

# 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](mailto: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 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 9TH - 10TH NOVEMBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 9th November	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Denis Welsh RIP</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Bede	5pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Sunday 10th November	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Bengston and Burdis Families</b>
<b>32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Peter McQuillian &amp; Susan Foster</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Deceased of WWI &amp; WWII</b>

#### First Reading: Elijah and the Widow. 1 Kings 17:10-16

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, "Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink." She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. "Please," he said, "bring me a scrap of bread in your hand." "As the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die." But Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel: 'Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth.'" The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

#### Response to the Psalm: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

#### Second Reading: Christ's Sacrifice Once and for All. Hebrews 9:24-28

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

#### Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

#### The Gospel: Mark 12:38-44: The Widow's Offering

In his teaching Jesus said, "Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive." He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on."

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 11th November 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 11th November <b>St Martin of Tours</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Vocations to Priesthood &amp; Consecrated Life</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>Holy Souls</b>
Tuesday 12th November <b>St Josaphat</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Jim Walker RIP</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Wednesday 13th November	St Bede	10am	<b>Andrew Bell RIP</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Ada Bell RIP recently deceased</b>
Thursday 14th November <b>St Dyfrig</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Andrew Bell RIP (In thanksgiving)</b>
	St Joseph	12 noon	<b>Deacon Peter Lavery RIP</b>
Friday 15th November <b>St Albert the Great</b>	St John Boste	10am	<b>Eleanor &amp; Maldwyn Roberts RIP</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10:45am	<b>Requiem Mass Andrew Bell</b>
	St Joseph	11:15am	<b>Requiem Mass Jean Greenwood</b>
Saturday 16th November <b>Ss Margaret of Scotland, Gertrude &amp; Edmund of Abingdon</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Cilla Bevan RIP</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Theresa Burn</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Anniversary Mass for Norah &amp; Owen Hagen</b>
Sunday 17th November <b>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Michael Quinn</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Audrey Gaffney RIP</b>

### Reflection

This story about Elijah and the widow of Zarephath in Sidon is chosen to pair with the story in today's gospel about the generosity of the widow in the Temple. It is also, of course, about another widow's generosity, but this story is more fundamentally about her trust and obedience to the command of the prophet. In a way, trust in the Lord underpins all generosity: we trust that any real need we encounter is presented to us by the Lord and is a request for our help; we trust that God, our Father, knows what he is doing. Realising that we are no more than stewards of God's good things, we respond to the need which God has presented to us. This story also has something special about it, for this widow in the territory of Sidon is mentioned in the manifesto-speech which Jesus makes in Luke's gospel in the synagogue of Nazareth: his mission is not confined to Israel any more than that of the prophets was. The gentiles too are the children of God, the object of his loving care, and are to be saved no less than the Jews.

In the gospel we are presented with a contrast between the dignitaries of the Temple, parading in their splendour, and the least of the least. These little coins of the widow are called lepta, meaning 'light', hardly more than shavings of copper, hardly worth picking up. Yet the value of a gift depends not on its absolute worth, but in the love with which it is given. The value of a birthday present depends on the love which it expresses, and the care which has gone into choosing or making it. One can imagine the widow debating with herself: if she made this supreme gift to the Lord, could she survive without these two little coins. What would she have to go without? As with the Sidonian widow in the first reading, this paltry gift is a rich expression of the widow's trust in divine love and care, and of her wanting to do something for the Lord. The little gift would go unnoticed among the riches of the exquisite and lavish Temple building, for its splendour was the wonder of the eastern Mediterranean, but her offering is a heartfelt expression of her love. Just so with our prayer of praise: it is the joyful outpouring of our love.

The Wednesday Word

**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 2pm - 3pm;

St Bede's each Wednesday 9.15am - 9.50am;

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 Easter time. Fr. Morris.

**Matthew: The King and His Kingdom**, a 24-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. *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](mailto: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.** Following the Saturday Morning Mass at OBLI on 9 November 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.

### NEW SONG!

Our next monthly time of prayer and fellowship is this 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](mailto: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.

### 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](mailto:patrickr@svp.org.uk), 07557 562715, or Tony Smare on 07516 888326.

**Little Sisters of the Poor Christmas Concert.** The Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 7 December 2024 at 7pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters at St Joseph's Home. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home – 0191 273 1279.

**Holy Year 2025.** Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Holy Year. The Holy Door at St Mary's Cathedral will be opened by Bishop Stephen on 31 December. Last week Pope Francis wrote an Encyclical Letter on 'The Sacred Heart of Jesus' and suggested the traditional practice of the 'Nine First Friday' devotion throughout 2025. We will offer this devotional practice throughout next year, with an evening Mass on the First Friday of each month in one of our churches, from February to October.

**We are also planning a 'Parish Lenten Mission 2025'**, 15 March - 19 March. The Mission will be led by Sr Brieghe McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani. Sr Brieghe and Fr Pablo have many years experience of worldwide retreats and missions, and this will be an ideal way in keeping the Lenten season special. See poster and leaflets at the back of church for more information. Do you have any further ideas how we can make the Holy Year special in our Parish? Please let us know! Fr Martin Morris.

**Eucharistic Adoration Rosary & Benediction.** Our Lady Queen of Peace church is open this Sunday afternoon from 4pm - 5pm for Silent Eucharistic Adoration. Why not visit the Church even for a short while and spend some quiet time with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist? At 5pm we will have Rosary & Benediction. All welcome.

**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. Thank you, Fr Martin Morris.

**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.

## Other News

**Voices of Faith** - An interfaith dialogue meeting around the theme of *Three Faiths Forum* is taking place on Tuesday 12 November, from 6.30pm - 8.30pm at St Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle. The meeting starts with refreshments which are followed by talks from representatives of the different communities and general discussion. All are welcome to attend.

**"From the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on."**  
How willing are you to give everything you have for God and discern serving him 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 **3 December 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](#).

**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](#).

**The Justice and Peace Refugee Project.** In the UK and many other countries, November is a time for remembering. All Saints and All Souls Days remember those who have lived and died in their faith. And, of course, on Remembrance Day we remember those who died in battle – above all, the millions who perished in the two world wars of the last century. The First World War was called by many, 'the war to end all wars', but sadly history has proved this was not to be the case. In June 2024, the UN Refugee Agency reported that a record-breaking 120 million individuals have been forced to flee their homes due to war, violence and persecution – the twelfth year in a row the number has increased. Many of our clients come from countries affected by war and persecution, so it is important to all involved with the project that they receive a warm welcome, compassion and a listening ear. The Refugee Project continues to welcome clients from across the world. In September, we supported 510 individuals and families and received 27 new registrations from clients in need of food and toiletries to supplement their meagre allowance. We also provided eighteen destitute clients with supermarket vouchers. With such high numbers of clients needing support, we really do need and value your donations of food, toiletries and finance. Items most urgently needed can be [found here](#). The latest newsletter can be found by clicking [here](#). For more information please click [here](#).

**On Saturday 16 November, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia.** Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. "And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least, God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it." (Jonah 3:5,10) Please invite others to join the day on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/911998444365954/>.

## Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 32nd 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.

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