

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 0191 4163583 sj23office01@gmail.com

In the Partnership of Benedict

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, 13TH - 14TH January 2024, Year B

Saturday 13th January	St Joseph	5pm	Michael Kelly (Deceased)
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Patricia Walmsley (Deceased Anniversary)
Sunday 14th January	St John Boste	9:30am	Hilary Cassidy RIP
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	John Smare RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Jim Walker RIP

The Call of Samuel

I was listening to 'Desert Island discs' on Radio four the other week. Lauren Lavern was interviewing The Champion snooker player Ronnie O'Sullivan. When asked what book he would take with him on an island, he quickly replied, "The Holy Bible." O' Sullivan went on to explain that when he was at a very low point in his life several years ago someone placed a copy of the Bible in his hands, and as he began to read he knew in his heart that he was loved by God and called by him to live by Faith in Jesus Christ.

The story of the call of Samuel in today's first reading is a favourite piece of Scripture for many people. The threefold call of the Most High, "Samuel, Samuel, Samuel" to the young child sleeping in the temple, is a reminder of that still small voice that calls each of us personally and individually. "I have called you by your name and you are mine." (Isiah: 43: 1.) When we were Baptised and immersed in the life of the Blessed Trinity, our Parents gave us a name, which defined us as a unique and irreplaceable human being with a dignity as a child of God. Like the young Samuel called by God in the temple each of us need to hear the voice of God speaking to us in our daily lives, a call that invites us to offer our lives to him in loving trust wherever and whatever we do. The first Apostles called by Jesus in today's Gospel, are asked the question, "What do you want?" and we too need to take the question seriously. Like those first disciples we need to know more about Jesus. Will we try and follow him? Will we seek out where he lives today and spend some time with him? Will we lead others to him, like Andrew who took his brother Simon, the humble fisherman of Galilee to meet Jesus, and he became the first Pope!



Dear Jesus, give me the grace to hear and listen to your Word. Send me your Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide me. All I can do is trust you, and ask your grace day by day, to follow your way. Mary I need you. Amen.

Fr. Martin Morris

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 15th January 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 15th January	St Bede	10am	Fr John Gibbons RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Eddie Ashburner RIP
Tuesday 16th January	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Anniversary Kathleen Monaghan
	St Joseph	7pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 17th January	St Bede	10am	Joseph Dragone (Deceased)
	St Anthony	7pm	For those who have no one to pray for them
Thursday 18th January	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Vera Cosgrove RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	Fred Farrer & Baby Oscar (Dec'd)
Friday 19th January	St John Boste	10am	In Thanksgiving (EM)
	St Wulfstan	10am	In Thanksgiving (EH)
Saturday 20th January Ss Fabian & Sebastian	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Eileen Kelly RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Judith Harrison (Deceased)
	Vigil St Bede	5pm	Marie & Des Toberty (Wellbeing)
Sunday 21st January	St John Boste	9:30am	Private Intention (ME)
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	The People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Theresa Madden RIP

First Reading: The Call of Samuel

1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" He answered, "Here I am." Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, since you called me." Eli said, "I did not call. Go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, since you called me." He replied, "I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down." Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, since you called me." Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Response to the Psalm: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

Second reading: The Body Belongs to Christ

1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his

power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

The Gospel: (John 1:35-42): The First Disciples

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God." Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, "What do you want?" They answered, "Rabbi," - which means Teacher - "where do you live?" "Come and see," he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas" - meaning Rock.

The First Disciples

This year the ordinary Sunday gospel readings are taken from Mark, and this provides us with a full picture of that gospel. But Mark is the shortest of the gospels, and is not quite long enough, so just occasionally a reading from John slips in to enrich our understanding of the meaning of Jesus' words and actions. Today's story is about the call of the first disciples and takes place in the Jordan valley, where John was baptising. The first two to be called are disciples of John, so they had already joined his group who were waiting for the Messiah. They were ready when John pointed him out. It is striking that Jesus first calls them to be with him, and that they remain with him for a time. In our call to follow Christ, first comes prayer and getting to know him, before we can actively work for Christ and bring others to share his joy. Only after this repose with the Lord do the disciples sprint off in their enthusiasm and bring others to join in the benefits they have received from that tranquillity and refreshment which comes from keeping company with Jesus. What is God calling you to do?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

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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

Second Collection – This Weekend - The White flower appeal for the pro-life charity SPUC. Will take place next weekend, with a retiring collection.

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

St. Bede's Coffee Morning - Each Wednesday after 10am Mass there is a Coffee Morning in the hall providing light refreshments. This has been running for five weeks and is proving to be very popular. We would also like to invite anyone within the community who would like to join us from 10.30 onwards for a "Warm Space" and good company. Please come along and join us.

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." The words of Samuel, who had to discern the voice of God in his life. Might you be hearing the voice of the Lord to serve him to be a priest and respond like Samuel? **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 6th February 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](#)

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible - A Bible Study Course Running for 9 Weeks - Many Catholics want to read the Bible but get bogged down by the long stretches that seem not to make sense or get lost among the sea of Old Testament names and places. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, an eight-part Bible study, helps you uncover the story woven throughout Scripture, so you can get the "big picture" of the Bible and understand what it's all about. Aided by a unique color-coded Bible Timeline Chart that arranges the key people, places, and events of the Bible in chronological order, Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible will help you pick up the Bible with confidence and understand how you fit into God's plan. Our Parish will begin the Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible study on **Thursday 25th January at 7pm in Our Lady Queen of Peace's Hall**. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. **Please bring a Catholic Bible!** For more information please ring 0191-4163583 or [click here](#).

Tuesday Night Holy Rosary - Prayers for the people of the Holy Land. Please join us at 6.40pm on Tuesdays at St Joseph's Birtley, to pray the great prayer of the rosary for all sides in the conflict in Palestine.

Other News

A Year of Prayer - In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year '*Pilgrims of Hope*', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. Please visit our Diocesan Year of Prayer [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

The Newman Association, Cleveland Circle, New Year Lunch - Join the Cleveland Circle of the Newman Association for their New Year Lunch taking place on Sunday 28 January 2024. Venue: Parkmore Hotel, Eaglescliffe TS16 0DH. Time: Meet at 12.30pm for 1.00pm start. Menu and details to follow, all welcome. For more information please call: 07947 526941 or [click here](#).

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear about **Root & Branch** - an exciting new forum for reform, working for 'a safe, just and inclusive Roman Catholic Church'. The meeting will be at Holy Name parish hall, Jesmond, Newcastle [*nb new venue*], on Thursday, 25 January at 7.30pm. For more information about Root & Branch, see www.rootandbranchsynod.org.

Holocaust Commemoration 2024: 'Fragility of Freedom' - The Interreligious Relations Team will be holding their annual Holocaust Commemoration on Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 7.00pm. The venue is St Mary's Catholic School, Benton Park Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE7 7PE. The guest speaker is Mrs Deanna Van Der Velde from the United Hebrew Congregation. Booking for the Holocaust commemorations is essential, so please book your place by [clicking here](#) or call 0191 243 3316.

Update from Justice and Peace Refugee Project - As we start 2024, it is a good time to reflect on the global situation in relation to asylum seekers and refugees. In the past decade, the global refugee crisis has almost doubled in scope. In mid-2023, the United Nations Refugee Agency reported that there were 110 million forcibly displaced people worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. Of these, 62.5 million were internally displaced people and 36.4 million were refugees – an estimated 43.3 million (40 per cent) were children below 18 years of age, with 1.9 million children were born as refugees. The vast majority of the items and the financial support that we provide at the Refugee Project are donated by parishes, schools and individuals and without the support of donors, the project would not be possible. We thank you all most sincerely for your generous support. With new clients registering every week, in need of food to supplement their meagre allowance and with the rise in the cost of living, the cost of providing food bags and toiletry items to clients has more than doubled in the last 2 years and we are often in short supply. The project really does need your help. Financial donations are particularly welcome, as we need to purchase food and toiletries on a regular basis. We receive donations of food, clothing and footwear on Mondays between 10.30am and 1.30pm. The Project re-opens to clients after Christmas on 3 January. The full list of items required can be [found here](#).

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.

Vacancies – Opportunities to work at the Emmaus Village - The Emmaus Village, home for the Youth Ministry Team, hosts all the residential retreats led by YMT for our Diocesan Primary and Secondary Schools. It also offers catering and hospitality to the biggest gathering of Catholic Schools, the YMT Summer Festivals, students named it “God Camp”. With this we are looking for an Assistant Catering Coordinator and Kitchen Technician, who will help our catering team deliver this valuable service to all the groups that come to the Emmaus Village. If you or someone you know, wants to be part of the YMT team, please contact admin@ymt.org or click the link www.ymt.org/vacancies for more information with regards to our vacancies.

Diocesan Job Vacancies - The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:
HR Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle/hybrid – part-time. Closing date: 16 January. **HR Administrator**, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle/hybrid – part-time. Closing date 16 January. **Cleaner**, St Cuthbert, Durham – part-time. Closing date 18 January. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Little Sisters of the Poor - Job Vacancies - Exciting opportunities are now available at St Joseph's Care Home (Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle) for care assistants and nurses. Hours available: Care Assistant: Shifts are 8am-3pm, 3pm-9pm. Nurse: Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm. Excellent rates of pay. For more information please contact Lee-Marie Thornley on 07856256095 or [click here](#).

Diocesan Courses – New Readers of the Word - An introductory course which supports New Readers of the Liturgy of the Word in this ministry. Dates: Session 1: Monday 15 January 2024, 7.00-9.00pm. Session 2: Saturday 20 January 2024, 10.30am-3.00pm (to include a Commissioning Service) * *Participants to bring a packed lunch for the day event - tea and coffee provided. Location: St Mary, Dockendale Lane, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE16 4EN. Cost: £12.50 per person. To book speak to one of our Parish Priests.

The Catechism in a Year - Sign up for Ascension's [Catechism In A Year](#) podcast with Fr Mike Schmitz, and you can: Read the entire Catechism of the Catholic Church in 365 days; Understand the essentials of the Catholic Faith and why they matter; See how Church teaching is rooted in Sacred Scripture; Absorb over 2,000 years of Sacred Tradition; Encounter God's plan of sheer goodness; Transform their relationship with the Church that Christ founded.

Lepra Centenary Holy Mass at Westminster Cathedral, 26th January 2024 - Lepra invites you to Westminster Cathedral for a Holy Mass to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the charity. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton Diocese and Chair of the Bishops' Conference Department for International Affairs. **Friday 26 January 2024 at 2.30pm**. Please join them as they give thanks for the centenary and the charity's international work in finding, diagnosing and treating people affected by leprosy. For more information please [click here](#)

Youth Ministry & Practical Theology Conference: Saturday 3 February, Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Old Durham Road, Gateshead NE9 6RZ. A day to reconnect and reignite as we “invest in the fearlessness of youth.” For more information and to book please [click here](#).

Booking is still open and you can either email nsalkeld@ymt.org or book online here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam. Online booking will apply booking fees

We are looking forward to welcoming keynote speaker, Reverend Professor David Wilkinson, Director of Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, an international project based at St John's College, Durham, who will explore how we can engage young people in the Gospel when we live in a world of science. We are also pleased to welcome back David Wells, international speaker, best-selling author and friend of YMT, to guide us to reflect on our theme.

For more information about the conference visit www.ymt.org/ymt-conference

Safeguarding - Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and is a priority in every parish and diocesan organisation. The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is fully committed in the church and operates a zero-tolerance approach. The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is at the heart of the Church's mission. We adopt and implement fully the policies and procedures of the Catholic Church of England and Wales, which is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. 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](#).

YMT led Confirmation Retreat at the Emmaus Village -January 26 – 28 2024 - There are still places for your Confirmation group to join other Confirmation candidates across the Diocese in exploring our faith, the Church, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In this YMT led Confirmation Retreat, there will be time for fun, faith, and food during these days of retreat. If you are a catechist and want to book your group, please [click here](#) before January 19, 2024.

Could you be a CAFOD Schools Volunteer? Volunteers are wanted to help children/students learn about the work of CAFOD. Could you help your local school deliver assemblies and/or workshops that encourage young people to put faith into action to help others? It would only require a few hours of your time each term and you would be assisting your local community to work together for the Common Good. No experience is necessary, and full support and training will be given. Find out more [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](#) [2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

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](#)

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