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

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 7th – 8th November 2026 Year A

Saturday 7th Nov **Vigil**	St Joseph	5pm	**Viola Summers RIP**
	St Bede	5pm	**People of the Parish**
Sunday 8th Nov **32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**	St John Boste	9:30am	**Burdis & Bengston Families**
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	**Ann Howarth RIP**
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	**Oswald Shannon RIP**

First reading: The Search for Wisdom. Wisdom 6:12-16
Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths and meets them in every thought.

Response to the Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Second Reading: The Last Trumpet. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Ten Wedding-Attendants. Matthew 25:1-13
At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

Fr Martin Morris	0191 416 3583	Fr Andrew Shaw	0739 983 6695
Fr Martin Morris	0754 470 9356	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 9th November 2026 (Streamed Mass *)			
Day	**Church**	**Time**	
Monday 9th November **The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**	St Bede	10am	**Margaret Hodgson & Hodgson & Stephenson Families**
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	**Susan Morris RIP**
Tuesday 10th November **St Leo the Great**	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	**John Barker RIP**
	St Joseph	7pm	**Theresa Burn RIP**
Wednesday 11th November **St Martin of Tours**	St Bede	10am	**Ann Connolly RIP anniversary**
	St John Boste	7pm	**Eleanor & Maldwyn Roberts**
Thursday 12th November **St Josaphat**	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	**Florence & Vincent Woodhouse**
	St Joseph	Noon	**Deceased Members of Hogan and Barrett Family**
Friday 13th November	St Joseph	10am	**Michael Murphy RIP**
	St John Boste	10am	**Fr John Coyle RIP**
Saturday 14th November	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	**Gerard McCabe RIP**
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	**Dennis Welsh RIP**
	St Bede	5pm	**Frank Casey RIP**
Sunday 15th November **The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**	St John Boste	9:30am	**Norman Potter**
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	**People of the Parish**
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	**Audrey Gaffney RIP**

Recently Deceased Stuart Clark, Joe Lourie

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

Remembering The Faithful Departed

After celebrating the Feast of All Saints last weekend, the Church encourages us throughout the month of November to turn our minds and hearts to those people who have gone before us and who have ended their earthly journey. For us Christians the reality of death is viewed very differently from how many today would view it. For those who follow Christ death is illuminated by his Resurrection and so the loss of anyone is also an opportunity for us to renew our Faith in eternal life.

As today's second reading says, "We do not want you to be uninformed brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope." (These: 4: 13.) During these days of Remembrance in November , we call to mind a line from the Creed "I Believe in the Communion of Saints". In the communion of Saints there is still a close bond between us who are still living and those who have already entered eternity. For us in the here and now of life it calls us to live every day in 'Sure and certain Hope'. Only those who can recognise a great hope in death can live a life based on hope. Without Christian hope life can become an absurd experience. We need eternity, for every other hope is too brief, too fleeting in this life. Our human existence can only be explained if there is love which overcomes every experience, even that of death, that points us towards an experience of ultimate fulfilment, and that is God. Man can be explained only if we find our deepest meaning in God alone. This is why Jesus encourages us in today's gospel to have our lamps lit and to be ready for his return. 'For we know not the day nor the hour' (Mt: 25: 13). He entered our life and told us, " I am the Resurrection and the Life, he who believes in me, even though he dies, shall live." (Jn: 11: 25.)So in this month of November, as we pray for our dead, let us once more renew with courage our Faith in eternal life, to live with great hope and to bear witness to it. Behind the present there is not nothing.

Fr Martin Morris

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 in Presbytery.

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!

Special Collection This Week: Clergy Training Fund
This weekend we will have a retiring collection for the annual Clergy training fund. The fund remains open until 15th November for any private donations. Thank you for your generosity. Copies of a letter form Fr John Bagnall (Diocesan Vocations Director), which gives further details of this fund, are at the back of each Church.

Remembrance Sunday - **On Sunday 8th November** there will be silent **Eucharistic Exposition** at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church, 4-5pm. We will conclude with Evening Prayer of the Dead and Benediction. All welcome.

Congratulations to Emmet O'Leary who next weekend becomes a Candidate for the Priesthood. As Emett is enrolled as Candidate for Holy Orders we wish him every Blessing and keep him, and all those training for the Priesthood, in our prayers.

Remembrance Day. The children of Our Lady Queen of Peace school will join the other schools in Shiney Row at a short service at Trinity Methodist Church, Shiney Row, on Wednesday 11th November at 10:30am followed by laying their wreath at the Shiney Row Cenotaph. All welcome.

St Robert's Year 8 Mass
On Tuesday 1st December, we would like to invite parishioners to join us for our Year 8 Mass which will begin at 9am. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Marc Lyden-Smith. Light refreshments will be provided after Mass. We are limited to 30 places so prior booking is essential. Please email **amckenna@str.bwcet.com** if you would like to attend with your name(s) and a contact number.

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

The Social Justice and Environment Group Christmas Appeal. Lists are available with suggested donations for this year's appeal for local refugee and asylum seeker projects. If you prefer to fill a shoebox, that would be wonderful, but donations of any items from the list will be gratefully received. The closing date for donations is Sunday 29th November. Please hand your donations in to your local church or deliver to Our Lady's Church in Washington Village. If you need anything collected, please contact Chris O'Neill (07815162153). Thank you.

Advent Service - 5 December 2026, 6pm at Ushaw Historic House, Chapels & Gardens - Advent is a wonderful season, in which we look forward to the joys of Christmas. Ushaw's Advent Service, on Sunday 5th December at 6pm, is an ideal opportunity to pause before the preparations for Christmas begin, and to enjoy readings and music on an Advent theme. Our service blends scripture readings, prayers and beautiful choral music with well-known Advent hymns, and takes us through the themes of watching, witnessing, and announcing the Good News of Christ's coming. The music for the Advent Service is provided by the Hexham & Newcastle Diocesan Choir, with special contributions from the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Children's Choir, which brings together children from ten different primary schools. This promises to be an evening to remember, and a welcome addition to Ushaw's calendar for December. The service is free to attend, but must be pre-booked. Register for your ticket on Ushaw's website at https://ushaw.org/christmas-2026/

Grow as One Diocesan Family - Across the Diocese, we want to encourage a greater understanding of Gift Aid and increase the number of eligible parishioners who choose to Gift Aid their donations. Every Gift Aid Declaration generates additional income for our parishes at no extra cost to the donor, helping to support mission, ministry and pastoral life within our communities. You can sign up to Gift Aid online via our website, read about the difference the additional funding has made to a number of our churches and view our frequently asked questions. Every tick makes a difference!

"**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**

New Song
Due to the coincidence with Remembrance Sunday, there will be no New Song meeting on Sunday 8th November. Next meeting 13th December.

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. For more information contact:mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKEND

8th–10th January 2027

Our residential Marriage Preparation Weekend offers engaged couples time and space to explore the beauty of the Church's teaching of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Led by Stefan and Eleonora Kaminski, it combines a Scripture-based theological reflection with prayer, thoughtful conversation and practical exercises for couples. Find out more and book: https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/marriage-preparation/

Other News

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:

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/

Bereavement Support- Whilst bereavement is extremely hard at any time, the time spent in lockdown when funerals had to take place in very restricted circumstances have taken their toll on so many. Whilst family and friends can be immensely supportive, sometimes a bereaved person wants to talk to someone outside of their immediate circle. The Emmaus Bereavement Support Team, trained in the Ministry of Consolation, is available to support those who wish to talk about their loss. Due to current restrictions, such conversations will most likely take place on the phone, but we hope as restrictions ease, it may be possible for people to meet face-to-face again. Since the launch of this service, there have been a number of requests for support, and several of our listeners have been able to accompany others on their journey of loss and bereavement. The **Emmaus Bereavement Support Service** number is **07732 980740** a member of the team will contact you promptly. Read More Quick Link: Accompaniment in Difficult Times.

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.

To post a notice on this Newsletter, please click stjohn23bulletin@gmail.com