

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 THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 2ND - 3RD NOVEMBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 2nd November	St Joseph	5pm	Holy Souls
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Lawrence and Cecilia Holland RIP
Sunday 3rd November	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Teresa & Geoff Storey
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Alan Peter Callaghan RIP

First Reading: 'Hear, O Israel'

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses said to the people, "If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart."

Response to the Psalm: I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second Reading: The Perfect High Priest

Hebrews 7:23-28

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

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

The Gospel: Mark 12:28-34: The Great Commandment

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice." Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to question him anymore.

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 4th November 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 4th November St Charles Borromeo	St Bede	10am	Private Intention (JMGS)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Linda Harrigan RIP
Tuesday 5th November St Faustina Kowalska	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Lisa Marie Taylor RIP (Birthday Memory)
	St Joseph	7pm	Billy Gaff RIP
Wednesday 6th November St Illtud	St Bede	10am	Barney & Connie Casey, daughter Maureen & grandson Christopher RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Tom & Jane Rutter & Family RIP
Thursday 7th November St Willibrord	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Fr Dennis Magher RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	Fr Aniebiet Francis Xavier Inyang RIP
Friday 8th November All Saints of Wales	St John Boste	10am	In Thanksgiving
	St Joseph	10am	Tommy Finnigan RIP
Saturday 9th November The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Hodgson & O'Hara Families
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Denis Welsh RIP
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 10th November 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Bengston and Burdis Families
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Peter McQuillian & Susan Foster
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Deceased of WWI & WWII

This coming week we celebrate Martinmas, the feast day of St Martin of Tours, a curious feast with an uncommon amount of proper prayers and readings dedicated to it, why? The Feast of St Martin was the last great feast of the ancient Church's calendar before the advent fast! It's worth knowing a little more about him and asking his intercession as we move towards that great season, not least we should ask him to pray for our two own Fathers Martin!

A Letter From Sulpicius Severus:

Martin knew long in advance the time of his death and he told his brethren that it was near. Meanwhile, he found himself obliged to make a visitation of the parish of Candes. The clergy of that church were quarrelling, and he wished to reconcile them. Although he knew that his days on earth were few, he did not refuse to undertake the journey for such a purpose, for he believed that he would bring his virtuous life to a good end if by his efforts peace was restored in the church.

He spent some time in Candes, or rather in its church, where he stayed. Peace was restored, and he was planning to return to his monastery when suddenly he began to lose his strength. He summoned his brethren and told them he was dying. All who heard this were overcome with grief. In their sorrow they cried to him with one voice: "Father, why are you deserting us? Who will care for us when you are gone? Savage wolves will attack your flock, and who will save us from their bite when our shepherd is struck down? We know you long to be with Christ, but your reward is certain and will not be any less for being delayed. You will do better to show pity for us, rather than forsake us."

Thereupon he broke into tears, for he was a man in whom the compassion of our Lord was continually revealed. Turning to our Lord, he made this reply to their pleading: "Lord, if your people still need me, I am ready for the task; your will be done."

Here was a man words cannot describe. Death could not defeat him nor toil dismay him. He was quite without a preference of his own; he neither feared to die nor refused to live. With eyes and hands always raised to heaven he never withdrew his unconquered spirit from prayer. It happened that some priests who had gathered at his bedside suggested that he should give his poor body some relief by lying on his other side. He answered: "Allow me, brothers, to look towards heaven rather than at the earth, so that my spirit may set on the right course when the time comes for me to go on my journey to the Lord." As he spoke these words, he saw the devil standing near. "Why do you stand there, you bloodthirsty brute?" he cried. "Murderer, you will not have me for your prey. Abraham is welcoming me into his embrace."

With these words, he gave up his spirit to heaven. Filled with joy, Martin was welcomed by Abraham. Thus he left this life a poor and lowly man and entered heaven rich in God's favour.

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 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!

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

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. 2 November Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, 3 November Our Lady Queen of Peace, 6 November St Bede.

Curry Night on Friday 15 November, at Our Lady Queen of Peace. This has been postponed.

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 parish 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.

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

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.

Macmillan and Fairtrade Coffee Morning at Our Lady Queen of Peace. A huge thank you to all those who contributed in any way to the Macmillan Coffee morning and Fair Trade tombola, at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, as part of the Church's Macmillan coffee morning event. We have now received the official total which is £380.62 raised on the day and an extra £25.00 donated on our Just Giving page via the QR code. Therefore a grand total of £405.62 was raised. Well done and thank you again.

Answering the Pope's call in Laudato Si.

Climate Action Sunderland invite everyone to come along to St. George's Church, Harraton on Saturday 9 November any time between 10am and 3pm to find out what we can do about the climate crisis! As Catholics, the Pope is urging us to get involved when he says in Laudato Si, "The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change". Why not come along and see what we can do to help? Michael Gallagher.

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 888326



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

Other News

"This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Do you love God and your neighbour? Might God be calling you to love and serve him as a priest? 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. Our next vigil will be this 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](#).

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following vacancies:

Deputy Director of Education – Full-time, term-time. Closing date: 6 November.

Finance Manager – Full-time. Closing date: 8 November. Both roles are based in the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle.

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

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.

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](#).

Peace vigil for Palestine and Israel. Since January a small group from different faith backgrounds hold a vigil for peace every Saturday morning from 9.30am until 10am outside Hexham Abbey. Lya Vollering, a member of the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council writes: 'We stand in silence for peace for Palestine and Israel in particular, but not exclusively. We stand outside the abbey. We are not shut away inside nor totally away from the abbey either. We are in a doorway space, a sacred and inclusive space. Working for justice and peace requires contemplation and action. Both are important and so we contemplate together for peace. You are very welcome to join us, even if it is just for five minutes.'

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 31st 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](#)