

# 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](mailto:StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk)  
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



**In the Partnership of Benedict**

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

## CHRIST THE KING, 23RD - 24TH NOVEMBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 23rd November <b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Young People of the Diocese</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>John &amp; Elizabeth Hall &amp; Helen Ritchie RIP</b>
Sunday 24th November <b>Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Norman Smithson RIP 1st Anniversary</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Andrew Bell RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>People of the Parish</b>

### First Reading: One Like a Son of Man, Daniel 7:13-14

I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the one of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty which shall never pass away, nor will his empire be destroyed.

### Response to the Psalm: The Lord is King, with majesty enrobed.

### Second Reading: The Lord of the Church, Apocalypse 1:5-8

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the First-born from the dead, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. He loves us and has washed away our sins with his blood, and made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God and Father; to him, then, be glory and power for ever and ever. Amen. It is he who is coming on the clouds; everyone will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the races of the earth will mourn over him. This is the truth. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.

### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

### The Gospel: John 18:33-37: Judgement before Pilate

"Are you the king of the Jews?" Pilate asked. Jesus replied, "Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?" Jesus replied, "Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind." "So you are a king then?" said Pilate. "It is you who say it," answered Jesus. "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."

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 25th November 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 25th November <b>St Catherine of Alexandria</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>A Sick Person (DF)</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>Carl Poulter (Poorly)</b>
Tuesday 26th November	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Repose of the soul of Pedro Pablo Ladino</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Kathleen Burlinson RIP</b>
Wednesday 27th November	St Bede	10am	<b>Ann &amp; Louis Connolly RIP</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Kathleen Burlinson</b>
Thursday 28th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Trevor Westgarth RIP</b>
	St Joseph	12 noon	<b>Priest's Intention</b>
Friday 29th November	St John Boste	10am	<b>For the sick and housebound</b>
	St Joseph (at St Benet's School)	9:15am	<b>Violet Caufield RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	12 noon	<b>Requiem Mass: Bill Duncan</b>
Saturday 30th November <b>St Andrew</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>All Souls in Purgatory</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Conceicao Lucas Goncalves RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Margaret Hodgson &amp; Deceased Stephenson Family</b>
Sunday 1st December <b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Ann Guthrie</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Janet Fawcett</b>

### Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel, John 18: 33 – 37, is one of those passages that, for most of us, is embedded in our memory. It occupies a pivotal moment before the horrendous unfurling of the Passion. It is a dialogue between two different worlds; one of worldly power focused on domination, and the Kingdom of Christ, quite different. In the short exchange, Pilate asks three questions of Jesus;

Are you the King of the Jews? What have you done? So you are a King then?

Pilate is eager for political answers that will allow him to pass responsibility to the Jews, not for "Mine is not a kingdom of this world." Christ's role is to bear witness for the truth, a truth that has the power to shape and transform those who will listen to him.

The themes which this dialogue throws back at us are key to this feast day: the Solemnity of Christ the King, identity, action and truth. It is worth noting the relative youth of this feast in church terms. It was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, ninety - nine years ago. The Great War in Europe had devastated a continent and changed borders that had endured for centuries. Humankind was confronted by the potential of total destruction in modern warfare. Ironically, of course, in fifteen years, worse was to come. For the Pope, it was important for the world to dwell on another form of Kingship, as exemplified by the Servant King. For us too, Pilate's questions should have a resonance. Our identity should be rooted in our actions, rooted in Christian values, which speak of an inner truth, of faith, of belief.

Almost a century later, it is, unfortunately, all too easy to draw parallels with so many examples of warped, self-serving Kingship and the subsequent aberration of the dignity of human life. How many of us cannot bear to watch the evening news?

Christ the King teaches us another way. In Christ, kingship is defined as witness and service to our fellow human beings and to the planet itself – stewardship, if you will. How will "what we have done" make a safer, more secure world for future generations? How do we witness to Christ's message of love?

No surprise, then, that we celebrate Youth Sunday on this defining feast...

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: 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 2pm - 3pm;

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

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!

**Matthew: The King and His Kingdom**, a 24-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. *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom* started on 10 October and will meet every week at 6pm 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](mailto: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.

**A Message from Michael Leckenby:** It is with a great deal of sadness, after giving the matter much consideration, that I have decided to retire from organ playing duties in the parish. Initially, I will no longer be playing for funerals and weddings after December. I intend to continue playing for Sunday Masses in the short term to provide some time for any likely successor(s) to be introduced to the pipe organs in the parish. To this end, both Fr Martin and I would welcome enquiries from prospective players. Anyone with reasonable piano playing ability, i.e. Grade 3 or above, is invited to contact us for further information.

**Holy Year 2025.** Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Holy Year. The Holy Door at St Mary's Cathedral will be opened by Bishop Stephen on 31 December. Pope Francis has written an Encyclical Letter on 'The Sacred Heart of Jesus' and suggested the traditional practice of the 'Nine First Friday' devotion throughout 2025. We will offer this devotional practice throughout next year, with an evening Mass on the First Friday of each month in one of our churches, from February to October.

**We are also planning a Parish Lenten Mission 2025**, 15 March - 19 March. The Mission will be led by Sr Briege McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani. Sr Briege 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.

Do you have any further ideas how we can make the Holy Year special in our Parish? Please let us know! Fr Martin Morris.

### **Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw, Catholic Womens Guild.**

Our annual collection of toys for the poor children in the area is on Sunday 8 December after 10am Mass. Please label any gifts 'Boy'/'Girl' with an age or 'Family'. Gifts can be left in the Church porch - all donations very much appreciated.

**Youth Sunday – a message from YMT.** As we near Youth Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King on 24 November, we invite you to celebrate and encourage young people in our Diocese. World Youth Sunday resources are now available, including a registration link for CYMFed's World Youth Funday, a free, interactive livestream event on Friday 22 November. Join live from studios in London, Nottingham, and YMT, with special guests like Sr Anna and Sr Linda (Daughters of Divine Charity), Bishop David Oakley and more, ending the day with a moment of Adoration. Thank you for any support or fundraising you can offer for youth ministry in our Diocese. Follow YMT and visit the [CYMFed website](#) for more details.

### **The Social Justice and Environment Group Christmas**

**Shoebox Appeal.** Lists are available with suggested donations for this year's appeal for local refugee and asylum seeker projects. If you wish to fill a shoebox, that would be wonderful, but donations of any items from the list will be gratefully received. The closing date for donations is Sunday 24 November Please hand your donations in to your local church or deliver to Our Lady's Church in Washington Village. If you need anything collected, please contact Chris O'Neill (07815162153). Thank you.

**St Joseph's Primary School and Our Lady Queen of Peace** are looking to appoint Foundation Governors to support the schools and strengthen the current governing body. If you feel you could fulfil the role for either school please speak to Fr Morris who can give further information.

**Special Collection This Week - Catholic Youth Ministry.** Our Diocese is blessed! We have a dedicated team of people exploring how our young people can become more dedicated followers of Jesus. It is a tough ask! This team works alongside our Catholic Schools to help ensure that our young people look seriously at what it means to be a committed Catholic in our world today.

**This Weekend, 24 November**, Fr Stephen Botto, Mill Hill Missionary, will say the 9.30am Mass at St John Boste and thank all you parishioners for your continued support to the Red Box appeal.

### **DBS clearance - Online Update Service.**

Volunteers that are DBS cleared and have signed up to the free Online Update Service (OUS) will need to be aware of an upcoming change. Previously, when a DBS clearance was coming up for renewal after three years, no action would be required to be taken for the clearance to auto renew. Now, at the renewal time the volunteer will be sent an email from DBS Update Service ([dbs.update.service@notifications.service.gov.uk](mailto:dbs.update.service@notifications.service.gov.uk)) asking them to click a link and then confirm their details on the site.

The service remains free, and no payment details will be requested or required. Please note, on receipt of the email, volunteers will have 14 days to confirm their details through the site, otherwise their clearance will lapse. Which means when it comes to getting DBS cleared again they will need to start the clearance process from the beginning.

If you have any questions about this change, or the DBS clearance process in general, please speak to your parish Safeguarding Leads.

**Missio Red Box Envelopes - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate.** As we are nearing the end of Missio's financial year please collect an A5 Missio envelope from the rear of Our Blessed Lady Immaculate for your Red Box contents/donation. Could you please return it to church by mid December. If you need any assistance please contact Winifred Waite Tel 07903565306.

**Message from Deacon Peter Lavery's Family.** Deacon Peter's family would like to say a great big thank-you for your generous contributions at both his funeral and further on-line donations. The total amount received was over £2,000. With special thanks to Cardinal Hume School who held a Coffee Morning for Macmillan in Peter's name, which raised over £500. We are therefore dividing the final amount - £1,000 to St Joseph's, which we have asked that this will help purchase the new Lectionaries (a dedication to Peter will be included in one of them) and the remainder to Macmillan. Many thanks again Pauline and family.

**St John Boste, Christmas Memorial Candles.** From next week envelopes will be available for your intentions for the Christmas candles. They need to be returned by Sunday 15 December.

**Advent Holy Hours.** On the first three Sundays of Advent there will be a Holy Hour with Evening Prayer and Benediction, please come along and prepare for Christmas with prayer!

1 December at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, 4 - 5pm

8 December at Our Lady Queen of Peace, 4pm - 5.30pm (with Medjugorje devotions)

15 December at St John Boste, 4pm - 5pm.

Next weekend we have a pastoral letter from Bishop Stephen to mark the beginning of the advent season

### Other News

**"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. **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 December 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](#)

**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. The Diocesan synodal vision continues to be reflected upon across the Diocese. Everyone is invited to engage in prayerful reflection, where possible, holding 'Spiritual Conversations.' Formation in this style of discernment is available, alongside suggested session sheets, to access follow this [link](#).

**Little Sisters of the Poor Christmas Concert.** The Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 7 December 2024 at 7pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters at St Joseph's Home. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home – 0191 273 1279.

**New Lectionary** - A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. Visit the CBCEW [website](#) to find out more.

**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. All are welcome.

**A Year of Prayer** - "Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It is in prayer that our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity." Pope Francis. In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. Please visit the Diocesan Year of Prayer [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

**The Eucharist: A Gift to be Nurtured** - As part of our aim to promote growth and knowledge of the Eucharist, the Association of the Eucharist offer [The Eucharist: A Gift to be Nurtured](#), which gives us words from Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis to guide time before the Blessed Sacrament. This resource can be used by both individuals and groups.

### Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen Christ the King 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](#)

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