

# 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)  
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## In the Partnership of Benedict

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

### THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 21ST - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 21st September	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Frank &amp; Minnie Knott RIP</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Bede	5pm	<b>Sally Purvis (Recently Deceased)</b>
Sunday 22nd September	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Keith Shannon RIP</b>
<b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Allan Callaghan RIP</b>

#### First Reading: The Good Man Taunted

##### The Book of Wisdom 2:12.17-20

The godless say to themselves, "Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true; let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after - we have his word for it."

#### Response to the Psalm: The Lord upholds my life.

#### Second Reading: Peace and Prayer

##### James 3:16 – 4:3

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly; you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

#### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

#### The Gospel: Mark 9:30-37: The Second Prophecy of the Passion

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again." But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all." He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, "Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

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 23rd September 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 23rd September <b>St Pio of Pietrelcina</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>World Peace</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>Cecily McDevitte 90th Birthday</b>
Tuesday 24th September <b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Allan Callaghan RIP</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Patricia O'Malley RIP</b>
Wednesday 25th September	St Bede	10am	<b>Angela Reid RIP</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Vera &amp; John Frazer RIP</b>
Thursday 26th September <b>Ss Cosmos &amp; Damian</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Carl Poulter</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Marion &amp; Bob Slavin</b>
Friday 27th September <b>St Vincent de Paul</b>	St John Boste	10am	<b>Vera Frazer RIP</b>
	St Joseph	10am	<b>Marie Lawrie</b>
Saturday 28th September <b>Ss Wenceslaus &amp; Lawrence Ruiz</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Peggy Lawson RIP</b>
	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Priest's Intention</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Lawrence &amp; Cecilia Holland, Brendan Holland &amp; Judith Holland RIP</b>
Sunday 29th September <b>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Tina &amp; Ted Dickinson RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Anne &amp; John Cantwell RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>People of the Parish</b>

### "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me"

Our readings this week are perfectly aligned to bring us to the very heart of what being a Christian is all about.

We all have different faces, or avatars, which we present to the world. We even adapt them to the specific situations we find ourselves in. For example, one day we might be playing the role of schoolteacher, the next day we might be grandma. As an old friend said to me recently, "The grandkids are coming tomorrow. I will have to put my nana hat on!" The following day she was planning to meet her husband at the airport as he returned from a long work trip. On this occasion she would doubtless be wearing the doting and loving wife hat. We are all like my friend, we all play many different roles, but we are always the same person.

It's this inner person, this inner me, who Jesus is talking to. He is talking to the person behind the mask, the real me. This is our inner soul where we make all our real decisions, it's also the place where our hopes and fears are stored. It's here that Jesus is reaching. He wants each of us to see ourselves as we truly are and then reform us.

In our Gospel we find the apostles talking among themselves. They know each other very well by this stage and are so comfortable with each other that they are being their true selves, no avatars, no masks. Each of them thinks they are better than the others. Each of them believes they should be the important one after Jesus. They can each point out all the faults in the others while being blind to their own shortcomings - sound familiar?

Jesus knows that his apostles, and each of us, must play different roles in life and that this is a normal and natural thing. But these roles always come from our true self. This is why he wants us to see ourselves first as children, children in the Gospel sense. This means we should know our weaknesses and our vulnerabilities whichever role we find ourselves in, be it grandma or school teacher. But most of all, like all children, we must be prepared to develop and grow in his likeness, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3: 30). The first step is to realise that all our brothers and sisters are on the same journey of change and development. They too are spiritually childlike, as weak and vulnerable as little children, and we must be as accepting and tolerant with them as we hope our heavenly father will be with us. Fr Martin Wheaton

**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>.

### **Deacon Peter Lavery**

It is with the greatest sadness that we include a message received from Michael Lavery, Deacon Peter's son, which is self-explanatory.

Following the rapid progression of his brain cancer, Peter is now receiving end-of-life care at home, surrounded by close family. We ask for your continued prayers for Peter and all the family in the coming weeks but respectfully ask for no calls, visits, or flowers at this time.

Thank you for all your kindness and prayers to date. They were a great comfort to Dad and Mam.

### **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!

**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 25<sup>th</sup> September, 11am; Our Lady Queen of Peace on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> September, 11am; Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, 11am; and St. John Boste on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am.

#### **MacMillan Coffee Mornings:**

At Our Lady Queen of Peace after Mass on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2024. You can also donate directly by using the QR code on the poster in the church porch.

At Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

At St John Boste on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October. All welcome. All proceeds to MacMillan Cancer Support.

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

**This 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.

**Partnership Day of Reflection** - This year's Ministry Morning will take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Annual Parish Count:** - 4Weekends. Including 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> October. Welcomers / volunteers at Church entrances please record count each weekend and inform the parish office by phone or e-mail. Many thanks, Fr. Martin.

**RCIA (RITE of Christian Initiation of Adults)** Journey in faith - The preparation begins Tuesday October 1<sup>st</sup> in the meeting room at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, 7pm. For all those who have registered with Fr. Martin already.

**First Holy Communion Preparation** - Parents of Children in year 4 (aged 8-9 years) The First Holy Communion programme begins in coming weeks. Fr. Martin will be meeting with all parents of Children to introduce the year's preparation at the meetings arranged in your particular school. Parent's, please make every effort to attend. Catholic children in non- Catholic schools and in year 4 please contact the parish office to register your child.

**Adoremus Conference, 2024** - Thankyou to the ten parishioners who attended this conference last weekend in Birmingham. It was an early start (4.30am) but I hope it was well worth the journey for everyone. Over 20000 people attended the day as reps for their parishes around the country. We heard talks from various Bishops on deepening our Faith in the Eucharist, and Cardinal Vincent Nicholl's celebrated the lunchtime Mass. He described the gathering as "Part of the year of prayer in preparation for the Holy Year, 2025 as a great opportunity to deepen and share our love for the Lord who is always present to us in the Eucharist".

**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.

**Matthew: The King and His Kingdom** The book of Matthew brings the history of Christ to life. We see Jesus as the awaited Messiah who fulfils the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, establishes the New Law, and inaugurates the kingdom of heaven. **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* on **10<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm**. We will meet every week with Fr Luke 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](mailto:luke.wilkinson@diocesehn.org.uk)) There is no cost associated with this programme but you'll need a Catholic Bible

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**, Washington welcome visits from families to attend an open evening on Tuesday 8th October at 4:30 for prospective Nursery and Reception parents for January 2025 and September 2025. This will be a great opportunity to meet the Headteacher and EYFS team, tour our classrooms and garden as well as ask any questions you may have.

**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. There'll be an expansive cup of tea - and who knows, maybe more - after mass to catch up. 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**.

**Monday Lunch Club** at St. Michael's and all Angels Church, Manor Road, Sulgrave.- FREE! Starting every Monday from October 7<sup>th</sup>. 12-2pm. Food, Bingo, Friendship and Quiz. Donations only. All welcome.

**Bereavement support Group** - at ST. Michael's Sulgrave, First and Third Monday of each month 2-4pm. All welcome.

**"If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all."** Might God be calling you to discern a life of service as a priest within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle? **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](#)

**'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](#)

**News from the Emmanuel community** - The Emmanuel community will be hosting Michelle Moran again from 10.00am at St Mary's School, Newcastle on Saturday 12 October 2024. In marking the fifth anniversary of the founding of CHARIS ([click here](#) for more information about CHARIS), Michelle recently commented, "*It was a privilege to be involved in the establishment of CHARIS. I pray for all those now tasked with the responsibility of serving in the current of grace. May CHARIS continue to bring unity, strength and maturity to the Charismatic Renewal worldwide.*" We look forward to hearing what Michelle is seeing of how the Holy Spirit has been at work over these five years. To book a place [please click](#) here or by tel: 0191 284 1690.

**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

**FLAME 2025** - takes place on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March**. The theme is '**UNSTOPPABLE. FAN THE FLAME OF HOPE**'. It is open to anyone from school year 9 to university/young adult age. Under 18s must be part of an organised group. Please talk with your school chaplain, catechist or parish priest if you would like to come along. Two years ago, over 700 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take a large number of young people (up to 1,000 including accompanying adults). **COST: £45** per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. For further information [please click 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](#) [25th 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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