

Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph, Birtley



Incorporating: **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate**, Washington;
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Peshaw; **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, Peshaw, Sacriston, Washington

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 17TH - 18TH AUGUST 2024, Year B

Saturday 17th August	St Joseph	5pm	Patrick Riordan RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 18th August	St John Boste	9:30am	Oswald Stephenson RIP
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Stephenson Family & Alfie Cruddas RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Olive & George Bland RIP

First Reading: The Invitation of Wisdom

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built herself a house, she has erected her seven pillars, she has slaughtered her beasts, prepared her wine, she has laid her table. She has despatched her maidservants and proclaimed from the city's heights: 'Who is ignorant? Let him step this way.' To the fool she says, 'Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared! Leave your folly and you will live, walk in the ways of perception.'

Response to the Psalm: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading: Songs of the Spirit

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be very careful about the sort of lives you lead, like intelligent and not like senseless people. This may be a wicked age, but you redeem it. And do not be thoughtless but recognise what is the will of the Lord. Do not drug yourselves with wine, this is simply dissipation; be filled with the Spirit. Sing the words and tunes of the psalms and hymns when you are together, and go on singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts, so that always and everywhere you are giving thanks to God who is our Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

The Gospel: Eating the Bread of Life

John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

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 19th August 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 19th August	St Bede	10am	Birthday Celebration Audrey Atkinson
	Ss Oswin & John Eudes Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	In Reparation (JMGS)
Tuesday 20th August	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Mary Millward RIP
	St Bernard St Joseph	7pm	Jimmy Wardle RIP
Wednesday 21st August	St Bede	10am	Private Intention (JMGS)
	St Pius X St John Boste	7pm	Paul Iley RIP 53rd birthday
Thursday 22nd August	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Les Bennett RIP
	The Queenship of the BVM St Joseph	12 Noon	Mary Wilkinson (nee Hutchinson) RIP
Friday 23rd August	St John Boste	10am	Norman Smithson RIP
	St Rose of Lima St Joseph	11am	Requiem Mass (Elaine Hannon)
Saturday 24th August	St Batholomew Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Repose of the Soul David Johnson
	Vigil St Joseph	5pm	Bill Mckenna RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Sally Purvis (recently deceased)
Sunday 25th August	St John Boste	9:30am	John O'Brien RIP
	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Mary & Michael Casey & Sons Harry, Matty & Michael RIP

Gospel Reflection

In today's Gospel, we hear the familiar words 'I am the living bread', which comes as one of seven 'I am' statements spoken by Jesus in the Gospel of John.

Over the last few months, I have been trying to attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament more regularly, and something that always strikes me is the absolute gift that the Blessed Sacrament is to us. Through faith, we believe that Jesus is really present with us in that time and in that place. What a gift!

To me, it is no surprise in Luke's Gospel when the disciples are journeying on the road towards Emmaus that the time they recognise Jesus is in the breaking of bread. Before that point, they didn't get it – they didn't understand who was right in front of them. Until the breaking of the bread.

We need more than the world can offer. If you like, we need food for sustenance and our own physical growth, but we also need so much more. We need the bread that only Jesus can provide. We need the bread of life, the bread that sustains us spiritually. Like the Disciples, we recognise Jesus in the breaking of bread, we see Him clearly for who He is.

Yet, if we believe Jesus lives in us if we eat his flesh and drink his blood, we have a duty to be missional in our faith. To not remain insular, but rather to be bold in our faith. The final words proclaimed at mass is the Dismissal, which gives us a mission to go out into the world and share what we have heard, and what we have done. To not only talk about Jesus who is the living bread, but to witness to Him in our everyday.

This week, how can you witness to Christ, the living bread, who lives in you, and you in Him?

Hannah Bartlett

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 is now available in all of our Churches:

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!

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR) The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency(CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives names are displayed on church notice boards, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

St Bede's Church - If you know someone who can no longer get to Holy Mass because they are sick or housebound, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Marian Fletcher Tel: 01914174413. We also would like to encourage those from **all our churches** that are no longer able to attend mass to have a Special Minister call with Holy Communion, Please ask or get in touch with any of our Priests or Deacons.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Washington

From September, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will be offering 30 hour nursery places for children who are three years old with either an eligible voucher code or paid 30 hour places. Further information and application forms can be obtained by contacting the school office. The school newsletter can be found [here](#).

Mass Intentions

Please be aware that there are a significant number of Mass Intentions already allocated and any request for a specific date may not be possible due to an Intention previously received and allocated to the Mass on that date. If the date requested is already filled, then the intention will be allocated to the first available Mass in the preferred church which could be a few weeks after the requested date.

St Bede Toddler Group

The toddler group is now full so we have opened a waiting list. However, we will have places from September as there are several children leaving to go to nursery. Please contact Joan Formosa on 07504 579591 if you wish to add a name to the waiting list. Joan will contact you when a place becomes available.

Eucharistic Congress Birmingham 14 September 2024.

The Bishops of England and Wales have called the Congress to help parishes reflect more deeply on the great gift of the Eucharist and how our Faith in this Sacrament can be strengthened and renewed. Representatives from each parish community will attend the event and share with us at a later date the ideas put forward at the Congress. I am very grateful to those who have offered to attend the event as reps. for our partnership of parishes.: Sophie Taylor, Andrew French, Dominique Lentchou, Tom Kelly, Darren Trotter, Paddy Denton, Stanley Duru and Chibuzo Kabul. Thank you, Fr Martin.

Other News

What is the Lord calling us to Be and Do? Over the last six weeks people across the Diocese have been undertaking spiritual conversations discerning What is God calling us to Be and Do? Workshops have taken place in Stockton, Consett and Washington with plans in place for Hexham and Amble. With further modelling of spiritual conversations taking place at Ushaw and with the Diocesan Lay Pastoral Forum. The discernment workshops will continue into the Autumn term with a number of Partnerships now inviting training into their area. In Rome the latest document for the universal synod has been released aimed at those who will be attending the meeting in October 2025. A link to this document can be found by [clicking here](#). We continue to pray and unpack the draft Diocesan vision, exploring what is God calling us to Be and Do in our community? Find out more by [clicking here](#).

Amy Cameron.

Holy Hour - The Association of the Eucharist will be holding their monthly Holy Hour on Sunday 1 September at St Andrew's, [9 Worswick Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 6UW](#), from 2.30pm to 3.30pm followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome. No booking required.

Peace vigil for Palestine and Israel - Since January a small group from different faith backgrounds hold a vigil for peace every Saturday morning from 9.30am until 10am outside Hexham Abbey. Lya Vollering, a member of the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council writes: We stand in silence for peace for Palestine and Israel in particular, but not exclusively. We stand outside the abbey. We are not shut away inside nor totally away from the abbey either. We are in a doorway space, a sacred and inclusive space. Working for justice and peace requires contemplation and action. Both are important and so we contemplate together for peace. You are very welcome to join us, even if it is just for five minutes.

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](#).

Job Vacancy.

Parish Secretary, Our Lady of Mercy, Sunderland – 20 hours a week. Closing date: 21 August.

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

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.

"As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father". Do you draw your life from the Father? Might God want you to look at living your life in service of Him? Might God be calling you to discern a vocation to 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 **3 September 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](#)

Catholic Pastoral Leadership Course - Are you involved in any ministry in the Church? Are you interested in doing more for the Church? Do you want to expand your skills in pastoral leadership? A new online course in Catholic Pastoral Leadership might be what you are looking for. Liverpool Hope University has partnered with several Catholic dioceses across England and Wales to help people like you to gain fresh perspectives on Scripture and Church teaching. You will look at real-world issues in the light of our tradition and consider the best ways of exploring Christian faith and life with others. The 2-year course is split into 4 modules and you can complete most of the work at a time that suits you. To find out more information about the course, please visit our [website](#).

The Justice and Peace Refugee Project continues to welcome hundreds of people who use our services every month, with new clients registering each week from many places in the world. Your continued donations of food, toiletries and finance are very welcome. Items most urgently needed can be [found here](#). In addition to these items, we also try to source fresh produce, which is gratefully received by our clients. Unfortunately, *Lidl*, one of our supermarket contributors, recently stopped supplying food to the project, so we are now in contact with *FareShare* to ensure that we are able to continue to provide fresh food items to our clients. *FareShare* is a national network of charitable food redistributors, made up of 18 independent organisations, which takes good quality surplus food from across the food industry to community groups and charities. For more information please [click here](#).

The Joy of the Gospel *"The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel."* 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 Evangelization; Spirit-Filled Evangelizers. The full text of Evangelii Gaudium can be downloaded [here](#). Quick Link: [Sharing the Faith](#).

Will you help CAFOD to support farmers around the world in the fight to keep their rights to their own seeds? As the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, CAFOD is reaching out to people living in poverty with practical help. But CAFOD's mission also calls on us to challenge the structures that bring about poverty and injustice in the first place. This is at the core of the [Fix the Food System](#) campaign which was supported last year by parishes in each of the 22 dioceses in England and Wales. This CAFOD initiative aims to re-think the current global food system and, as Pope Francis says, transform it for the benefit of people and planet. Globally, just [nine crops account for more than 65%](#) of all crop production, which are traded and transported by a few big businesses. This lack of crop diversity makes the current food system unfit to cope with the challenges brought about by the climate crisis and also makes it unsuitable for quickly adapting to disease and conflict.

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](#).

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen](#) [20th 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.**

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