

# 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

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 25TH - 26TH JANUARY 2025, Year C

Saturday 25th January <b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph  St Bede	5pm  5pm	<b>Dennis Welsh RIP</b>  <b>Kathleen Nattress</b>
Sunday 26th January <b>The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	<b>People of the Parish</b> <b>Eileen Shannon RIP</b> <b>Mary Curtin RIP</b>

### First Reading: Ezra reads from the Law. Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

In those days: Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it, all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Ezra and the Levites read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, 'Go on your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

**Response to the Psalm: Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**

### Second Reading: The Body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Brothers and Sisters: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honourable we bestow the greater honour, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first Apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor; to proclaim liberty to the captives. Alleluia!**

### The Gospel: Jesus Proclaims His Message. Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught. At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

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 27th January 2025

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 27th January <b>St Angela Merici</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>David Morrell (Private Intention)</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>John Smare RIP</b>
Tuesday 28th January <b>St Thomas Aquinas</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Clark Family</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Jonathan Yates &amp; Family</b>
Wednesday 29th January	St Bede	10am	<b>Sr. Veronica (Health)</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Intentions of Sisters of Divine Love</b>
Thursday 30th January	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Matt Downey RIP</b>
	St Bede	11:15am	<b>Requiem Mass for Jennifer Webber</b>
	St Joseph	12 Noon	<b>Paul Hammond &amp; Family</b>
Friday 31st January <b>St John Bosco</b>	St John Boste	10am	<b>The Bell Family</b>
	St Joseph (at St Benet's School, Ouston)	9:15am	<b>Anthony Dowling &amp; Family</b>
Saturday 1st February	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Birthday Blessings (GH)</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Conceicao Lucas Goncalves RIP</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Sunday 2nd February <b>The Presentation of the Lord</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Lesley Thompson RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Eddie Ashburner RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Janet O'Neil (deceased anniversary)</b>

### Bulletin reflection – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of ordinary time

Reflections on Sunday readings can be found in many places on-line. A very popular source of weekly reflections is the Wednesday Word ([www.wednesdayword.org](http://www.wednesdayword.org)). Many of you will be aware of this already, but if not, I can recommend it to you. This week's Wednesday Word reflection ends with a question, 'why did Jesus select this reading?' – the reading is from Isaiah. "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

This question could be a title of a Theology essay of several thousand words. I will just look at a few small parts of the answer to this question. Firstly, the prophet Isaiah has many references to the Messiah who was expected by the Jews. This prophecy stresses the coming of the Messiah being focussed on the poor, the imprisoned and those with physical problems. These were the very people Christ spent his time with during his ministry. Jesus was the fulfilment of this prophesy. He is the Messiah!

The reading from Isaiah finishes with a proclamation of a year of the Lord's favour. 2025 is of course a Holy Year, a year of the Lord's favour. A chance for us to, 'proclaim the good news to the poor to proclaim liberty to captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed' in our world today.

Secondly, Jesus came to fulfil The Law not to destroy it. This first record of Jesus' teaching in a synagogue is rooted in the Old Testament, the tradition of the Jewish people and their turbulent relationship with God. He lived his life in a religious Jewish family, and he learned his scriptures as all good Jewish children would have done. We know that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem on feasts like the Passover when he was twelve years old. By saying that, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing' he acknowledges the importance of the prophets, and he is clearly stating that he represents the next stage of God's relationship with His people - the fulfilment of the Scriptures.

Deacon Tony Joy

**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: 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, held in the front room of the Presbytery (main door will be open, first room on left). 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!

**Parish Fundraising Activities** - Could I please remind all groups and individuals that, when conducting any fundraising efforts within the parish, all monies raised must be banked via the Parish current account. This is at the express request of Bishop Stephen and the Diocesan Trustees in accordance with the statutory regulations.

**First Friday devotions** - Now that we are in a Holy Year, Pope Francis' suggestion of praying the First Friday devotion is one that we will be offering from February – October, beginning on Friday 7 February, with 7pm Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace. The First Friday Masses will move to a different church in our parish every second month. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6.15pm – 6.50pm before each Mass. The twelve promises given by Jesus to St Margaret Mary concerning this devotion are a great encouragement to the Christian life. Google "Twelve promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – EWTN."

**The Parish is planning a Parish Lenten Mission 2025, 15 March - 19 March.** The Mission will be led by Sr Briega McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani. Sr Briega 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. Sr Briega and Fr Pablo are very much looking forward to visiting our Parishes during the second week of Lent, 16 – 19 March. In the coming weeks our Clergy will begin promoting the Mission and asking all parishioners to take some Mission Leaflets as invites to distribute among our families, neighbours and friends. Please keep the success of the Mission in your prayers. Thankyou, Fr Martin Morris.

**"Living Faith" Books** are now available from the back of Church. These excellent booklets are a great help to the spiritual life, which includes various prayers for each day, along with a relevant reflection for each day of the week on the daily Gospel. Cost £1.50.

**The Rosary will be prayed for all our intentions** on the first Saturday of each month following the 10am Mass at the Village, beginning Saturday 1 February. All welcome. Fr Martin.

**St Joseph's School Newsletter** can be viewed [here](#).

**We Welcome Bishop Stephen** to our Parish the Weekend of 1st & 2nd February. The Bishop will celebrate the 5pm Mass at St Bede's and the 11am Mass at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate.

Refreshments after each Mass. All welcome.

**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](#).

**SVP Sing And Chat at the Black Bush.** Everyone is welcome at this event which will take place at The Black Bush, Washington Village, from 12:15pm until 3 pm on Friday, the 31st of January. One free cup of tea or coffee per person. The bar will be open for the purchase of other drinks!

**The visit of the relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis.**

Further information [here](#).

## Other News

### LOUDfence.

St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle is hosting a LOUDfence Workshop on Saturday 1 February at 10am. LOUDfence is a catholic movement which shares practical ways to acknowledge harm caused by abuse in any setting, through arts and crafts. All objects made in the LOUDfence workshop will form part of the liturgy in the Diocesan LOUDfence on 1 May in Alnwick. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch with them. Light refreshments will be provided. Please bring paper, light fabric, ribbon and small objects which remind you of comforting memories, particularly in childhood.

**The Year of Jubilee 2025 is a beacon of hope.** We're all invited into an encounter with Jesus Christ, as his disciples of mercy, forgiveness, and social action, and to celebrate our communities. It's a chance to envision a better future, a future of hope and faith where mercy guides our actions. It's a time for forgiveness and reconciliation within our communities. We can take action to address injustices, support the vulnerable, and work towards a more equitable society. Let's embrace the spirit of the Jubilee, and unite to create a world of compassion and justice, where everyone and our whole community can grow and flourish. Please visit the Diocesan Jubilee [webpage](#) for more information and regular updates.

**Marriage & Family Life Mass 2025** - Bishop Stephen will be presiding at the Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage and the graces received in Family Life, which will take place on Saturday 8 February 2025, from 12 noon at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. All married couples will be invited with particular focus on those celebrating a significant anniversary together with bereaved spouses, separated individuals and families experiencing or have experienced domestic difficulties. Further details will be given in future newsletters and via the Diocesan website.

**Marriage Preparation Days** - Saturday 1 February: The Sacred Heart, North Gosforth NE3 5EB. Saturday 22 February: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth NE61 1QF. Engaged couples can find **more information** [by clicking here](#). To find and **book on a course**, [please click here](#).

**Holocaust Memorial Day** - 'For a Better Future' is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025. 2025 will mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 30th anniversary of the Bosnian genocide. This annual event will be held on Wednesday 22 January 2025, from 7pm in St Mary's Catholic School, Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7PE. [Read more.](#)

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor"**. 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. For more information, speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

**A Call for Volunteers with the Gift of Music** - Music makes the world of difference to our lives, especially in our worship. Vatican II recognised '*the importance of singing*' in the celebration of the Mass and that it should be '*integral to worship*' with '*due consideration for the culture of the people and abilities of each liturgical assembly*'. The Diocesan Church Music Association (DCMA) is a body of volunteer musicians within Hexham and Newcastle who aim to help parishes in their use of music for the Mass. We offer practical help and guidance to parish musicians, considering that each parish will have its own musical '*house-style*'. This may be a traditional choir-and-organ setup, an instrumental group, a praise & worship band, or perhaps unaccompanied singing. Previously we have put on singing days and workshops to highlight new Mass settings, simple Communion songs, music for the Triduum, as well as a '*keyboard-free*' workshop for those parishes who do not have a pianist or organist. For more information please click: [DCMA](#)

**The Bible in a Year** - Ascension's [Bible in a Year](#) Podcast, hosted by Fr Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: Two to three scripture readings; A reflection from Fr Mike Schmitz; A guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

**Sharing the Rosary** – You are very welcome to join us at Holy Name Parish Hall on Towers Avenue, Jesmond for a four week course exploring the Rosary, its history and its significance in Catholic prayer traditions. Each one-hour session will include opportunities to learn about the Mysteries of the Rosary, pray a shared Decade, and even make your own set of Rosary beads. The course will run on Saturdays 25 January, 1 February, 8 February and 22 February 2025. Refreshments will be available from 2pm, with sessions finishing at 3.30 pm. Whether you're new to the Rosary or have prayed it for years, all are welcome. Rosary beads will be available for anyone who needs them, but feel free to bring your own—especially if they hold a special story you'd like to share. To join the course, please either email [welcome@holynamejesmond.co.uk](mailto:welcome@holynamejesmond.co.uk) or telephone (0191) 2810940.

**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 two year course is split into four 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](#).

**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 on Sunday 2 February 2025 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. 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](#).

## Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen](#) [The 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](#). 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](#)