

# 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 SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER, 4TH - 5TH MAY 2024, Year B

Saturday 4th May Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	<b>Frank McEnaney RIP</b> <b>Monaghan Family</b>
Sunday 5th May 6th Sunday of Easter	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	<b>Ron &amp; Cath Joy RIP</b> <b>People of the Parish</b> <b>Emma &amp; Eleutorio</b>

#### First Reading: The Conversion of Cornelius

**Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48**

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. "Stand up," he said. "I am only a man after all!" Then Peter addressed them: "The truth I have now come to realise," he said, "is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him." While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, "Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?" He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

**Response to the Psalm: The Lord has shown His salvation to the nations.**

#### Second Reading: Christian Love

**1 John 4:7-10**

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus said; "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him". Alleluia!**

#### The Gospel: (John 15:9-17): Loving like God

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants anymore, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me; no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another."

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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 6th May 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 6th May	St Bede	10am	<b>Joan Mason (Deceased Anniversary)</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>Repose of the Soul of Mary Maw RIP</b>
Tuesday 7th May	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>For all Souls</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>William Quigley RIP</b>
Wednesday 8th May	St Bede	10am	<b>Fr Patrick Kennedy (Lately Dead)</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Jaqueline Tita (Lately Dead)</b>
Thursday 9th May <b>The Ascension of the Lord</b>	St Bede	9am	<b>Ella Anderson</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Fr John McElhone (Lately Dead)</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Ellen Duffy</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Special Intention (IMcL)</b>
Friday 10th May <b>St John de Avila</b>	St John Boste	10am	<b>For the sick and the housebound</b>
	St Joseph	10am	<b>Pat McArdle RIP</b>
Saturday 11th May <b>Vigil</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Pat Green RIP</b>
	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Fr Mark Whelehan RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Holy Souls</b>
Sunday 12th May <b>7th Sunday of Easter</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Deceased Members of the Coulson Family</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Greg Moorhouse RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>People of the Parish</b>

### May is the Month of Mary

**May is a beautiful month.** It's the time of year when everything begins to blossom and grow in the garden. A time when we can rejoice in the wonder of creation and the natural world around us. The month of May has been traditionally dedicated to Our Lady from the early days of Christianity to reflect on her who is the 'New Creation, The New Eve, Paradise restored', as one Saint referred to Mary. In this month we honour and seek the Intercession of her who is the Mother of God, and Mother of the Church. Pope Francis reflects for the month of May, "*She is the woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the Saint among Saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks forever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen, and she takes us into her Motherly arms without judging us, for she is the Mother of Mercy.*" (g e e: 176.) One of my favourite titles for Our Lady is the term 'Mystical Rose.' During the month of May people often bring flowers and place them near an image of Our Lady. I think the Rose is the most beautiful of all flowers, the symbol of beauty, and the beauty is the symbol of Our Lady. She is the heavenly Rose planted in the garden of the Lord. St. Bernadette said, "Once you've seen her you just want to die to see her again." Mary is called 'Mystical Rose' because she is the reflection of heavenly beauty, a sign and hope of the glory we will all share in heaven. During this month of May, let us go close to OUR LADY, THAT WE MIGHT FEEL IN OUR HEARTS THE LOVE SHE HAS FOR EACH OF US. And as a Rose opens up to the rays of the Sun, let us open our hearts to the warmth and the love of Jesus. Our Lady Mystical Rose ... pray for us.

Fr. Martin Morris

**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 – Next 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.

**Solemnity of the Ascension - May 9<sup>th</sup> marks the Solemnity of the Ascension, a Holy Day of Obligation, please see the Mass table for additional masses that day.**

**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.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** - 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 9.15-9.50am. 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 on Sunday 12 May at 4.00 pm. 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 / @ 4.00 pm. **Email:** [newsongne@gmail.com](mailto:newsongne@gmail.com) **Instagram:** @newsongne

**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.*

**Bishop Stephen's Parish Visit.** As Bishop Stephen mentioned in last week's pastoral letter he is gradually moving around the Diocese visiting as many parishes as possible. The Bishop will visit our two parishes the weekend of 17th - 19th May, Pentecost weekend. I would like to invite all parishioners to the evening Mass at St. John Boste, with Bishop Stephen on Friday 17th May 7pm, followed by a reception in the hall afterwards. Bishop Stephen will also Celebrate the 5pm Mass at St. Joseph's on Saturday 18th May, and at Our Lady Queen of Peace on Sunday 19th May 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 13th 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 for church to add your name and contact details. Please note that places are limited. This list will remain open until Sunday 12th May.

**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.

**Thank you to all those who supported the CAFOD Dinner** on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and for all who gave donations of wonderful prizes. Total Raised a Magnificent **£1523**

### Other News

**Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw** - On Sunday 5th May at 4pm, Sung Vespers is happening in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw. Please note that this is not a concert performance, but an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church for the Sixth Sunday of Easter. As the format of this service may be new to some people, some reflections on praying Vespers will be offered as a group. All are welcome to join us for the service. No ticket is required.

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

**We Dare to Say: A resource for faith-sharing groups on the Lord's Prayer** - We Dare To Say is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The connection of the Our Father with the sacraments and the devotional life is explored, and wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. '*This single short prayer of Christ has everything that needs to be said about God, his kingdom, his life, about all of us*' - *Fr Alexander Schmemmann.* You can access the 'We Dare to Say' resource by [clicking here](#).

**Mass for Pentecost** - The CDSC will be hosting a Mass for Pentecost at St Mary's Cathedral Church at 1.00pm on Saturday 11 May 2024. Pope Francis, in his recent address, also emphasised that CHARIS' role is to point all communities of the Charismatic Renewal, which he called a "current of grace" to "communion, on the path ahead." The annual Mass for Pentecost is proving to be a blessed opportunity for sisters and brothers in Renewal to come together in communion on the path ahead for us in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. All welcome.

**"You did not choose me: no, I chose you"** God has a purpose for each one of us. Might God be calling you to priesthood? Why not explore what the Lord is asking of you? **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 7<sup>th</sup> May 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](#)

**Staycation at the Emmaus Village:** If you are looking for a staycation in the Derwent Valley, whilst supporting the work that YMT do for the young people of the Diocese, the Emmaus Village is the place for you. For more information and booking rates please [click our website link](#). Please [click this link](#) to download the Emmaus Village brochure.

**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](#).

**Jesus breathed on them and said "receive the Holy Spirit."** - Led by Fr Chris Thomas - £190 - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May from 6:30pm to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. In this Pentecost retreat we will reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in John's Gospel and pray for the release of the Spirit in our lives, that we may learn how to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God. Please [click here](#) for more Information.

**Day of Reflection - Led by the Minsteracres team - £30 - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024** from 10am to 4pm. An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. Lunch, tea and coffee are provided. Please [click here](#) for more Information.

**Corpus Christi: Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Ushaw** - On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, and starting at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees will be available after the service. You do not need a ticket for this event, but please sign up by [clicking here](#) to help Ushaw to estimate numbers. If you are signing up on behalf of a parish group, please indicate how many cars are likely to be coming to Ushaw, or if the group will be arriving by coach: this will help Ushaw to manage car parking requirements.

**Significance Festival Weekend** - All are welcome to the Emmaus Village for the Significance Festival on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June** from 10.00am. 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.**

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