

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: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 19TH - 20TH OCTOBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 19th October	St Joseph	5pm	People of the Parish
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Joe Lourie & his Intentions
Sunday 20th October	St John Boste	9:30am	Peggy & Charlie Purvis RIP
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Eddie Ashburner RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

First Reading: The Suffering Servant of the Lord

Isaiah 53:10-11

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done. His soul's anguish over, he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

Response to the Psalm: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second Reading: The Supreme High Priest

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

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 10:35-45: A Life of Service (shorter version)

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. "Master," they said to him, "we want you to do us a favour." He said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory." "You do not know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?" They replied, "We can." Jesus said to them, "The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted." When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

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 21st October 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 21st October	St Bede	10am	Mary & Joseph Dragone (RIP)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	World Peace
Tuesday 22nd October St John Paul II	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	John Peter Callaghan
	St Joseph	7pm	Marie Lawrie RIP
Wednesday 23rd October St John of Capistrano	St Bede	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Stephenson Family
	St John Boste	7pm	Mary Dragone (RIP)
Thursday 24th October St Anthony Mary Claret	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Dennis Wilson 9th Anniversary RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	Kate Flood RIP
Friday 25th October The Six Welsh Martyrs	St John Boste	10am	Deacon Peter Lavery RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Deacon Peter Lavery RIP
Saturday 26th October Ss Chad & Cedd	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Mrs Anne Carr RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Nick Barnfather RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Clare and Stephen Bottoms
Sunday 27th October 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Cathy & Frankie Dougherty (RIP)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	John Barker RIP

“ Top of The Class.!”

The Apostles James and John ask Our Lord for the ‘Top places in heaven’ in today’s Gospel. ‘Allow us to sit one at your right hand and one at your left in your glory.’ Talk about being pushy, forward! To be fair to them both, they were prepared to pay the price. St. James was martyred for the Faith in the Roman persecution, and is buried in Compostella, Spain. St. John, after Jesus’ Resurrection, looked after Our Lady at Ephesus until her Assumption into heaven. He died a natural death at the age of ninety two. Both of these Apostles were prepared to pay the price for those top positions, both were incredibly faithful to the Lord, and proved their love for him.

T.S. Elliott said, ‘*Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important..*’ James’ and John’s ambition caused some commotion with the other Apostles, leaving them feeling resentful and angry, we are told. Ambition can be a good thing so long as its channelled carefully and thoughtfully. Parents are proud of their children, we’re all proud of a job well done, something special achieved. The problem is with sinful ambition, that is when selfishness, jealousy and power take over, and get what it wants, no matter what the cost. This is what Our Lord warns of in today’s Gospel. St. Paul sums it up well, “*Be ambitious for the higher gifts, and I am going to show you a way that is greater than all ways. Love is always, patient and kind, it is never jealous or resentful, it never takes offence, but delights in the truth. It is always ready to excuse, to hope and to trust, love does not come to an end.*” (1: Cor: 13: 4-7) Let us invoke the help of SS. James and John in our prayers, let us remember their example, that we may imitate their selfless service, and live the words of Christ. “*Anyone who wants to be great among you must become a servant.*” (Mt: 20:27.)

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 each Friday 2-3pm;

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

St. Joseph's 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. Fr. Martin Morris

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!

On Friday 1st November there will be an additional mass for **All Saints (Holy day of Obligation)** at **OLQP** at 7pm.

Saturday 2nd November, All Souls day. The 10am Mass on this day at **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate** will be for all our departed loved ones, but especially those who have died in our parish during the last twelve months, whose names will be read out and family members will be invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance. Teas and coffees in the hall afterwards.

On this day there will also be an additional mass at **OLQP** at 8am for **Holy Souls**.

All welcome.

Holy Communion from the Chalice. With the rising number of Covid infections and other viruses at present, it seems wise to receive Holy Communion under one form only, i.e the Host. (In the Consecrated Host we receive the Sacramental presence of Christ whole and entire, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.) This seems to be current practise across the Diocese, and we will review this around spring/ Easter time. **Fr. Morris**

The Diocese is currently carrying out a volunteer census in our parish. This is to ensure we identify all our volunteers, to offer support and appropriate training and recognition for the important part all play in the life of our parish A volunteer is anyone who gives their time freely and regularly to assist anywhere within the Parish, School or Diocese. During the weekend of the 19th and 20th of October the **Census** will be explained in more details after the weekend Masses

If you volunteer within the Parish/School/Diocese please complete one of the forms which will be available at the back of church or complete your details via the QR code.



Matthew: The King and His Kingdom, a twenty-four-part Bible study, explores how Jesus is challenging and empowering us to a new level of holiness and shows how we must be thoroughly immersed in the kingdom of heaven on earth, the Church, to live it.

Our parishes will begin *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom* starting on the **10th October at 6pm** and will meet every week with Fr Luke at OLQP to view an engaging video presentation and a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to sign up please email Fr Luke

(luke.wilkinson@diocesehn.org.uk) There is no cost associated with this programme but you'll need a Catholic Bible and resources books are available online if you would like one.

St Bede's Primary School has spaces in Reception class and flexible 15 & 30 hour places in Nursery. To enrol your child or for any enquiries please contact the school on 0191 416588.

SVP sleep-out

On Friday 18th October Sophie Taylor joined the Vinnie's for the annual sleep-out. They took to the streets of Newcastle to spend just one night in the cold - without the luxury of a bed to sleep in and a roof over their heads. They slept out for ONE night for those who sleep out EVERY night. We are raising vital funds to support our project, all money raised will come directly to the centre to help pay for emergency food parcels, our free meal service and essential items for homeless people such as sleeping bags, underwear and backpacks.

You can donate to support the cause by using the Just Giving link which will stay live for the next few weeks: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/vinniesnew-newcastle-1726490687951>

Red Box Appeal – Missio & Mill Hill Missionaries

Next weekend we will welcome Fr Stephen Botto to give a Red Box Appeal at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate & St Bede's.

Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the world where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing to give by direct debit.

The New Lectionary

At 11am Following the Saturday Morning Mass at OBLI on the **9th Nov** Fr Luke will introduce and explain the New Lectionary that will be in use across the country from the first Sunday of Advent. All Readers are encouraged to attend and anyone is welcome to come along to hear about the New Lectionary.

Oppose Assisted Suicide

Bishops are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide. On Wednesday, 16 October, the House of Commons heard the first reading of a new bill on assisted suicide tabled by Kim Leadbeater MP. The proposed legalisation undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. We are a praying community. Please pray that our lawmakers will act wisely and will value human life. Please contact your local MP to express your views. The charity **Right to Life UK** has a simple online mechanism to do this with a provided factual letter. It can be found on the Bishops' Conference website together with materials explaining the Church's grave concerns about the proposed legislation at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/> Thank you for your prayers and action. **Bishop Stephen.**

Assisted Suicide—Should the Law be changed?

Dr Domenic Whitehouse, a palliative care consultant working in a hospice, explains why changing the law would be harmful to patients, doctors and society.

Date: Wednesday 23rd October

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle, NE15DH.

Please register to attend at www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures (If you are unable to register online you are still welcome to come along.)

“ **Living Faith.**” Autumn edition. This excellent little book offers Scripture reflections for each day of the year and encouragement in prayer. Available from the back of Church, £1.20 each

Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency - The Agency has now completed its final report, ‘Interim Review’ of Safeguarding in Leadership, Governance, Ministry and Culture in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. (September 2024) The report can be viewed on the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency’ website, or copies from the Parish office.

Diocesan Courses: The Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team will be offering the following Days of Reflection and Courses this coming Autumn:

Liturgy Days for Readers and the New Lectionary: Saturday 26 October: St Bede’s, Bedlington; Saturday 9 November: St Augustine’s, Darlington; Saturday 23 November: St Aloysius, Hebburn. For further information and booking forms, please visit: [Liturgy & Prayer webpage](#).

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who helped and supported the above event at St John Boste and Our Lady’s last weekend. SJB raised an amazing £550 and OBLI raised an incredible £640, so a total of £1,190 will be forwarded to MacMillan Cancer Support in due course from our parish. If you bought any raffle tickets please check the numbers shown in the porch at SJB to see if you won a prize.

Other News

Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has declared 2025 a Jubilee Year with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope”. It is hoped that many people in the Diocese will take the opportunity of celebrating the Jubilee Year by joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

You are invited to a presentation about the Lourdes Pilgrimage in St Joseph’s Parish Centre Birtley at 7.45pm on Tuesday 22nd October at 7.45pm. (There is a 7pm Mass in St Joseph’s if you wish to attend before the presentation.)

We extend a particular invitation to young people in years 11-13 to come along and hear about the Youth Section of the Pilgrimage. There will be young people who were on the 2024 pilgrimage who will talk about their experiences on this year’s pilgrimage.

Monday Lunch Club at St. Michael’s and all Angels Church, Manor Road, Sulgrave.– FREE! Every Monday, at 12-2pm. Food, Bingo, Friendship and Quiz. Donations only. **All welcome.**

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](#). A free pdf for primary & secondary schools is available to download from the artist’s website by [clicking here](#).

Day of Reflection Led by the Minsteracres team - £30 - Wednesday 6th November 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](#).

Year of Jubilee 2024 – 2025 - The Diocese has a vast array of opportunities for formation either as part of a parish or partnership or for your own individual faith development. There is a new series of leaflets coming soon that outline what is on offer and can be accessed via the [Living the Faith page](#). If you feel there is something you would like to learn more about, that isn’t currently offered then please get in touch.

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](#).

The Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle are having a Christmas Fayre on Saturday 9th November from 12pm to 3pm. Lots of stalls, home baking, Santa’s Grotto, and Arts & Crafts. All are welcome.

Youth 2000 is holding a holy hour of prayer & praise, rosary, reflection and social on Saturday 26th October from 2.00pm to 4pm at St Cuthbert’s RC Church Old Elvet. Open to Young people aged 16-35 (under 16s will need to request a Parent Consent form) Further enquiries email irishanthony12@gmail.com

Reflections

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

Examen -Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go
[Saturday Examen](#) [29th 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](#)