

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
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 26TH - 27TH OCTOBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 26th October	St Joseph	5pm	Nick Barnfather RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Clare and Stephen Bottoms
Sunday 27th October	St John Boste	9:30am	Cathy & Frankie Dougherty (RIP)
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	John Barker RIP

First Reading: Israel is my First-born Son, Jeremiah 31:7-9

The Lord says this: Shout with joy for Jacob! Hail the chief of nations! Proclaim! Praise! Shout! "The Lord has saved his people, the remnant of Israel!" See, I will bring them back from the land of the North and gather them from the far ends of earth; all of them: the blind and the lame, women with child, women in labour: a great company returning here. They had left in tears, I will comfort them as I lead them back; I will guide them to streams of water, by a smooth path where they will not stumble. For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son.

Response to the Psalm: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading: High Priest of the Order of Melchizedek, Hebrews 5:1-6

Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins; and so he can sympathise with those who are ignorant or uncertain because he too lives in the limitations of weakness. That is why he has to make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour on himself, but each one is called by God, as Aaron was. Nor did Christ give himself the glory of becoming high priest, but he had it from the one who said to him: You are my son, today I have become your father, and in another text: You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and forever.

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 10:46-52: Blind Bartimaeus

As Jesus left Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd, Bartimaeus (that is, the son of Timaeus), a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout and to say, "Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me." And many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet, but he only shouted all the louder, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him here." So they called the blind man. "Courage," they said, "get up; he is calling you." So throwing off his cloak, he jumped up and went to Jesus. Then Jesus spoke, "What do you want me to do for you?" "Rabbuni," the blind man said to him, "Master, let me see again." Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has saved you." And immediately his sight returned and he followed him along the road.

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 28th October 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 28th October Ss Simon and Jude	St Bede	10am	Private Intention (RD)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Carl Poulter (Poorly)
Tuesday 29th October	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Jim Walker & Peggy Lawson
	St Joseph	7pm	Elaine Hannon RIP
Wednesday 30th October Martyrs of Douai College	St Bede	10am	Special Intention (MF)
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intention
Thursday 31st October	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Vocations to the Priesthood & Consecrated Life.
	St Joseph	12 noon	George Smith RIP
Friday 1st November All Saints Holy Day of Obligation	St John Boste	10am	Gerard Dent RIP
	St Joseph	10am	All Saints
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Fr Francis Xavier Anebiet Inyang (OMV)
Saturday 2nd November All Souls	Our Lady Queen of Peace	8am	Holy Souls
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Gerard & Joan McCabe RIP
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	All Souls
	St Bede	5pm	Lawrence and Cecilia Holland RIP
Sunday 3rd November 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Teresa & Geoff Storey
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Alan Peter Callaghan RIP

Fans of 'Strictly Come Dancing' will be very familiar with the show's first blind contestant, Chris McCausland. Despite losing his sight in his 20s and 30s, he has astounded everyone and is now tipped as a strong contender to win the coveted glitterball trophy! Many people have been inspired by Chris because he is showing what blind people can do and how limitations, and barriers can be overcome.

The main character of today's gospel would have had no idea that over 2,000 years later we would still be talking about him! Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was a pathetic figure sitting by the side of the road. A lifetime of cultural and religious conditioning had reduced him to relying on the charity of passers-by to survive.

But on this particular day, something changed when he heard Jesus approaching. Somehow, he found the courage to seize his moment and he shouted, "Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me!". And when they tried to silence him, he refused to be quiet and shouted even louder. Two important things happened then:

Jesus heard him and called him over – this was typical of Jesus who, despite the noise of the large crowd, was able to hear the cry of someone in trouble.

Bartimaeus "threw off his cloak" – in doing this he was throwing off the cloak of limitations which had been imposed on him and he opened himself to the possibility of a new life.

Jesus healed him and Bartimaeus became a follower: a life changed, a life renewed.

We should remember that not all health conditions or impairments are as obvious and visible as that of Bartimaeus. Many people carry burdens which we're not aware of and most of us are pretty good at hiding our weaknesses. But this gospel should encourage us – by calling out to Jesus and being willing to throw off whatever 'cloaks' are holding us back, we can be changed and we can be renewed.

Before 'Strictly', Chris McCausland said he couldn't dance. Before Jesus, Bartimaeus said he couldn't see. What possibilities might open up for you if you decide to seize your moment?

Deacon Frank O'Neill

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>.

A note of thanks from the family of Deacon Peter Lavery

After Peter's passing on 27 September, the family would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to all who joined the celebration of Peter's life and ministry. Special thanks to all who contributed at the reception and requiem services at St Joseph's who really showcased the parish community to many returning friends and new visitors. A video of the requiem mass is available to watch on the 'Parish of St Joseph's' Facebook page and additional copies of the Order of Service are available at the back of church at St Joseph's or electronically from Michael.lavery@hotmail.co.uk Finally, for those who were unable to attend the services and wish to donate to the collection for MacMillan Cancer Support, there is a JustGiving page to make an online donation in Peter's memory: www.justgiving.com/page/peter-lavery-macmillan-nurses Thank you. Pauline, Helen, Michael & Rachel

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.

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!

Friday 1 November there will be an additional mass for **All Saints**, Holy Day of Obligation, at OLQP at 7pm.

Saturday 2 November, All Souls day. The 10am Mass on this day at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate will be for all our departed loved ones, but especially those who have died in our parish during the last twelve months, whose names will be read out and family members will be invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance. Teas and coffees in the hall afterwards. On this day there will also be an additional mass at OLQP at 8am for Holy Souls. All welcome.

Holy Communion from the Chalice. With the rising number of Covid infections and other viruses at present, it seems wise to receive Holy Communion under one form only, i.e. the Host. In the Consecrated Host we receive the Sacramental presence of Christ whole and entire, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. This seems to be current practise across the Diocese, and we will review this around spring Easter time. Fr. Morris

The Diocese is currently carrying out a volunteer census in our parish. This is to ensure we identify all our volunteers, to offer support and appropriate training and recognition for the important

part all play in the life of our parish. A volunteer is anyone who gives their time freely and regularly to assist anywhere within the Parish, School or Diocese. If



you volunteer within the Parish, School or Diocese please complete one of the forms which will be available at the back of church or complete your details via the QR code.

With winter approaching with viruses and bad weather we want people to stay as connected as possible to church, so if you need help accessing the website, our live streaming service or our social media join us at the following coffee mornings after mass. We will have a small simple handout for you to take away. 1 November St John Boste, 2 November Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, 3 November Our Lady Queen of Peace, 6 November St Bede.

Curry Night on Friday 15 November, 7pm, at Our Lady Queen of Peace. Funds to support mental health charity in Kerala, India. Tickets £20 in advance limited to 30 people. Bring your own drinks. For tickets please see Laverne Smare or Mol Thomas at OLQP.

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* 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). 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.

Red Box Appeal – Missio & Mill Hill Missionaries

This weekend we will welcome Fr Stephen Botto to give a Red Box Appeal at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate & St Bede's.

Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and through the Red Box we support the Church around the world where it is young and in need. Please do consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing to give by direct debit.

The New Lectionary

9 November, 11am following the Saturday Morning Mass at OBLI Fr Luke will introduce and explain the New Lectionary that will be in use across the country from the first Sunday of Advent. All Readers are encouraged to attend and anyone is welcome to come along to hear about the New Lectionary.

Oppose Assisted Suicide

Bishops are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide. On Wednesday, 16 October, the House of Commons heard the first reading of a new bill on assisted suicide. The proposed legalisation undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. We are a praying community. Please pray that our lawmakers will act wisely and value human life. Please contact your local MP to express your views. The charity 'Right to Life UK' has a simple online mechanism to do this with a provided letter. It can be found on the Bishops' Conference website [here](#) together with materials explaining the Church's grave concerns about the proposed legislation. Thank you for your prayers and action. Bishop Stephen.

NEW SONG!

Our next monthly time of prayer and fellowship is on Sunday 10 November at 4pm in OBLI Parish Room NE38 7HU. We look forward to input from Amy Cameron on the theme of FAITH. All are welcome - see you there! Email: newsongne@gmail.com Instagram: @newsongne. Deacon Frank O'Neill

SVP Recruitment Appeal at Our Lady Queen of Peace. Deacon Patrick Rutherford is the Membership Support Officer for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in the diocese. He will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace for 10am Sunday morning Mass on 17 November to talk about volunteering for the SVP in the local area. He will also hold a follow up meeting in the coffee room on Wednesday 20 November 6:30pm-7:30pm. Deacon Patrick can be contacted about any SVP related questions, or if anyone interested but unable to attend the information meeting, patrickr@svp.org.uk, 07557 562715, or Tony Smare on 07516 88326

Washington Community Food Project Festive Friends Challenge. Please help the WCFP bring joy to children and teenagers in our community whose families find Christmas an especially difficult time. To *sleigh* at our Festive Friends Challenge, work with your family, friends or colleagues to donate items from the list below, then pop your new and unwrapped items in to us at Unit O, The Galleries, by 6 December. For large donations requiring collection contact us via Facebook. Cash donations can be made in person at Unit O or via the Paypal link on our website.

Pyjamas, slippers, sports/novelty socks, doll/action figure, teenager voucher, pens, pencils, crayons, toiletry set, football/game, jewellery, baby toys. Many Thanks.

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

We have had significant damage to the Church at Our Lady Queen of Peace, and to the grounds in recent weeks, resulting in expensive repair work to windows and roofs. Whilst we look at further security measures on the grounds and buildings we ask all parishioners and local people to report any incidents to local neighbourhood policing at Houghton le Spring, Dairy Lane, Northumbria police and to the Clergy. Thankyou, Fr Martin Morris

Today there will be a second collection for the annual Clergy Training Fund. This fund assists those in training for Holy Orders both in the Priesthood and the Diaconate. Fr John Bagnall (Diocesan Vocations Director) has written a letter to launch this year's fund; copies are available from the back of Church. Thank you.

Other News

"Every high priest has been taken out of mankind and is appointed to act for men in their relations with God." Is God calling you to life as a priest? 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 5 November 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](#).

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](#).

Prayer Vigil at Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre (DIRC) - We started to hold in person prayer vigils at the Derwentside Immigration Removal Centre, Medomsley, DH8 6QY 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 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 vigil lasts about 45 minutes and as well as praying, we offer 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 hand over flowers to the guards who take them into the communal areas of the centre. Our next vigil will be on Sunday 3 November. 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](#).

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 30th 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 [here](#) or the QR

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](#)