

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



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In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 20TH - 21ST January 2024, Year B

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| Saturday 20th January | 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) |
| | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | The People of the Parish |
| 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am | Theresa Madden RIP |

Ordinary Time

In the liturgical calendar of the Catholic church, this Sunday falls during a period called 'Ordinary Time' – basically, the part of the liturgical year which sits outside of Christmastide and Eastertide and their preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent.

We should not be misled into thinking that *Ordinary Time* represents a part of the liturgical year which is unimportant. In fact, the term '*ordinary*' comes from the Latin word '*ordinalis*', which refers to the numbers in a series and denotes the numbering of the weeks of Ordinary Time. In other words, *Ordinary Time* simply represents the ordered life of the Church and, in fact, the scripture readings of *Ordinary Time* are far from unimportant or uninteresting.

Today's readings are certainly brimming over with a sense of urgency!

After a warning from the prophet Jonah, the people of Nineveh all donned sackcloth and ashes to repent of their wickedness, from the king down to the least – even their herds and flocks had to wear sackcloth!

St Paul warns the Corinthians that '*the world as we know it is passing away*' and urges them not to waste time on anything which is not focused on the coming Kingdom of God.

In the first chapter of Mark's gospel after being baptised by his cousin John and spending 40 days and nights in the wilderness, Jesus begins his public ministry with the words, "*The time has come. The Kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.*"

And so, what is the message of these readings for us today?

I wonder whether today we have lost a sense of urgency. We are 2,000 years on from when Jesus spoke those words and, although we may see glimpses of it from time to time, the Kingdom of God hasn't fully arrived. Maybe it's a bit like the way we have been sleep-walking into the climate crisis – indifferent to the radical changes needed to prevent catastrophe.

Today's readings are a wake-up call for us. A reminder that we '*do not know the day or the hour when the Master will arrive*'. (Mt 25:13). So today, let us invite God to show us where we need to change and ask for the grace to be transformed more into the likeness of Jesus - wouldn't that be '*Extra-ordinary*'!

Frank O'Neill

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|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 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 22nd January 2024

| Day | Church | Time | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|--|
| Monday 22nd January St. Vincent | St Bede | 10am | People of the Parish |
| | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 7pm | John James & Marian Moffett |
| Tuesday 23rd January | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am | Mary & Michael Casey & Sons Michal, Matty & Harry RIP |
| | St Joseph | 7pm | Billy Wilson (Dec'd) |
| Wednesday 24th January St Francis de Sales | St Bede | 10am | Sick of the Parish |
| | St John Boste | 7pm | Cath & Eric |
| Thursday 25th January The Conversion of St Paul | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | Sick of the Parish |
| | St Joseph | 12 noon | Maureen Joslin (Dec'd) |
| Friday 26th January Ss Timothy & Titus | St John Boste | 10am | Margaret & Stewart Bell |
| | St Joseph | 10am | Veronica Farrer (Dec'd) |
| Saturday 27th January St Angela Merici | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am | Billy Curtain RIP |
| | St Joseph | 5pm | Dennis Welsh (Dec'd) |
| | Vigil | St Bede | 5pm Billy Bowden (Deceased Anniversary) |
| Sunday 28th January 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time | St John Boste | 9:30am | Thanksgiving for Health |
| | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | People of the Parish |
| | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am | People who don't have anyone to pray for them |

First Reading: Nineveh Changes its Ways

Jonah 3:1-5.10

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: "Up!" he said. "Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to." Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, "Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed." And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Response to the Psalm: Lord, make me know your ways.

Second reading: This Passing World 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as

though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation: : Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand: repent, and believe the good news. Alleluia!

The Gospel: (Mark 1:14-20): The Call of the Disciples

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men." And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

The Call of the Disciples

What is going on? We had last Sunday the story of the first two disciples joining Jesus. One of them was Andrew, the other unnamed. Now we get another story, in another place, of other first disciples being called. So the Church underlines, two weeks running, the importance of Jesus' new community. The first thing he does is call disciples. He can't do everything on his own, and that is the point of the Church. He calls disciples to make a new people, a new Israel - old, young, middle-aged: we all have our part to fill in Jesus' play. Tired old people, busy parents, lively youngsters - each of us can make a unique contribution, especially since Jesus has chosen us himself. An odd choice, some of us! What did he want ME to do in the new family of Jesus? The two different versions of the calling of the disciples show that at least two different people told this story. When two people tell the same story, there are bound to be variations. The place didn't matter, or the order in which the disciples were called. The point of the story was the call, the response and the companionship, the working together with the Lord. **Do you enjoy more being on your own or linking up with others? What is Jesus 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

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!

Special Collection Next Week - Racial Justice: The simple fact is that we are all sisters and brothers - no matter what country we come from or what colour we are. Sadly, not everyone agrees with this, and it takes a great deal of education and formation for anyone of us to become less prejudiced against other people. This collection is used to develop resources to help us all become less prejudiced and ultimately, more respectful of people who are different from us. Racial prejudice is a scandal, and we must work together to deepen our appreciation of people from all countries and cultures.

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 six 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.

"And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him." Like the call of the disciples in today's Gospel, can you accept the invitation to follow Jesus and 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 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 colour-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

BIBLE and a BITE, beginning Wednesday 31st of January at 12 noon, in the coffee room at **OLQP**, come and share a cuppa and a sandwich whilst listening to and reflecting on a bible passage.

We only have one question. "Ah! But what is God saying to me and my life?" Just turn up or any queries contact: **Chas Ferguson on 07836631963**

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 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.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk – Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty - Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. [Sign up today!](#) CAFOD and SCIAF are teaming up to bring the Big Lent Walk to Great Britain! Read more about us and our decision to join forces. Thousands of walkers from England, Wales, Scotland and beyond, will be tying up their purple laces and walking an incredible 200km this Lent to fight global poverty. So, sign up to do the Big Lent Walk yourself, or join in with your school or parish. Then put your best foot forward with the biggest group of Big Lent Walkers yet.

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.

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.

Holy Hour - The Association of the Eucharist will be holding their monthly Holy Hour on Sunday 4 February 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.

Volunteers Wanted - The SVP are looking for volunteers willing to help children put their faith into action. Could this be you? The St Vincent de Paul Society have primary school groups called **Mini Vinnies** and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the Diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please [click here](#) for more information. You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. Our next initial training day is on **Tuesday 27 February 2024**.

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 3rd 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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