

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: 0191 4163583
 Email: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>
 Parish Secretary: Anne Ridley 0191 4163583
 Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 2:30pm (Penshaw),
 Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 2:30pm (Washington Village)



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 3RD – 4TH OCTOBER 2026 Year A

Saturday 3rd Oct Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Deceased McLoughlin Family
	St Bede	5pm	Fr John Francis Brady RIP
Sunday 4th Oct 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Robert Hudson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Repose of the Soul of Tom Davidson & All Fallen Soldiers

First reading: The Song of the Vineyard

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Response to the Psalm: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

Second Reading: Advice for the Community

Philippians 4:6-9

Brothers and Sisters: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise: think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practise these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia I chose you out of the world, says the Lord, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide. Alleluia.

The Gospel: True Justice

Matthew 21:33-43

At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence round it and dug a wine press in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than at first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance." And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes"? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.'

Fr Martin Morris	0191 416 3583	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419
Fr Andrew Shaw	0191 649 8257		

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 5th October 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 5th October St Faustina Kowalska	St Bede	10am	Franjo RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Ann Kelly
Tuesday 6th October St Bruno	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Fr John Coyle RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Reed & Maguire Family
Wednesday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary	St Bede	10am	Private Intention (A&E)
	St John Boste	7pm	Holy Souls
Thursday 8th October	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	John & Theresa McIntyre (Anniversary)
	St Joseph	Noon	Sheila Tweedy RIP
Friday 9th October St John Henry Newman	St Joseph	10am	Staford & McClusky Family
	St John Boste	10am	Fr. John Coyle RIP
Saturday 10th October	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Dave & Sheila Tompkins RIP
Vigil Ss Paulinus of York, Denis & John Leonardi	St Joseph	5pm	Proctor, Bomar & Fitzgerald Family
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 11th October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Peggy & Charlie Purvis RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Dennis Wilson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Jim Walker

Recently Deceased Fr. John Coyle, David Michael Howe. Kevin Taylor, Margaret Powell, Lucy Merrington.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen
Amen.

This week the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly reached its conclusion. Much discussion and debate focused on revitalising global cooperation, urging greater commitment to sustainable development goals and driving collective action for peace, dignity and equality.

Many world leaders spoke of the dangers and challenges facing the world at this time: “the return of imperialism, of arrogance, the return to force without rule or restraint. A world, in essence, of concentrated power, where some think the international order can be breached to enlarge their borders, where others think the sovereignty of peoples can be trampled underfoot so that they may dispose of it as they please, and where a few think they can decide the future of the planet, whether on climate or on artificial intelligence.” (President Macron’s final address)

Perhaps, more than ever in recent years, the words of St Paul to the Philippians carry a message for us and for those in power in our world: “Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things ... and the God of peace will be with you.”

The 4th of October is also the Feast of St Francis of Assisi - a man who preached to everyone about God's love and about love for the created world, celebrating everything around him as a gift from God. Let us ask for his intercession today as we pray for justice and peace among all nations and peoples. St Francis, pray for us.

Deacon Frank O'Neill

We aim to live-stream Mass daily at 10am every day, except Monday, streamed at 7pm, and alternate Sundays when Mass is live-streamed at either 10am or 11am. Please refer to the * on the Mass table which indicates streamed Masses.
Please [click here](#) to view from one of our Churches

What's On in the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2pm - 3pm
St Joseph 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.

OLOF (Our Lady's Over 50's club), Please note, the club meets on Tuesday at 1pm in the Lindisfarne Room at St Bede's. All most welcome!

Parish 'LIFE' Group. - We are hoping to begin a 'LIFE' Group in the parish soon. The group will work closely with the project of The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel network, in supporting Mothers and Expectant Mothers with housing, feeding, and other practical difficulties. They will also promote the Annual day for Life, and the January 'white flower appeal'. All welcome.

Special Collection This Week: Cafod Family Fast Day - Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030.

100th Anniversary of World Mission Sunday – 18 October – World Mission Sunday is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for Missionary activity. Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. Envelopes will be available for donations at our churches on 18th October to support this work or you can make your donation online at the Missio website (<https://missio.org.uk>).

Other News

Fr. John Coyle

Fr. John died peacefully , 21st September , 2026. We thank the Lord for the many years of service he gave to our Parish, and the many lives he touched with his kindness and generosity. Fr. John's body will be received into St. Charles Church , Gosforth, on Thursday, 22nd October, with Mass at 6.30pm. A Requiem Mass will be offered at 12 Noon at St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday 23rd October. All Welcome

CONFESSIONS	
Church	Time
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Thursday after 10am Mass
St Joseph	Thursday after Noon Mass
St John Boste	Friday after 10am Mass
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	Saturday after 10am Mass
St Bede	Saturday after 5pm Mass

Pie and Pea Supper - The Little Sisters of the Poor are holding a Pie and Pea Supper on Wednesday 7 October at 7pm at St Joseph's Home. Tickets cost £8 and are available from St Joseph's on 0191 2731279.

Children and the Word - 17 October 2026 - Each Sunday, God's people gather together to celebrate in Word and Sacrament the mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection. The celebration of the Mass includes everyone, both young and old. The key aim of Liturgy of the Word with Children is to proclaim a Gospel translation and facilitate interactive discussion appropriate to children. "Children and the Word" is a diocesan day of Refreshment and Reflection on Sunday Children's Liturgy and Godly Play and is prepared and led by the Liturgical Team. Date: Saturday, October 17th, Time: 10.00am-3.00pm. Cost: £15 (payable by parish or attendee as appropriate) Venue: St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7NL. Teas and coffees provided but participants will need to bring a packed lunch. Booking is essential – please register [here](#)

The North East Catholic History Society was founded in July 1974 to promote research into the history of the Roman Catholic Church in the north eastern counties of England. Its interests extend from the mediaeval period to the recent past and cover all aspects of the Church's life – biographical, cultural, institutional, architectural and sociological. A programme of talks for 2026-27 has been released - they take place at St Joseph's Church in Gateshead and all are very welcome to attend. For more information [please click here](#).

Assisted dying.

Many people welcomed the Parliamentary vote which defeated the Assisted Dying bill. Thankyou to all Parishioners who contacted our MP asking her to vote down this Bill. We thank the House of Lords too who meticulously showed how the earlier identical bill was so flawed and dangerous to vulnerable people. We also thank the professional bodies who opposed this Bill. It was striking that not one professional body supported it. In an age when the value of human life is under attack, we thank the Lord that this dangerous Bill failed. Fr. Martin Morris

Diocesan Vacancies:

Role: Cleaner **Contract:** Permanent

Salary: £4196.4 per annum

Hours: Part-time 6 hours per week

Working Pattern: Able to be negotiated at interview.

Location: St Patrick, Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Durham, DH7 8JJ

How to apply: Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/cleaner-10/> **Closing Date:** 12:00 pm, 07/10/2026

Role: Parish Secretary **Contract:** Permanent

Salary: £9498 per annum

Hours: Part-time 13 hours per week

Working Pattern: Able to be negotiated at interview.

Location: St John Vianney, Hillhead Parkway, West Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 1DP

How to apply: Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-19/> **Closing Date:** 12:00 pm, 07/10/2026

SVP SUMMER RAFFLE RESULTS

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this year's Summer Raffle by purchasing tickets. We can now announce the winning numbers.

1st Prize £5,000 - [601018](#)

2nd Prize £1,000 - [453036](#)

£100 (x15) - 458960, 450007, 457117, 540090, 510788, 535111, 539265, 582943, 520472, 509133, 580493, 609979, 478543, 595895, 504031



The Parish of St John XXIII has a dedicated YouTube channel. Here you can watch live streams of Masses. These are indicated by an asterisk next to the Mass times on pages one and two. You can also see recordings of past Masses and Gospel Homilies. The channel can be accessed [here](#).

SCHOOL APPEAL PANEL MEMBER RECRUITMENT

The Diocesan Department for Education are seeking volunteers to become School Appeal Panel Members.

School appeal panel members play an important role in ensuring appeals are considered fairly, independently, and objectively. This rewarding opportunity allows you to support children, young people, and families within our local community. Full training will be provided.

As a school appeal panel member, you will:

Listen carefully to information presented

Consider cases fairly and impartially

Contribute to independent decision-making

Help ensure a fair and credible process for all

If you have good listening skills, sound judgement, and a commitment to fairness, we would love to hear from you. A poster is attached for display in your parish.

For more information, please contact: education@diocesehn.org.uk or 0191 243 3

Other News

Church Action on Poverty - 18 October 2026 - This year's Church Action on Poverty Sunday will take place on Sunday 18th October, with a theme of "Food, faith and fellowship". A record number of churches took part last year, and interested churches are encouraged to register now. Resource packs will be sent out over the summer, containing bring & share lunch ideas, worship materials, prayer cards, Scriptural reflections, activity sheets, and inspirational stories of churches already doing great work through food. To sign up, visit church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

Life in the Spirit Seminar Series: Harlow Green - 24th September 2026—12th November 2026. Join us for this opportunity to experience the new life we are promised through baptism in the Holy Spirit. Life in the Spirit seminars are being run by the Diocesan CHARIS group and you will be very welcome to attend. Many who have attended previous seminars have spoken of how it has given their faith a real boost and helped them experience God's love in tangible ways. Venue: St Anne, Rokeby View, Harlow Green, Gateshead, NE9 7UD. Cost: Free. Time: 7pm to 8.30pm. Dates and Titles of Sessions: 1st October 2026: God's Love – Andy Drozdziak, 8th October 2026: Salvation – Fr Anthony Ohaekwusi, 22nd October 2026: The New Life – Christine Dixon, 29th October 2026: Receiving God's Gifts – Fr Chris Warren, 5th November 2026: Baptism in the Holy Spirit – Fr Shaun O'Neill, 12th November 2026: Growth – Nikki Dickenson, 19th November 2026: Transformation in Christ – John Wheeler. Please book your place [here](#).

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi - Bishop Stephen will lead a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and the centre of the Eternal City before then moving onto Assisi in Umbria, the 'green heart' of Italy, and the centre of St Francis and St Clare's ministry. The Pilgrimage will take place **22nd – 29th October 2027** at a cost of £1,725 per person. Places are limited to 50 pilgrims and places are allocated on a first come first served basis with payment of the deposit securing your place. For information and how to book please [click here](#) or type in the link. <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/diocesan-pilgrimage-to-rome-assisi/> **For Our Lady! For Our Faith! On the Vigil of All Saints** — Pray the Rosary Through the Heart of Newcastle Sat 31 Oct 2026. The world needs our prayers. If not you, who? If not now, when? Key times: 10:00 a.m. Mass — Lady Chapel, St Dominic's, 11:00 a.m. Procession to Grey Street, 11:30 a.m. Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy 12:45 p.m. Shared table — bring food to share. The event is being organised jointly by the Men of St Joseph and the Bairs of Wor Lass. Please contact Peter if you are attending (for numbers) or if you have any questions. Email: the.real.pete.forbes@gmail.com or text 0772 931 8686.

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go [Pray as you go](#)

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

To view the sick and recently deceased list [please click here](#). To amend the information on the list [click here](#).

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.

Baptism - To request a Baptism, you can download the form by [clicking here](#) or ring 07552 733540.

Parish Newsletter If you wish to request an electronic version of 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.



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