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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, 14th – 15th November 2026 Year A

Saturday 14th November **Vigil**	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	**Dennis Welsh RIP** **Frank Casey RIP**
Sunday 15th November **The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am **11am***	**Norman Potter** **People of the Parish** **Audrey Gaffney RIP**

First reading: A Woman about the House. Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

Response to the Psalm: Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Second Reading: A Thief in the Night. 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers and sisters, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord. Whoever abides in me bears much fruit. Alleluia.

The Gospel: A Story about Talents. Matthew 25:14-30
At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 'Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, "Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, "Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, "Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours." But his master answered him, "You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." '

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 16th November 2026 (Streamed Mass *)			
Day	**Church**	**Time**	**Intention**
Monday 16th November **Ss Margaret of Scotland, Gertrude & Edmund of Abingdon**	St Bede Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am **7pm***	**Eileen & William Harland & Deceased Family** **Sick Person (EK)**
Tuesday 17th November **Ss Elizabeth of Hungary, Hilda of Whitby & Hugh of Lincoln**	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate St Joseph	10am 7pm	**Walker Family** **Martin Gorman RIP**
Wednesday 18th November **The Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul**	St Bede St. John Boste	10am 7pm	**Fr John Coyle RIP** **Eleanor & Maldwyn Roberts**
Thursday 19th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace St Joseph St Bede	**10am*** Noon 5:30pm	**Albert & Mary Quinn** **Cathie Irwin RIP** **Funeral Reception & Rosary Joe Lourie**
Friday 20th November	St Joseph at St Benet's St John Boste St Bede Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:15am 10am 11am 7pm	**Priest's Intention** **Patrick Larkin RIP** **Requiem Mass Joe Lourie RIP** **Lourdes Pilgrimage Remembrance Mass**
Saturday 21st November **The Presentation of the BVM**	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	**10am***	**Quinn & March Family**
Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	**Xavier Inyang RIP** **Fr John Coyle RIP**
Sunday 22nd November **Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King**	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am **10am*** 11am	**Hugh McHugh** **June Ford RIP** **People of the Parish**

As I reflected on the readings for today, I found myself thinking about the current discernment and consultation process which is going on in our parish and diocese. We face the challenge of sustaining our prayer and worship with fewer priests and questions about the sustainability of church buildings, while at the same time trying to focus on the church's mission to be witnesses to the Gospel in the areas where we live. For a long time, like the Thessalonians to whom St Paul was writing, we were saying, "There is peace and security." - it seemed like the church we had known since our childhood days would always be there in its familiar form. Recently, however, we have come to realise that, unless some things change, our diocese and the church more broadly will no longer be able to provide the levels of sacramental and pastoral care we have come to rely on.

Feedback from the diocese on our recent consultation recognises the areas we have identified for development: catechesis, formation, schools, outreach, care for the sick and the elderly, young people and lay leadership. It seems that there is a real desire for us to embrace mission in a new way based on a belief that our faith has something essential to bring to a world seeking deeper meaning and purpose.

How appropriate, then, that today's gospel should be the Parable of the Talents - three servants were given money: two of them put their money to good use and were rewarded by their master; the third was afraid and buried the money to give back the same amount on the master's return. The only one who incurred the master's anger was the third servant - it wasn't enough to just hold on to what was given to him and give it back without ever having used it!

No prizes for seeing the connection with our situation today! God has given each of us gifts and talents and we are expected to use them in service of our communities to the extent that we are able. That is the challenge of discipleship for each of us at this time and the challenge for our church leaders is to find ways to encourage and nurture the God-given talents of our communities. Let's all try not to be the third servant, for we are "children of the light, children of the day … So then, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober."! (Thessalonians: 5:6)

Deacon Frank O'Neill

We aim to live-stream Mass daily at 10am, 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

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 from Fr John Bagnall (Diocesan Vocations Director), which gives further details of this fund, are at the back of each Church.

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.

Climate and Nature Crisis
Everyone is invited to attend a Coffee Morning with a showing of the People's Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis at Minsteracres Retreat Centre, Nr Consett DH8 9RT. Saturday 28th November from 10am to 11:45am. The film is suitable for ages 16 and over and everyone is welcome. It is free although donations will be welcome on the day to help cover the cost of room hire and refreshments. Please book your place here
https://buytickets.at/minnie/2500540

SVP Sing and Chat
Everyone is welcome to join us at The Black Bush pub, Washington Village, from 12:15pm until 3pm on Friday 20th November.

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

Penshaw Catholic Woman's Guild
Our annual Christmas toy collection is on Sunday 6th December at 10am Mass. Gifts can be given to a boy/girl or a family. All gifts gratefully appreciated and can be left in the Church porch. Thank you.
Special Collection Next Week – Catholic Youth
Level 3 Teaching Assistant, St John Boste School
Job Summary:
Contract Type: Fixed Term
Working Pattern:Part time - term time plus specified days
Advert Start Date:04/11/2026
Advert End Date:18/11/2026 23:59
Salary: Grade E, SCP 8 – 11 (£27,709 – £29,070 per annum pro rata)
Hours per week: 25
Christmas Memorial Candles at St John Boste. Envelopes are available in the porch and they need to be returned by 6th December.
Raffle and Tombola at St John Boste. A raffle and tombola will take place at St John Boste on Sunday 6th December after the 9.30am Mass, proceeds to parish funds.
St John Boste Missio red boxes are due to be emptied by 13th December. Promoters please collect their pouches from the porch.

Other News

"**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poo**r". 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
Advent Service - 5th 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/
Minsteracres Retreats - We offer a varied programme of day, weekend and week-long events throughout the year. Please see the programme details by clicking here.
The God Who Speaks project encourages us to deepen our love of the Bible and to find creative ways to encounter Christ in the Scriptures, that we may witness to the Word in the world. Also Rest and Recreation Even God rests. What does Scripture say about the need for rest and recreation?

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.

Life in the Spirit Seminar Series: Harlow Green - 24th September 2026 - 19th 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: 19th November 2026: Transformation in Christ – John Wheeler. Please book your place here

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!

Stamps, Coins & Watches - Donations can still be made to support fundraising for Little Sisters of the Poor. Used stamps, foreign or withdrawn currency and old or broken jewellery can be left at St Joseph's Home on Westmorland Road or at St Mary's Cathedral. Nearly £30,000 has been raised through the collection of seemingly worthless items so please check drawers for any hidden gems!

Marriage Preparation Days - Engaged couples can find more information click here find and book on a course, please visit our website or call the phone booking service on 0800 389 3801. (In person and online courses are available.)

'Jubilee for All' – A Resource for Families - 'Jubilee for All' is a new resource from CELEBRATE Trust for the Jubilee year. 'Jubilee for All' has been developed for families, especially those with additional needs, to enjoy pilgrimage in their local diocese in the Jubilee Year of Hope. CELEBRATE Trust have designed short creative activities that families can choose from to enable them to draw close to Jesus, our hope, and to enable them to share that love with others. To download the resource for free, visit here and click on 'Jubilee for All'.

We Dare to Say: A resource for faith-sharing groups on the Lord's Prayer - We Dare To Say is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions each based on a line from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The connection of the Our Father with the sacraments and the devotional life is explored, and wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. 'This single short prayer of Christ has everything that needs to be said about God, his kingdom, his life, about all of us' - Fr Alexander Schmemann. You can access the 'We Dare to Say' resource by clicking here.

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