

Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph, Birtley



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



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, 9TH - 10TH MARCH 2024, Year B

Saturday 9th March Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	Bob McCluskey RIP Kevin Marriner (Dec'd anniversary)
Sunday 10th March 4th Sunday of Lent Laetare Sunday	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	Jane and Tom Rutter and deceased family Anne Cantwell RIP Mary & Michael Casey & Sons Michael, Matty & Harry RIP

First Reading: The Broken Covenant 2 Chronicles. 36:14-16. 19-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, "Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation." And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'"

Response to the Psalm: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

Second Reading: The Grace of God. Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation: Glory and Praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and Praise to you, O Christ!

The Gospel: Nicodemus. John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God".

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 11th March 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 11th March	St Bede	10am	Peggy Emery & deceased family RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	In Memory of Tony Feeley
Tuesday 12th March	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Mary Davison RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	1pm	Funeral Service: Christopher Groark
	St Joseph	7pm	Michael Hughes RIP
Wednesday 13th March	St Bede	10am	Paul Monaghan & Deceased Family
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intention: Fr John McElhone RIP
Thursday 14th March	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Linda Harrigan RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	Joe Lavery RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	1pm	Requiem Mass: Elizabeth Hopkins
Friday 15th March	St John Boste	10am	For a successful operation
	St Joseph	10am	Cynthia Salkeld RIP
Saturday 16th March	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Jack & Vera Lawless RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Tom Conway RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Adam Reay RIP
Sunday 17th March 5th Sunday of Lent	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Mary Maw (recently deceased)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Margaret Glesson

Mothering Sunday

A few years ago I was on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia Herzegovina. Whilst there we visited a Museum dedicated to all the Mothers of the world, in tribute in a particular way to all those Mothers who had lost children in the 1990's Bosnian War. The museum was an amazing place, hundreds of images from around the world of Motherhood. Looking at all those different images, what struck me was how every culture could relate to the universal image of the Mother and child. No matter the country, the creed or nationality everyone can instantly relate to the gentle warmth and security of the image of a Mother holding her child close to her heart. Today is Mothering Sunday and it's an opportunity to say "Thankyou" in a special way to all our Mothers. We have Mother's Day for a Mother's life. The life of a Mother is by and large a record of sacrifice and loving service. She is the one who is always there for us, the one to whom we can turn and share. We think also and pray for all those Mothers who have died. We thank God for them today, we remember them in a special way in our Mass, we are consoled that they are now part of the Communion of Saints, praying for us from heaven. Mothering Sunday owes its origins to 'Mother Church.' On this fourth Sunday of Lent, every year on what we call 'Laetare or Rejoicing Sunday' the Church celebrates her 'Motherhood', as Mother of many nations and many peoples. From the earliest days of the Church, today was a special day of prayer for those people who were preparing for Baptism at Easter. The Church rejoices, as all the people around the world who will be Baptised, will come to new life in the womb of the Church. The Church is not an impersonal institution, she's a universal Mother. And like all good Mothers she serves her children with life, with truth, with Faith, with love and forgiveness. The Church is so much a Mother that in English tradition this Sunday became known as 'Mothering Sunday.' That's why in this part of the world it became established as Mother's Day. In a particular way let's hold in our prayers today, the Mothers of Ukraine, and Russia, Palestine and Israel, may we commend them to the maternal intercession of Mary, Mother of the broken hearted. We pray they will feel her consoling presence. "Near the Cross of Jesus stood Mary his Mother." (John: 19:25) Thankyou to all our Mothers, and for all you do. God Bless, and a Happy Mother's Day to you all.

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

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.

Our Lady Queen of Peace - This Sunday 10 March. Eucharistic Adoration at 4pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 5pm.

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.

During Lent the Priests will be available after Mass for Reconciliation.

Stations of the Cross:

Thursday St Josephs 11.30am - Last service 21 March

Friday St Bede's 6pm last service 22 March

Sunday OBLI 4pm last service 17 March

Wednesday OLQP 12 Noon and **SJB** 6.30pm - Last service 27 March. Stations at OLQP will be followed by a simple lunch of soup and bread. Any funds raised will be divided equally between St Benedict's Hospice and Cancer Research at Sir Bobby Robson's Clinic.

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!

Sick and Housebound in the Parish - Fr Martin and Fr Luke are very happy to visit any sick or housebound parishioner with the Sacraments. The Sacrament of Holy Anointing and Confession can be a great help in such circumstances. Please contact the Priests if you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit. Clergy landline: 0191 6498257.

"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 our 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."

Announcing NEW SONG! 4pm 24 March 2024 at OBLI

"For I am about to do something new" (Isaiah 43:19)

A new monthly prayer event aimed at providing a space for prayer, inspiration and connection. We would love to welcome you to join us as we explore how the virtues of faith, hope and love can help us to live life to the full!

St Bede's Catholic Primary School's Big Lent Walk has started and the children are busy completing their 200km for CAFOD. If you wish to donate the Just Giving page is [here](#).

Information on Lent - To help our candidates on the 23-24 RCIA Journey in Faith programme understand more about Lent, some videos have been produced for them and they are also available

for parishioners on the Parish website [here](#). Fr Luke provides some very interesting responses to a range of questions posed to him about Lent.

The videos are also being added to our Facebook page [here](#).

St Bede Toddler Group - The toddler groups meet every Monday during term time from 9.30am until 11am. We currently have spaces and would love to welcome new members from the community. Just come along on a Monday morning. For more information contact Joan Formosa on 07504579591.

Penitential services for Lent.

Wednesday 20 March 7pm St. Joseph's Birtley.

Tuesday 26 March 7pm St. John Boste.

An opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in time for Easter.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

The Cenotaph, Shiney Row, 11.30am. Join with Christians of all denominations in honouring the passion of Jesus.

Lately dead : Priests of the Diocese Fr Patrick Kennedy, Fr John McElhone and Fr Mark Whelehan (Minsteracres) "*May they rest in peace and rise in Glory.*"

Other News

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear Sue Oxley speak about The Five Mothers of Bernadette Soubirous and her Neglected Life. The meeting will be at Holy Name parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle [nb new venue], on Wednesday 13 March at 7.30pm.

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life." At the end of someone's life, a priest is called to bring souls home to God. Is God calling you to help souls find rest with the Lord? Could you be a priest of Jesus Christ? Come and See! We invite men aged 18 or over 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 9 April at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL between 6pm and 8pm 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](#).

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 [here](#).

Diocesan Lenten Reflection Booklets - Last year's Lenten Reflection booklets were very well received. As we prepare to commemorate Jesus' salvific death and resurrection at Easter, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and a renewed sense of purpose and hope amongst the people of the Diocese. The reflections have been produced by a great number of people to express the richness of our Diocesan community. The daily reflections will be available for viewing, downloading and printing from the Diocesan website by clicking [here](#).

The Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council is organising a Gaza ceasefire pilgrimage: This is part of an international event consisting of walks organised in different places of the world to walk in solidarity with the Palestinians. We are organising the pilgrimage for Holy Saturday 30 March 2024. We hope to cover two of the Northern Saints Trails: 'The Way of Angels' and 'The Way of Light' which will give people the opportunity to start closer to home. The idea is that people can walk either the length of Gaza 26 miles or the width of Gaza 6 miles or indeed any distance they feel comfortable with. Both trails finish in Durham. We are looking for a place where the pilgrims can meet and have a closing liturgy. We are aiming for arrival at 4pm. Further information will follow. Please click [here](#) if you are interested in finding out more, taking part, or would like to help with organising.

This month the Youth Ministry Team provide an update on the 'Wait-A-Minute, it's LENT' reflections. The Source is back for 2024! Internship applications are still open to work at the Emmaus Village and it also tells us about self-catering stays at the youth village.

Online Reflections: 'Wait-A-Minute, it's LENT' YMT started a series of online reflections during the seasons of Advent and Lent. These reflections are from different schools, parishioners, clergy, and other Church communities. Since then, many of our followers tune in to Wait a Minute as part of their reflection of the seasons. We are delighted to offer this resource to anyone who would like to use the reflections to pause and reflect a minute during the season of Advent and Lent. Please click on the [Wait a Minute Lent 2024 Playlist](#).

Life in the Spirit Seminars. As a team, we have been greatly encouraged by these particular words from Pope Francis, in his recent address about Life in the Spirit seminars: "...today I would ask you: are the Life in the Spirit Seminars being offered in a variety of ecclesial contexts, in small and remote places and among the poor and on the peripheries? One obstacle to this might be the idea that these Seminars can only be held in large venues and with well-known leaders, whereas in reality even small parish groups and local leaders can organize them and present them to people in their area." Plans are now in place to deliver Life in the Spirit Seminars from 7pm to 8.30pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Sunderland. The themes and speakers for the last sessions are as follows: 13 March: Pat Kennedy on the theme of Receiving God's Gifts; 20 March: Fr Shaun O'Neill on the theme of Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The remaining two seminars, on the themes of Growth and Transformation in Christ, will be held after Easter as preparation for Pentecost. Details of how to book can be found [here](#).

The Source: The YMT SOURCE is back again! It will be at St Mary's Cathedral from 7pm on Thursday 21 March 2024. The event will welcome Year 9+ students and staff from different secondary schools around the Diocese and young adults around universities such as Newcastle, Sunderland, and Durham, who will be encouraged to pray together through praise, worship, and adoration. Catechists can also bring their confirmation group to join the evening of praise and worship. Please click [here](#) if you are bringing a group to the event.

Catholic School Inspections (CSI). There is a full programme of inspections this academic year. Following the summary of recommendations from the Education Select Committee, the inspectorate would like to assure schools and their communities that, 'Inspection is an act of service, not of power and is an expression of the commitment of all of us to ensuring the best education possible for the pupils in our Catholic schools. We are deeply aware of how crucial Catholic school leaders are to the educational mission of the Church and inspection should always support and not hinder this apostolate.'

Marriage Preparation Days- Saturday 16 March: St Mary's, Bishop Auckland DL14 6PQ. Engaged couples can find more information by clicking [here](#). To find and book on a course, please click [here](#).

Lenten Day of Reflection - Led by Sr Sheila McNamara RSCJ - £30 - Wednesday 13 March 2024 from 10am to 4pm. An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in Scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Lenten Day of Reflection - Led by Pat Kennedy OBJ - £30 - Thursday 21 March 2024 from 10am to 4pm. An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in Scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Holy Week Retreat - Led by the Minsteracres Team - £240 - Thursday 28 March 2024 from 6:30pm to Sunday 31st at 2pm. Join the resident community on their journey towards Easter, with time for reflection and the opportunity to take part in the Easter Triduum. Please [click here](#) for more Information.

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen](#) [4th Sunday of Lent 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](#).

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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