

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: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 14TH - 15TH SEPTEMBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 14th September Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	Conceicao Lucas Goncalves RIP Joe Lourie In Thanksgiving for 70 years service to St Bede's Church
Sunday 15th September 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	People of the Parish Alfie Cruddas RIP Bernard & Clare Simons

First Reading: The Servant of the Lord

Isaiah 50:5-9

The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance; neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed. My vindicator is here at hand. Does anyone start proceedings against me? Then let us go to court together. Who thinks he has a case against me? Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help: who dare condemn me?

Response to the Psalm: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Second Reading: Faith and Works

James 2:14-18

Take the case, my brothers, of someone who has never done a single good act but claims that he has faith. Will that faith save him? If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, "I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty," without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead. This is the way to talk to people of that kind: "You say you have faith and I have good deeds; I will prove to you that I have faith by showing you my good deeds - now you prove to me that you have faith without any good deeds to show."

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!

The Gospel: Mark 8:27-35: Peter's Declaration of Faith and Jesus' Reply

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" And they told him. "John the Baptist;" they said, "others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets." "But you," he asked, "who do you say I am?" Peter spoke up and said to him, "You are the Christ." And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, "Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's." He called the people and his disciples to him and said, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it."

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 16th September 2024

Day	Church	Time		
Monday 16th September Ss Cornelius & Cyprian	St Bede	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Stephenson Family	
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Mr & Mrs Phil Faloon	
Tuesday 17th September Ss Robert Bellarmine & Hildegard of Bingen	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Margaret Lucas RIP	
	St Joseph	7pm	Peter Smith RIP	
Wednesday 18th September	St Bede	10am	Fr John Francis Brady RIP	
	St John Boste	7pm	Teresa Corbett RIP	
Thursday 19th September Ss Januarius & Theodore of Canterbury	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Billy Simpson	
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Kathy Lawton RIP	
Friday 20th September St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon	St John Boste	10am	Cath & Ron Joy RIP	
	St Joseph	10am	People of the Parish	
Saturday 21st September St Matthew	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Allan Callaghan RIP	
	Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Frank & Minnie Knott RIP
		St Bede	5pm	Sally Purvis (Recently Deceased)
Sunday 22nd September 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Keith Shannon RIP	
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish	
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Allan Callaghan RIP	

Peter rebukes Jesus for saying he will suffer, but he does so for a more complex and personal reason than his concern for his master's wellbeing. He sees in Jesus' talk of suffering a reflection of what he himself will be asked to endure, as one of his disciples. This is what is really concerning him.

This perfectly natural reaction to suffering by St Peter i.e., to turn away, to run from it, is one we all carry. And indeed, there are times when that is exactly how we should respond, there are incidents when to turn from suffering is a good and reasonable response. However, the suffering that Jesus is ultimately referring to is more profound than physical suffering, rather the kind of suffering which is deeply personal.

As human beings in the 21st Century we are accustomed to avoiding suffering at all costs. Our whole society and culture is founded on making life easy and comfortable for each of us, with less or no suffering being the ultimate goal. From an early age we are taught to turn from suffering, to run away from it. But Jesus is asking us to face it, to accept it in his name. As disciples we are, in this sense, counter cultural. As followers of Jesus, the Risen Lord, we must prepare ourselves for suffering, suffering in his name. The suffering which makes us grow in his image.

We all want a comfortable life, but at the same time we realise we are disciples of Jesus. We know that we are being asked to give something in the name of our discipleship. We know we are being called to be genuine and committed disciples. And we know, when we are at our most honest with ourselves, that this carries a heavy price. It also comes in many forms.

We are called to the suffering of standing out from the crowd, by being quiet when inappropriate humour is taking place or speaking out when a mutual acquaintance is being slandered in our presence by others. It takes courage to face the suffering of standing out from the crowd. In worldly or social terms there is a price to pay for our silence, or for voicing our defence of someone that is not present to defend themselves.

Then there's professional suffering. The great psychologist Carl Jung was at times criticised as being anti-intellectual for still holding to his Christian beliefs, for his discipleship. Even when, as a young man, he had dreams and visions that seemed to lead him away from Christianity, he did not walk away, he remained a faithful disciple of Jesus. And in the end, he was vindicated. His work today is still the basis for modern psychology. His discipleship was ultimately fruitful. Yet he had to endure the years of suffering in his professional life, being ridiculed as a disciple of Jesus. In the end he triumphed. His discipleship was tested, and he was found worthy, "Welcome loyal and faithful servant."

So, we can see that discipleship carries at a cost, suffering. The question is, "Are we prepared to pay the cost?"

We can, of course, fake discipleship. We can fit in, and act the part, without actually being a serious disciple. The choice is ultimately our own. But Jesus will always be at our side, calling to us in a gentle voice, "Who do you say that I am?"

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 each Friday 2-3pm;

St Bede's each Wednesday 9.15am - 9.50am;

St. Joseph's (until November) each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm. I do encourage as many of you as possible to spend some time in quiet prayer with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass and Saturday morning from 10am-11am.

St Joseph - Thursday after noon Mass.

St John Boste - Friday morning, after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning, after Mass.

St Bede's - Saturday after Vigil Mass.

OLOF (Our Lady's Over 50's Club) - Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome!

Special Collection This Week - Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Formally Mission Sunday): Pope Francis often uses the phrase 'missionary disciples' to describe those who are baptised. He wants to see every Catholic become more aware of their responsibility to spread the Joy of the Gospel in their own area.

This collection helps the Bishops' Conference prepare resources to help parishes become involved in welcoming people back into active worship; to encourage 'Journeys in Faith', Alpha and RCIA and to explore ways in which local parishes can make a difference in the world they live in.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - I am very grateful to all parishioners who serve as Ministers of Holy Communion both at Mass and in taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound, we are blessed with many dedicated volunteers. I would like to invite all Ministers of Holy Communion to one of the following meetings during the coming weeks as part of our preparation, and to share any areas for reflection. At the end of each meeting there will be the act of recommissioning for any minister who was not present for the ceremony last June. (The meetings should last no more than one hour.) Thankyou, Fr. Martin Morris. The meetings will be held at: St. Bede's on Wednesday 25th September, 11am; Our Lady Queen of Peace on Thursday, 26th September, 11am; Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Saturday, 28th September, 11am; and St. John Boste on Sunday, 29th September, 10.30am.

MacMillan Coffee Mornings:

At Our Lady Queen of Peace after Mass on Sunday 6th October 2024. Tombola and Refreshments. All welcome. You can also donate directly by using the QR code on the poster in the church porch.

At Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October. All Welcome to attend. All proceeds to MacMillan Cancer Support.

Next weekend - The Comboni Fathers will be making the annual Mission appeal at St. Joseph's and Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Thank you for your generosity.

Fairtrade Fortnight - 9th to 22nd September 2024 - Try to substitute a fairtrade item for one of your regular purchases.

Partnership Day of Reflection - This year's Ministry Morning will take place on Saturday 28th of September and be led by Fr Peter Randall S.J. with the title 'Facing Ministry in a Changing World'. This will all take place at St Cuthbert's, Ropery lane, Chester le Street. The centre will be open at 9:00 AM for refreshments. At the same time there will be Mass at 9:00 AM in church for those who like to attend Saturday Mass first. The day will begin with a call to prayer at 9:45 and Fr Peter, who has lots of experience working with different groups, will give two inputs, leaving time for group discussion and feedback. The morning will end at 12:30 with a short time of prayer. At weekend Masses the different ministries will be celebrated and commitment can be made. Please note that there is plenty of car parking in the school to the rear of the church. Follow the school sign on Ropery Lane. All Welcome.

Car Parking at St John Boste Church - The car park at St John Boste is very small and has caused complaints in the past as it is difficult to find other places to park. The school car park is open on Sundays as additional parking and we will endeavour to advertise on the newsletter when the school car park will be open at other times, such as Holy Days of Obligation.

Seven years with St Joseph and St John XXIII

I'd like to invite you to join the congregation who worship at St Bede's for 5pm Mass on Saturday 28 September.

It's just over a year since I began the Sabbatical time and I wrote explaining how I was looking at six options for the future. I'm pleased to say 'it worked'. It became clear to me during the year that the right thing to do was to retire from responsibility as a priest serving the parishes where I'd lived, and actually retire - while still being able to serve other communities when the local priest is either ill or on holiday. I've just moved into a flat in the presbytery of the Sacred Heart parish in Boldon Colliery - and I'm very happy here. But after talking to Fr Martin (the big one), it seems right to celebrate mass for a final time in the community where I lived and in the parishes I tried to serve. So, you're more than welcome that evening at St Bede's. There'll be an expansive cup of tea - and who knows, maybe more - after mass to catch up. I notice that Pope Francis reminds our Church - i.e. the Universal one, the whole Church, not just St Bede's! - marks the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees that weekend. I'd no idea we'd been praying for migrants for so long. I don't feel like a migrant in Boldon Colliery, though moving and change is challenging. Our diocese is trying to move and change and it is really challenging. Please feel free to gather and remember our sisters and brothers throughout the world who have to move in such awful circumstances, and the fact that I've loved being in Washington/Birtley over those years. Take care and God bless. **Jim O'Keefe.**

Other News

2025 Jubilee Year - Holy Year - 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The Holy Father Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year with the motto and theme - **"Pilgrims of Hope."** There will be two Holy Doors in our Diocese, one at St. Mary's Cathedral and one at St. Joseph's Church, Hartlepool. Bishop Stephen Wright (Hexham & Newcastle) is very grateful to Canon Paul Douthwaite for his welcome to pilgrims at St. Joseph's. The Holy Father has decreed that the **Holy Doors are opened on Sunday 29th December**. It is the Bishop's intention to celebrate both openings that day. **The Holy Doors will be closed on 6th January 2026.**

The Season of Creation started on 1 September with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. The people of the Diocese are urged to pray and take action to reduce our impact on our common home and fellow creatures. The theme of this year's Season of Creation is "To Hope and Act with Creation" and we need to understand that there *is hope* and to support each other with inspiring action and stories. We can all make a difference by changing to a simpler lifestyle and by talking about it to inspire others. To find out more please [click here](#).

Diocesan Courses - Liturgy Days for Readers and the New Lectionary: Saturday 12 October: St Patrick's, Consett; Saturday 26 October: St Bede's, Bedlington. For more information, please [click here](#). Note that people booking for liturgical formation courses need to be endorsed by their parish priest/deacon with booking via the Parish Office.

Marriage Preparation Days- Saturday 21 September: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth NE61 1QF. Saturday 9 November: 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](#).

Life in the Spirit Seminars - Plans are now coming together for the delivery of Life in the Spirit seminars on Monday evenings at 7.00pm at St Mary's, **Newton Aycliffe** on 30 September, 7, 14, 21 & 28 October and 4 & 11 November 2024. Final details of speakers and how to book a place can be [found here](#).

The Medjugorje Centre (North East) has organised a Medjugorje Retreat at Minsteracres from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 October. The Spiritual Director for the weekend is Fr Martin Morris. The weekend is an opportunity to come together for prayer, talks and friendship. The cost is £195 per person. A £48 Deposit is required and more information and booking forms are available from Marian Fletcher (St Bede's) Telephone 0191 4174413.

"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." Are you missing something in life and are searching for something more? Maybe God is calling you to discern a vocation to the priesthood. **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 1st October 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](#)

Day of Reflection Led by the Minsteracres team - £30 - Wednesday 18th September 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. For more information, [please click here](#).

A Circle of Prayer Led by Joyce McAndrew - £45 - Saturday 21st September 2024 from 10am to 4pm. This is an inviting programme which explores the beauty of music whilst incorporating responsive movement which echoes both feelings, and mood as non-verbal self-expression which touches both the soul and the imagination. Throughout this retreat you will have an opportunity to learn both... For more information, [please click here](#).

'Faith and Fellowship' Evening - The Interreligious Relations Team are holding an evening devoted to 'Faith and Fellowship' on 25 September 2024 at 7.00pm. The venue for this evening will be English Martyrs Parish Hall, Stamfordham Road, Newcastle NE5 3JR. The evening will provide an opportunity to discuss the importance of faith and fellowship in the lives of people of faith. This event is being held in support of the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025. For more information, please [click here](#). Quick Link: [Dialogue & Unity](#)

Pie, Pea and Chip Supper - Little Sisters of the Poor invite you to join them for a Pie, Pea and Chip Supper taking place at St Joseph's Care Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle on Wednesday 25 September starting at 7.00pm prompt. Vegetarians are catered for. There will also be a raffle and bingo. If you are free, please do join them and help them raise money for the home. Tickets are £7, available from St Joseph's Home – 0191 273 1279

Diocesan Job Vacancies - The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following vacancies: **Deputy Director of Education** – Full-time, term-time. Closing date: 1 October. **Property Surveyor** – Full-time, maternity cover. Closing date: 23 September.

Youth Safeguarding Adviser – Full-time, 2-year fixed-term contract. Please [click here](#) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Hexham Abbey will be hosting an exhibition of 12 huge spectacular silk panels depicting the story of creation in the bible, from October 9 until November 23. Entry for all ages is free. More information is available from Hexham Abbey website 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 24th 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](#). 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](#)