

# 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](mailto:sj23office01@gmail.com)



## In the Partnership of Benedict

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

### THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, 11TH - 12TH MAY 2024, Year B

Saturday 11th May <b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	<b>Fr Mark Welehan RIP</b> <b>Holy Souls</b>
Sunday 12th May <b>7th Sunday of Easter</b>	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	<b>Deceased Members of the Coulson Family</b> <b>Greg Moorhouse RIP</b> <b>People of the Parish</b>

#### First Reading: The Twelve Tribes of the New Israel, Acts of the Apostles 1:15-17. 20-26

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: ‘Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours. ‘In the book of Psalms it says: Let someone else take his office. ‘We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling around with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.’ Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, ‘Lord, you can read everyone’s heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.’ They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.

#### Response to the Psalm: The Lord has set His sway in heaven.

#### Second Reading: God lives and loves in us, 1 John 4:11-16

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. We ourselves have known and put our faith in God’s love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.

#### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy. Alleluia!

#### The Gospel: John 17:11-19 Sharing Christ’s joy to the full

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: ‘Holy Father, Keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us. While I was with them, I kept those you have given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures. But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full. I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.’

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 13th May 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 13th May <b>Our Lady of Fatima</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Margaret Hodgson RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>Priest's Intention</b>
Tuesday 14th May <b>St Matthias</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>St Padre Pio de Pietrelcina</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Deceased members of Quigley &amp; Hall families</b>
Wednesday 15th May	St Bede	10am	<b>Frank &amp; Kathleen Cummersdale (deceased anniversary)</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Michael Quinn RIP</b>
Thursday 16th May	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Richard (Richie) Gordon RIP</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Dennis Duffy RIP</b>
Friday 17th May	St John Boste		<b>No morning Mass today</b>
	St Joseph	10am	<b>Margaret Barr</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Saturday 18th May <b>St John I</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Dave Ranaghan 2nd Anniversary</b>
	St Joseph	5pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Fr Phil Carroll (RIP)</b>
Sunday 19th May <b>Pentecost</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Eileen Sproul</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Gerard McCabe</b>

### Newsletter reflection for Seventh Sunday of Easter

From the age of 11 until my early 20s, I was training for the priesthood with the Xaverian Missionary Fathers. I attended their junior seminary at Coatbridge in Lanarkshire and eventually went on to complete my novitiate year in Italy and then moved to London to study Philosophy and Theology. During that time I met and fell head over heels in love with Chris and realised God had a different plan for me - we'll be 39 years married this year!

Although I did go on to finish my degree courses, there was a year after I left the Xaverians when I got a job working at the BBC in Shepherd's Bush while I tried to figure out where God was calling me next. That year changed my whole perspective on my faith.

I went from being fully immersed in a deeply religious Catholic environment, to working in a completely secular context. It was as if you could have taken a cross-section of society and put them all in the same office - and the surprising thing was that I found signs of God's presence there. I was nervous to talk about my religious background but they just accepted me and were curious about it. They were something of a motley crew: some dabbled in recreational drugs, some liked a drink (I might have been in that group!), some were in and out of relationships, some were married, some were gay, one or two had a loose religious affiliation, and so on.

But underlying all of the above was a genuine care for others. If anyone was going through a hard time we would rally round. If anyone was short of cash we would all chip in. My friend Rick's mum died and we all went to support him at the funeral. Through all these small gestures and attitudes I started to recognise gospel values and so I found God's grace in that secular place. When I read the gospel stories, I started to notice that Jesus was always spending time with the wrong kind of people - he seemed to be drawn to the misfits and the outcasts and seemed to get nothing but hassle from the religious authorities.

Since that year at the BBC, I always look for signs of God's presence in unexpected places. Today's second reading from St John says: *'God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in them'*. So, let's look for the love; let's look for the signs of care and compassion; let's be slow to condemn and quick to affirm; let's look for potential in people rather than point out their mistakes. Let's try to be more like Jesus!

**Frank O'Neill**

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

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

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

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

## What's On in the Parish

### Special Collection – This Week - World Communications

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

**Special Collection – Next Week - Lay Training Fund:** Bishop Kevin Dunn asked for this fund to be established to help lay men and women explore what it means to be a Catholic in the world – as local councillors, folk involved in local politics, influencing decisions made that make a difference in our local communities. It is about being really active in the local Community as Catholics – given that Jesus invited his followers to make a difference where they lived. To find out more, please contact Amy Cameron of the Faith and Mission Vicariate.

### Novena to the Holy Spirit

On the Solemnity of the Ascension the Church begins her most ancient novena, the nine days of prayer in advance of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, at all masses during the Novena the priests will lead the novena prayers after Holy Communion.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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

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

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass  
St John Boste - Friday morning, after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning, after Mass.  
St Bede's – Saturday after Vigil Mass.

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

**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.

### St Bede's Toddler Group

Several of our children have moved on to nursery school since Easter so we have places available for new members. If you would like to book a place, please contact Joan Formosa. Mobile number:07504579591.

### NEW SONG!

Our monthly prayer event here at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church is happening this Sunday 12 May at 4pm. We invite you to join us to praise and worship our loving God, to be inspired by praying and reflecting on God's Word and to build friendship and community with others on our shared faith journey. We are happy to welcome Tony and Mel Lawless who will be speaking on the theme of Faith. All are welcome! **Where:** Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS. **When:** 12 May / 9 June / @ 4pm.

Email: [newsongne@gmail.com](mailto:newsongne@gmail.com) Instagram: @newsongne

### May Devotions.

Eucharistic Exposition, Rosary & Benediction this Sunday afternoon at Our Lady Queen of Peace, beginning at 4pm - 5.30pm. All welcome.

### Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The Novena will take place each Thursday evening 7pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, beginning 2nd May - 27th June. A petition box will be at the back of Church each week. Personal petitions may be placed in the box, and at the end of the Novena will be taken to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. After the Resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the descent of the Holy Spirit. A Novena echoes this prayer of waiting and is a traditional way of coming together to pray. Together with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we too pray to God, in thanksgiving, in petition and in praise. It is good to pray, it is important to pray, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, "...with one heart all the apostles joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus." All welcome to make the Novena. *Fr. Martin Morris.*

### Parish Visitation of Bishop Stephen Wright.

Next Weekend we welcome Bishop Stephen to our Parish. We are delighted Bishop Stephen will be with for the great Feast of Pentecost. I would like to invite all parishioners to the Friday evening Mass at St. John Boste, 17 May at 7pm, and afterwards to refreshments in the hall. Bishop Stephen will celebrate the Vigil Mass at St. Joseph's on Saturday at 5pm, and the Sunday morning Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace at 10am. Whilst time doesn't allow the Bishop to visit every Church, all parishioners are welcome to any of the above Masses with Bishop Stephen.

**Pilgrimage to Holy Island** - CAFOD in Partnership with the Archbishop Romero Trust invite you to join the pilgrimage on Saturday 13 July. Buses will be leaving from one of our churches, there will be no charge for the buses but a donation would be appreciated. A list is provided at the back of church to add your name and contact details. Please note that places are limited. This list will remain open until this Sunday.

### St John XXIII Parish Vacancy (Unpaid).

Each week we produce a list of prayer requests for the Sick and Recently Deceased. We also send out the Parish newsletter to 540 people by email. We need someone to cover these tasks by the end of May at the latest. You will need a computer and Internet connection. If you can help contact Mark Harris at: [sj23it@gmail.com](mailto:sj23it@gmail.com).

### Helpers for gardening at our churches

Could we ask if anyone has a few hours free per week to help with light gardening at OBLI and OLQP churches. We have grass cut regularly but need help with the borders. Please contact Audrey 01914163583 if you can help.

### Vacancy for a Cleaner

We have an opportunity for someone with general cleaning experience and the ability to work on their own initiative to join us as a Cleaner. The role is for 12 hours pw, at a salary of £12.00 ph. You will provide cleaning services in the presbyteries and parish halls of St John XXIII, Washington and St Joseph, Birtley, including changing beds, laundry and ironing as required, and adhere to COSHH and health and safety regulations.

For full details of the role and how to apply please see our vacancy on the Diocese website <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>. The deadline for applications is 22 May 2024.

## Other News

**“Pope Francis has declared a Holy Year of Jubilee for 2025, when the Holy door in Rome will be opened**

In preparation the Pope asks for 2024 to be a year of prayer . Please visit the Diocesan Year of Prayer [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

**“As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.”** We are all have a mission in life to bring God into the lives of others. Might God be inviting you to consider fulfilling that mission as a priest in the diocese of Hexham and Newcastle? For more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

### The Joy of the Gospel

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

### Deliver Us From Evil

A set of useful prayers and supplications, humble requests for the Lord’s help, that can be used by Catholics in times of fear, distress and temptation. The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) has published a new booklet by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales offering a treasury of prayers drawn from Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition that can be used by Catholics to protect themselves from the powers of darkness. Discover the new booklet [here](#).

### Justice and Peace newsletter

Our most recent newsletter can be [read here](#). It includes details of this year’s annual National Justice and Peace conference at the Hayes Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. The topic “*Just Politics*” is particularly relevant this year with a general election looming. Please [click here](#), if you want more information. Several people from the Diocese are intending to be there and there are possibilities for car sharing to make travelling there easier and more affordable.

### Marriage Preparation Days

Saturday 18 May: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth NE61 1QF. Engaged couples can find **more information** [by clicking here](#). To find and **book a course**, [please click here](#).

### Significance Festival Weekend

All are welcome to the Emmaus Village for the Significance Festival on **Saturday 29 June** from 10am. The day will offer a fayre of stalls and activities, sessions for children and young people, guest speakers and live music. Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen Wright will take place at 3.15pm, followed by a Barbecue and Ceilidh in the evening. Entry is free with charges for accommodation and camping (self-catered) on Friday and Saturday nights. BBQ tickets will cost £10. All proceeds and any donations will support Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. Please support this vital work. To book email Nicole at [nsalkeld@ymt.org](mailto:nsalkeld@ymt.org) or Tel. 01207 592244.

### Help pray the Rosary in May with Bishop Barron

Last year, to celebrate the Virgin Mary during May, people were asked to help pray 10,000 Rosaries throughout the month for the intention that those who have left the Church might return. People logged the Rosaries onto a website so that the locations would appear on a map, and, within 48 hours, the goal had been exceeded. By the end of the month, more than 64,000 Rosaries were prayed all over the world! Once again you are asked to join in praying at least 50,000 Rosaries for the conversion of the lost sheep among us—and hopefully we could reach 100,000 this time! [Click here](#) to log your Rosary on our website so we can track how many Rosaries have been prayed.

### Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility and is a priority in every parish and diocesan organisation. We adopt and implement fully the policies and procedures of the Catholic Church of England and Wales. To discuss any safeguarding concerns please contact a safeguarding officer in any of our churches – their details are on the noticeboard in the porch. Details of our Diocesan policy can be found by clicking [here](#).

## Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 7th Sunday of Easter](#)

### Catholic Social Teaching

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

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

[For Prayers for the Sick](#)

[For Prayers for the Deceased](#)

or ring 0191 4163583

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

[For St John XXIII](#)

[For St Joseph’s](#)

or ring 0191 4163583.

### Sick and Recently Deceased -

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

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

**For the latest information, please go to any of the following Websites:**

[Parish of St John XXIII](#)

[Parish of St Joseph’s](#)

[Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle](#)

**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.**

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