

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
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



In the Partnership of Benedict
 Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Penshaw, Sacriston, Washington

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18TH - 19TH JANUARY 2025, Year C

Saturday 18th January	St Joseph	5pm	Deceased Cleary & Fox Family
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Victor Fonde 95th Birthday
Sunday 19th January	St John Boste	9:30am	Fr Kevin Cummins RIP
The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Mary Maw RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

First Reading: The Wedding-Feast of the Lord, Isaiah 62:1-5

For Sion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Response to the Psalm: Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

Second Reading: Gifts of the Spirit, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Brothers and Sisters: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! God called us through the Gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

The Gospel: - The Wedding-Feast at Cana, John 2:1-11

At that time: There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding seventy or one hundred litres. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast.' So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now.' This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Fr Martin Morris	0191 649 8257	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419
Fr Luke Wilkinson	0191 649 8257		

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 20th January 2025

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 20th January Ss Fabian & Sebastian	St Bede	10am	Tom, Gladys, Colin & Marjorie Bell RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Michael Walker RIP
Tuesday 21st January St Agnes	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Gerard Fagan, Margaret Wanless, Owen & Mary Fagan
	St Joseph	10:45am	Requiem Mass Dorothy Hattam
	St Joseph	7pm	Keely & Family
Wednesday 22nd January St Vincent	St Bede	10am	Simone Philipson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10:30am	Requiem Mass Gerard Hardy
	St John Boste	7pm	Fr Mark & Fr Stephen (Cistercian Community)
Thursday 23rd January	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Michael Richardson in Thanksgiving 70th Birthday
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Chris Pallister RIP
Friday 24th January St Francis de Sales	St John Boste	10am	John Holleran RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Garry McCallum & Family
Saturday 25th January The Conversion of St Paul	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Ann Smith RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Dennis Welsh RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Kathleen Nattress
Sunday 26th January The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday of the Word of God	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Eileen Shannon RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Mary Curtin RIP

Gospel Reflection Sunday 19 January

As we settle rather icily into a new year, John's Gospel gifts us a big visual drama, the start of something; the only account of the wedding feast at Cana. It is there, not as a promotion of conviviality, but as the first of the seven signs the Gospel writer uses to reveal Jesus as the Messiah and to lead us to belief. It underscores too Jesus' move from the family to the public sphere. Mary apparently has some role in the festivities and looks to her son to do something to avoid the huge humiliation pending as the wineskins run dry. Despite his apparent rebuff: "Woman, what has this to do with me? My hour has not yet come." Mary demonstrates her faith in him as she beckons the servants. She defers to whatever action he might take.

The use of the stone water jars used in the Jewish rite of purification signal a change from the Old Covenant to the abundance of the New Testament – literally brimful. The miracle occurs quietly between Jesus and the servants who are filling the huge vessels with water. It is worth noting that the first witnesses of this "sign" are not the wedding guests or the master of the feast or the bridegroom but these servants. From their mouths the miracle will spread. Jesus does not broadcast the sign. The master of the feast is astounded when called to test the wine. The best is kept until last. This "good wine" is a symbol of Jesus the Messiah, long anticipated; its colour that of blood sacrifice.

Until Jesus touches our lives, all we have is a lack. Allowing faith in him to direct our lives opens up a superabundance of transformation. God's Glory manifested.

Angela Nichols

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: 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 each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm, held in the front room of the Presbytery (main door will be open, first room on left). 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!

Parish Fundraising Activities - Could I please remind all groups and individuals that, when conducting any fundraising efforts within the parish, all monies raised must be banked via the Parish current account. This is at the express request of Bishop Stephen and the Diocesan Trustees in accordance with the statutory regulations.

First Friday devotions - Now that we are in a Holy Year, Pope Francis' suggestion of praying the First Friday devotion is one that we will be offering from February – October, beginning on Friday 7 February, with 7pm Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace. The First Friday Masses will move to a different church in our parish every second month. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.15pm – 6.50pm before each Mass. The twelve promises given by Jesus to St Margaret Mary concerning this devotion are a great encouragement to the Christian life. Google "Twelve promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – EWTN."

OLQP SVP - Friendship meal (supported by SVP) This event and the Healing Mass on Saturday 15 February have been postponed to later in the year due to safeguarding issues. We cannot conform with the criteria for holding events due to the lack of SVP full members in attendance. Any donations can either be returned or held for later in the year.

The Parish is planning a Parish Lenten Mission 2025, 15 March - 19 March. The Mission will be led by Sr Brieghe McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani. Sr Brieghe and Fr Pablo have many years experience of worldwide retreats and missions, and this will be an ideal way in keeping the Lenten season special. See poster and leaflets at the back of church for more information. Sr Brieghe and Fr Pablo are very much looking forward to visiting our Parishes during the second week of Lent, 16 – 19 March. In the coming weeks our Clergy will begin promoting the Mission and asking all parishioners to take some Mission Leaflets as invites to distribute among our families, neighbours and friends. Please keep the success of the Mission in your prayers. Thankyou, Fr Martin Morris.

Bingo & light refreshments. Monday 20 January. St Bede's Hall 1pm till 3pm approximately. All proceeds to Wateraid, all welcome
White Flower Appeal - The society for the protection of unborn children will hold their annual retiring collection after each Mass this weekend. Thank you.

"Living Faith" Books are now available from the back of Church. These excellent booklets are a great help to the spiritual life, which includes various prayers for each day, along with a relevant reflection for each day of the week on the daily Gospel. Cost £1.50.

St Joseph's School Newsletter can be viewed [here](#).

Journey in Faith :RCIA Resumes this Tuesday 21 January, 7pm in Emmaus Room at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate.

We Welcome Bishop Stephen to our Parish the Weekend of 1st & 2nd February. The Bishop will celebrate the 5pm Mass at St Bede's and the 11am Mass at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate.

Refreshments after each Mass. All welcome.

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](#).

Other News

The Year of Jubilee 2025 is a beacon of hope. We're all invited into an encounter with Jesus Christ, as his disciples of mercy, forgiveness, and social action, and to celebrate our communities. It's a chance to envision a better future, a future of hope and faith where mercy guides our actions. It's a time for forgiveness and reconciliation within our communities. We can take action to address injustices, support the vulnerable, and work towards a more equitable society. Let's embrace the spirit of the Jubilee, and unite to create a world of compassion and justice, where everyone and our whole community can grow and flourish. Please visit the Diocesan Year of Jubilee page by [clicking here](#).

CAFOD is also offering an online session on Saturday 18 January from 10.30am until 12 noon titled, 'A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year', to anyone wanting a general introduction to the Jubilee. For more information please [click here](#).

Holocaust Memorial Day - '*For a Better Future*' is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025. 2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 30th anniversary of the Bosnian genocide. This annual event will be held on Wednesday 22 January 2025 from 7pm in St Mary's Catholic School, Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7PE. Booking is kindly requested to help plan the event. Please book your place by [clicking here](#) or call 0191 243 3316.. [Read more](#).

Marriage & Family Life Mass 2025 - Bishop Stephen will be presiding at the Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage and the graces received in Family Life, which will take place on Saturday 8 February 2025, from 12 noon at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. All married couples will be invited with particular focus on those celebrating a significant anniversary together with bereaved spouses, separated individuals and families experiencing or have experienced domestic difficulties. Further details will be given in future newsletters and via the Diocesan website.

Prayers for peace in Gaza and Israel are offered each Thursday at Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert RC Church, Crook from 7pm - 7.30pm, and each Saturday morning from 9.30am to 10.00am outside the Abbey in Hexham. All are welcome to join, even if just for a few minutes.

Life in the Spirit Seminars - The next delivery of Life in the Spirit seminars will be from 7pm – 8.30pm on Thursday evenings at St Aidan's, Benton. The seminars started on 16 January 2025, with a talk from Andy Drozdziak on God's Love and testimony from Joseph Philips followed on 23 January 2025 with a talk on Salvation from Amy Cameron and a testimony from Kelechi Dibie. For more information contact our Secretary Deacon Alison Rebello on 07931 136243 or email me, John Wheeler, at charis@diocesehn.org.uk. Places can be booked by [clicking here](#) or by ringing 0191 243 3316.

Be a Zero-waste Hero - As part of our commitment to sustainable living the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating council suggests this for a 2025 New Year resolution: Cutting down on plastic means cutting down on carbon as well. Take reusable products with you wherever you go such as a reusable cup when you visit your local coffee shop. Choose products when shopping which are not wrapped in plastic, or take advantage of a local zero-waste shop. This tells companies that you will not accept products packed in plastic. Use your £ to vote for change.

“Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.” Do you listen to the voice of truth, the voice of Jesus Christ? Maybe he is inviting you to discern a vocation to the Priesthood. For more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

Evangelisation for the Terrified - '*Evangelising for the Terrified*', written and produced within the Diocese, is a practical, light-hearted resource for anyone wondering how to get started in sharing their faith. It is deliberately written to be a simple, non-threatening collection of ideas that give intention and purpose to normal everyday opportunities that arise. Download a copy [here](#).

A Call for Volunteers with the Gift of Music - Music makes the world of difference to our lives, especially in our worship. Vatican II recognised '*the importance of singing*' in the celebration of the Mass and that it should be '*integral to worship*' with '*due consideration for the culture of the people and abilities of each liturgical assembly*'. The Diocesan Church Music Association (DCMA) is a body of volunteer musicians within Hexham and Newcastle who aim to help parishes in their use of music for the Mass. We offer practical help and guidance to parish musicians, considering that each parish will have its own musical '*house-style*'. This may be a traditional choir-and-organ setup, an instrumental group, a praise & worship band, or perhaps unaccompanied singing. Previously we have put on singing days and workshops to highlight new Mass settings, simple Communion songs, music for the Triduum, as well as a '*keyboard-free*' workshop for those parishes who do not have a pianist or organist. For more information please click: [DCMA](#)

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.

The Bible in a Year - Ascension's [Bible in a Year](#) Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: Two to three scripture readings; A reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz; A guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

Sharing the Rosary – You are very welcome to join us at Holy Name Parish Hall on Towers Avenue, Jesmond for a four week course exploring the Rosary, its history and its significance in Catholic prayer traditions. Each one-hour session will include opportunities to learn about the Mysteries of the Rosary, pray a shared Decade, and even make your own set of Rosary beads. The course will run on Saturdays 25 January, 1 February, 8 February and 22 February 2025. Refreshments will be available from 2pm, with sessions finishing at 3.30 pm. Whether you're new to the Rosary or have prayed it for years, all are welcome. Rosary beads will be available for anyone who needs them, but feel free to bring your own—especially if they hold a special story you'd like to share. To join the course, please either email welcome@holynamejesmond.co.uk or telephone (0191) 2810940.

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen](#) [The 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](#). 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](#)