8 6QY. To avoid disruption to local residents, park away from the site if you can. If you are unable to join in person, please join in prayer from home at 3.00pm. For more information, contact Liz Archibald at [lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com)

## 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.

### 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.

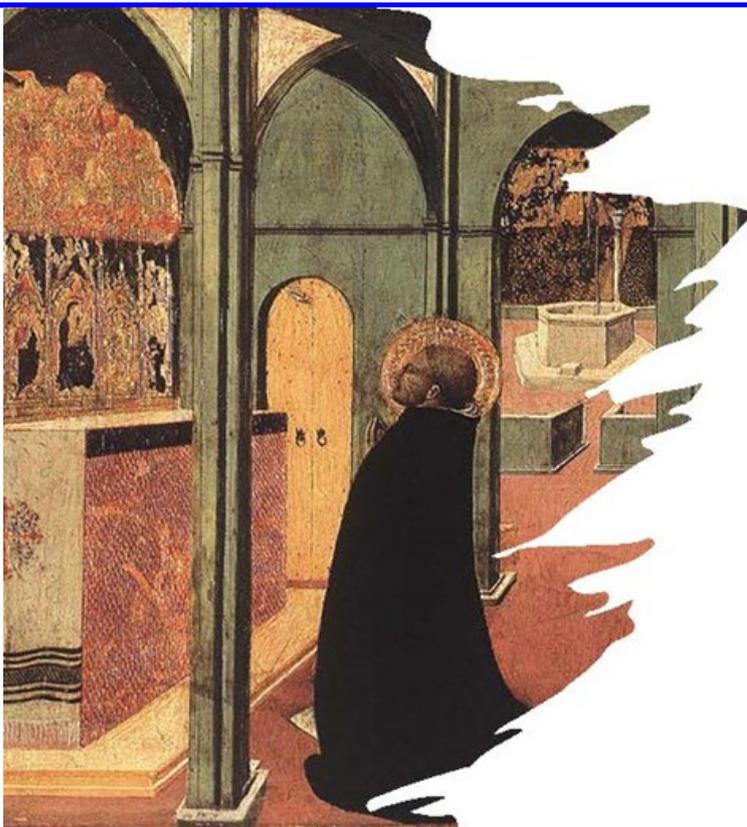
The second Year of the Eucharist [reflection booklet](#) 'Encountering the Son' is available to download and read. The booklet contains reflections written by voices from across the Diocese and invite us to reflect on our relationship with the Son.

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.

### Pray for Peace

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

Taking place on Saturday 25 June 2022 at 2.30pm. Being held at St Mary's Chapel, Reid Park Road, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne. The event is free to attendees.



Lay Dominicans North East invite you to

A DAY OF STUDY, PRAYER and REFLECTION

on the theme of

THOMAS AQUINAS, THE EUCHARIST AND SALVATION

Main Speaker: Dr Rik van Nieuwenhove,  
Associate Professor of Medieval History at  
Durham University

at St Cuthbert's Catholic Church, Durham, DH1 3HL  
on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June from 10:45am to 3:30pm

including talks, Mass, Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and a  
buffet lunch

There is no charge for the day but please help us to manage numbers  
by booking ahead.

Contact Andy Doyle on 0798 543 4185 or [andydoyle1066@sky.com](mailto:andydoyle1066@sky.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

## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We offer our sincere congratulations to Her Majesty, The Queen of the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

There will be many events and activities celebrating the Jubilee during the holiday weekend from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. To find out more please [click here](#).

## 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



The image shows two staves of musical notation for the chant 'Domine, salvum fac'. The first staff begins with a large 'D' and contains the lyrics: 'omine, sál-vam fac \* réginam nóstram E- lí-sa-beth: et ex-áudi nos'. The second staff continues with the lyrics: 'in dí-e, qua invócavé-rimus te.' The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature (C).

(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

## 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](#).

## Young Adult Prayer Group

Young Adults (including uni students) from across the area are invited for a time of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with some music and reflection.

Held every Monday in term time from 7.00pm to 8.00pm at St. Andrew's Church, Worswick Street, Newcastle, followed by social time in a local pub.

Drop in for a few minutes even if you cannot stay for the whole hour!

## 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.'*

you are invited to  
**QUEEN'S JUBILEE PICNIC**

at

**ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY, CHURCH GROUNDS**

on

**SUNDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> 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



Table  
Music

Games

Craft



## 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](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## ST JOSEPH'S, BIRTLEY YOUNG MOTHERS GUILD 50 Years Golden Anniversary June 1972 - June 2022

Were you ever in our Young Mothers Guild at St Joseph's?

If so, come along and help us celebrate 50 years of friendship and fellow support, when we will remember all past and present members.

A good opportunity to catch up with friends old and new!

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022  
Open Air Mass at 12 noon  
followed by a picnic in the church grounds  
(weather permitting, otherwise indoors)

Bring your own picnic & refreshments  
Please spread the word - everyone welcome!

## 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](#).

## Northern Cross Now Available in Church

The Northern Cross is now available at the back of church. If you would like to take a copy and pay in the normal way we will get some idea of the numbers required for each church for future editions.



## 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.

### 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](mailto:sj23social@gmail.com)

If anyone would like to support the development of the new sites please contact Lisa  
@ [sj23social@gmail.com](mailto: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](#)



### 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



## 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 we ask everyone to walk with us and adhere to the new arrangements.



### 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 from our congregation, our community and visitors.**

**Thank you for your help. It is appreciated.**

## 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.

**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](#)