

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



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 24TH - 25TH AUGUST 2024, Year B

Saturday 24th August	St Joseph	5pm	Bill Mckenna RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Sally Purvis (recently deceased)
Sunday 25th August	St John Boste	9:30am	John O'Brien RIP
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Mary & Michael Casey & Sons Harry, Matty & Michael RIP

First Reading: Renewal of the Covenant at Shechem, Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Response to the Psalm: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Second Reading: The Mystery of Christ's Love, Ephesians 5:21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

The Gospel: We Believe Lord: to Whom shall we go, John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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 26th August 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 26th August Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God & St David Lewis	St Bede	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Stephenson Family
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Alan Callaghan RIP
Tuesday 27th August St Monica	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Wedding Anniversary Mary and David (RIP) Barry
	St Joseph	7pm	Deceased members of the Waggott Family RIP
Wednesday 28th August St Augustine	St Bede	10am	Special Intention (AC)
	St John Boste	7pm	Private Intention (RP)
Thursday 29th August The Passion of St John the Baptist	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Alfie Cruddas RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Elaine Hannon RIP
Friday 30th August Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward	St John Boste	10am	Living and deceased members of the Dougherty Family
	St Joseph	10am	Mary Shields RIP
Saturday 31st August St Aidan Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Alan Callaghan RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Brian Lee & Isabella Brydon RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Leo, Jenny and Paul Bottoms
Sunday 1st September 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Peter Dolan RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	In Loving memory of Jim & Hilda Hillam
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

“ Lord to whom shall we go you have the message of eternal life, and we believe, we know that you are the Holy One of God.”

St Peter, the humble fisherman of Galilee, the first Pope, speaks these words, his profession of Faith, as he looks into the eyes of Jesus of Nazareth and so proclaims him Lord and Saviour. This beautiful and humble statement of Faith comes after St Peter hears Our Lord speaking his teaching on the ‘ Bread of Life.’ Many of the followers of Christ left after this teaching, but St Peter remained with Jesus and accepted in full what Jesus was saying. It must have been difficult for St Peter to see many of the followers of Jesus depart company from him, Faith sometimes can be like that for us too. Not everyone sees it! Some just don’t get it. What was it that made St Peter stick with Our Lord, right to the very end? Christian faith isn’t only a matter of believing that certain things are true, but above all it’s a personal friendship with Jesus Christ. It is an encounter with him who is the son of God, that gives new energy and direction to our daily existence. When we enter into a personal relationship with him, Jesus Christ reveals our true identity, and in friendship with him, our lives grow and deepen in mature Faith. The Creed that we profess at Sunday Mass protects us from the danger of believing in a God other than the one revealed by Christ. St Peter received the gift of Faith by opening his heart and mind to Jesus and spending time in his company. So his Faith grew and deepened towards the revealed truth. I often think of St Elizabeth who said to Our Lady at the visitation, “Blessed is she who believed.” (Luke: 1:45.) The first thing we have to do to be close to God and know his presence is to Believe. It is Faith, Faith in God, in the God who showed himself in Jesus Christ and makes himself heard in the divine word of Holy Scripture. Be like St Peter, seek for Jesus, search for him, take time to visit him and the reward of Faith will be ours. Take time to read the Holy Scriptures, maybe visit the Church for Eucharistic Adoration, or praying the Rosary. Prayer is the key to deepening our Faith, and so with St Peter we can say, “ Lord, you have the message of Eternal life, we believe, we know that you are the holy one of God.”

“ I let God observe me. To dig deep inside me, to form my soul, to hold it. He is truly present, not an invention. He’s there. And if everyone could realise that, how they would run to it.! If everyone Believed in this truth, how their lives would change for the better!” (Blessed Carlo Acutis.)

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 (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 is now available in all of our Churches:

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!

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR) The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency(CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives names are displayed on church notice boards, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

St Bede's Church - If you know someone who can no longer get to Holy Mass because they are sick or housebound, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Marian Fletcher Tel: 01914174413. We also would like to encourage those from **all our churches** that are no longer able to attend mass to have a Special Minister call with Holy Communion, Please ask or get in touch with any of our Priests or Deacons.

Mass Intentions

Please be aware that there are a significant number of Mass Intentions already allocated and any request for a specific date may not be possible due to an Intention previously received and allocated to the Mass on that date. If the date requested is already filled, then the intention will be allocated to the first available Mass in the preferred church which could be a few weeks after the requested date.

St Bede Toddler Group

The toddler group is now full so we have opened a waiting list. However, we will have places from September as there are several children leaving to go to nursery. Please contact Joan Formosa on 07504 579591 if you wish to add a name to the waiting list. Joan will contact you when a place becomes available.

Eucharistic Congress Birmingham 14 September 2024.

The Bishops of England and Wales have called the Congress to help parishes reflect more deeply on the great gift of the Eucharist and how our Faith in this Sacrament can be strengthened and

renewed. Representatives from each parish community will attend the event and share with us at a later date the ideas put forward at the Congress. I am very grateful to those who have offered to attend the event as reps. for our partnership of parishes.: Sophie Taylor, Andrew French, Dominique Lentchou, Tom Kelly, Darren Trotter, Paddy Denton, Stanley Duru and Chibuzo Kabul. Thank you, Fr Martin.

NEW SONG! We look forward to welcoming you at our monthly time of prayer and fellowship on Sunday 8 September at 4pm in the less formal surroundings of OBLI Parish Room, St Joseph's Primary School, NE38 7HU. In this session we will be re-visiting the theme of HOPE. Look forward to seeing you there!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS.

When: Sunday 8 September at 4pm

Email: newsongne@gmail.com, Instagram: @newsongne

Deacon Frank O'Neill

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.

It's just over a year since I began the Sabbatical time and I wrote explaining how I was looking at six options for the future. I'm pleased to say 'it worked'. It became clear to me during the year that the right thing to do was to retire from responsibility as a priest serving the parishes where I'd lived, and actually retire - while still being able to serve other communities when the local priest is either ill or on holiday. I've just moved into a flat in the presbytery of the Sacred Heart parish in Boldon Colliery - and I'm very happy here. But after talking to Fr Martin (the big one), it seems right to celebrate mass for a final time in the community where I lived and in the parishes I tried to serve. So, you're more than welcome that evening at St Bede's. There'll be an expansive cup of tea - and who knows, maybe more - after mass to catch up. I notice that Pope Francis reminds our Church - i.e. the Universal one, the whole Church, not just St Bede's! - marks the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees that weekend. I'd no idea we'd been praying for migrants for so long. I don't feel like a migrant in Boldon Colliery, though moving and change is challenging. Our diocese is trying to move and change and it is really challenging. Please feel free to gather and remember our sisters and brothers throughout the world who have to move in such awful circumstances, and the fact that I've loved being in Washington/ Birtley over those years. Take care and God bless. **Jim O'Keefe.**

Holy Hour of Prayer.

As part of the National Eucharistic Congress Adoremus 2024 taking place in St Mary's Oscott on 14 September, the Bishops of England and Wales are requesting all parishes across the country to host a period of Adoration on Sunday 15 September. The objective of this Adoration in parishes is to fruitfully unite the faithful in focusing on the Eucharist in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025 with renewed and deepened devotion. This can be a Holy Hour or a period of prayer during Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Each parish is able to decide for themselves the best time to organise this Adoration. Bishop Stephen is supportive of this nationwide Adoration across the diocese, depending on the resources available to host such a time of prayer and reflection for our local parishes and communities to enrich and nourish the faithful. Our Holy of Prayer will take place at St Bede's 4-5pm on Sunday 15 September, where there will be time for reflection and prayer around the Eucharist. All Welcome.

Comboni Missionaries - We welcome the Missionary Priests next weekend who will be speaking at Masses at St Bede's, St John Boste & Our Blessed Lady Immaculate. They will also take a collection for the Comboni Missionary work. Thankyou.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage : 1-8 June 2025. Flying from Newcastle to Dubrovnik. Led by Fr Martin Morris. The pilgrimage is almost full, a few places remaining if interested. Contact Adrian Duffy at Northern Star pilgrimages on 0161- 7732115.

Other News

The Medjugorje Centre (North East) has organised a Medjugorje Retreat at Minsteracres from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 October. The Spiritual Director for the weekend is Fr Martin Morris. The weekend is an opportunity to come together for prayer, talks and friendship. The cost is £195 per person. A £48 Deposit is required and more information and booking forms are available from Marian Fletcher (St Bede's) Telephone 0191 4174413.

"Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God." Is God asking you to turn to Him 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 3 September 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](#)

Holy Hour - The Association of the Eucharist will be holding their monthly Holy Hour this Sunday 1 September 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.

What is the Lord calling us to Be and Do? - Workshops have taken place in Stockton, Consett and Washington with plans in place for Hexham and Amble. With further modelling of spiritual conversations taking place at Ushaw and with the Diocesan Lay Pastoral Forum. The discernment workshops will continue into the Autumn term with a number of Partnerships now inviting training into their area. In Rome the latest document for the universal synod has been released aimed at those who will be attending the meeting in October 2025. A link to this document can be found by [clicking here](#). We continue to pray and unpack the draft Diocesan vision, exploring what is God calling us to Be and Do in our community? Find out more by [clicking here](#). **Amy Cameron**

Prayer Vigil at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (DIRC) - We started to hold in person prayer vigils at the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, Medomsley on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm. It is a powerful witness; we have between 25 and 35 people attending each month. The vigils are inter-faith with people from other Christian traditions as well as a group of people from the Jewish faith participating. We believe detaining women who are asking for a safe place to live goes against our faith. We are asked to welcome the stranger and feed the hungry. The vigils last about 45 minutes and as well as praying, we offer some practical support by donating cash for phone cards and toiletries, which are then made into welcome packs and taken into the centre by another charity, "Friendship Across Borders". We also take flowers to hand over to the guards who take them into the communal areas of the centre. **Our next vigil will be this Sunday 1 September 2024 at 3pm at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, Medomsley DH8 6QY.** It would be wonderful if you could join us there, but if not, perhaps you would consider joining us in prayer from home. The revised prayer vigil booklet can be found [here](#). Please contact Liz Archibald by [clicking here](#) if you would like more information. For more information around the issues of refugees and asylum seekers, please look at our [webpage](#).

Catholic Pastoral Leadership Course - Are you involved in any ministry in the Church? Are you interested in doing more for the Church? Do you want to expand your skills in pastoral leadership? A new online course in Catholic Pastoral Leadership might be what you are looking for. Liverpool Hope University has partnered with several Catholic dioceses across England and Wales to help people like you to gain fresh perspectives on Scripture and Church teaching. You will look at real-world issues in the light of our tradition and consider the best ways of exploring Christian faith and life with others. The 2-year course is split into 4 modules and you can complete most of the work at a time that suits you. To find out more information about the course, please visit our [website](#).

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 21st 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](#)

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