

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
 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

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18TH - 19TH OCTOBER 2025 Year C

Saturday 18th October	St Joseph	5pm	Alec Proctor RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Vera Monaghan and deceased family members
Sunday 19th October	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	In Loving Memory Andrew Bell RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Bernard & Clare Simons

First Reading: Perseverance in Prayer

Exodus 17:8-13

In those days: Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose for us men, and go out and fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.' So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

Response to the Psalm: *Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

Second Reading: The Use of Scripture

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2

Beloved: Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

Gospel Acclamation: : Alleluia, alleluia. The word of God is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Answer to Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, "Give me justice against my adversary." For a while he refused, but afterwards he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming." ' And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

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 Luke Wilkinson	0191 649 8257		

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 20th October 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 20th October	St Bede	10am	Ann Connolly (RIP)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Joseph & Henrietta Anderson RIP
Tuesday 21st October	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	John Callaghan & Deceased Memers of the Lawless & Callaghan Families
	St Joseph	7pm	Wellbeing of Theresa & Kenny Sim
Wednesday 22nd October	St Bede	10am	Kathleen Duggan (RIP)
	St John Paul II	7pm	Ada Bell RIP
Thursday 23rd October	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Dennis Wilson RIP
	St. John of Capestrano	12 Noon	Deceased Members of Killen & Callaghan Families
Friday 24th October	St John Boste	10am*	Blessed be God in his Angels and his saints. (Thanksgiving.)
	St Anthony Mary Claret	10am	Tommy & Peggy Finnigan RIP
Saturday 25th October	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	John Barker RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	Nick Barnfather RIP
	Vigil	5pm	George & Elizabeth Cox and deceased Cox and Stephenson Families
Sunday 26th October	St John Boste	9:30am	David and Anne Crombie and son David RIP
	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10am	Eddie Ashburner RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

The clear thread which runs through all of today's readings is about **Persistence**.

In the battle with the Amalekites in the first reading, whenever Moses persists in keeping his arms raised in prayer to God, Israel prevails. Writing to Timothy, St Paul urges him to continue the work of the gospel both *'in season and out of season'*. The gospel continues the theme using the example of an unjust judge who initially ignores a widow's pleas for justice but eventually relents because she won't give up. If even a corrupt judge can act because of a widow's persistence, how much more will a just and loving God respond to the faithful cries of his people.

It is fantastic when we see God's hand at work in answering our prayer intentions - the more fervently we have prayed for something, the greater the joy we experience when our prayers are answered. But it can be hard to keep faith when the things we have been praying for seem to go unheard. After all, Jesus said, *'Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door will be opened ...'* (Matthew 7:7-8). But sometimes it can feel like God is nowhere to be found, our prayers seem to go unanswered and, in such times, it is difficult not to feel despondent.

I recently listened to a podcast interview in which Caribbean Archbishop Charles Gordon spoke openly about times of Consolation and times of Desolation in his spiritual life. He said that what got him through was that he just kept turning up for his prayer, continuing to make space for God to do whatever God wanted to do in his life and eventually his time of desolation moved into a time of consolation once again. *(the podcast is called 'The Spiritual Life' hosted by Fr James Martin SJ)*

So, whatever it is you are praying for - hold fast, keep making space for God and trust that God hears and answers your prayers (not always in the way you expect). Take courage from Psalm 121: *'I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.'*

Deacon Frank O'Neill

Masses are generally live-streamed daily at 10am every day, except Monday, streamed at 7pm, and alternate Sundays when Mass is live-streamed at either 10am or 11am. An * on the Mass table 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'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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now available in all of our Churches:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning after Mass.

St Joseph – Thursday after 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) meet in the Lindisfarne Room at St Bede's Church on Tuesdays at 1pm. All welcome.

Church cleaning: St. John Boste on Monday 20th October at 10am. All are welcome to come lend a hand.

Life in the Spirit Seminars.- An opportunity to renew our lives of Faith, with a new outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. For seven weeks from 7pm - 8.30pm, beginning Thursday 25 September - Thursday 6 November. Members of the Diocesan CHARIS team will help us reflect on 'The Gift of the Holy Spirit' and the personal renewal of our Faith. Through reflection on Holy Scripture, a short talk, and testimonies, the 'Life in the Spirit' seminars aim to offer a renewed Faith in Jesus Christ, and in his gift of Salvation. The seminars take place in the Emmaus room at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate. All welcome. Why not come along to one or more of the seminars? Details below, See the poster at back of Church for more details.

Date	Title	Speaker
16 October 2025	Receiving God's Gifts	John Wheeler
23 October 2025	Baptised in the Holy Spirit	Fr Shaun O'Neill
30 October 2025	Growth	Deacon Alison Rebello
6 November 2025	Transformation in Christ	Fr Shaun O'Neill

"Pope Leo XIV invites Catholics throughout the world to pray the Rosary for Peace." *'I invite everyone each day of the month of October, to pray the Rosary for Peace, personally and in the family too. The world longs for peace, so let us pray for humanity.'*

Eucharistic Healing service.

This Sunday afternoon 19th October 5pm at Our Lady's. An opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for the gift of healing. Prior to this the Church will be open from 4pm for silent Eucharistic Adoration, with Rosary at 4.30pm for World Peace. All welcome.

Special Collection This Week – World Mission Sunday 19 October 2025

On World Mission Sunday, the whole Church unites in prayer and generosity to support Catholic communities across the world facing poverty, conflict and hardship. Pope Francis chose **'Missionaries**

of Hope Among All Peoples' as this year's theme, reminding us of our call to be messengers and builders of hope in this Jubilee Year. Rooted in Christ's resurrection, this hope has the power to transform lives and heal our world. Prayers and donations on this day directly sustain young and struggling faith communities, support vocations, and enable missionaries to bring the Gospel to remote and often dangerous places. Together, we help communities grow in faith, dignity, and self-reliance. This day of prayer and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love for all peoples. We live in a privileged part of the world. Throughout the year we are reminded that we are not meant to be a 'cosy' local Catholic Community but have to look to support our fellow Christians throughout the world who witness to their faith in very difficult circumstances. Some people reckon that 1 in 10 Christians are persecuted throughout the world. This Collection helps us to help others to continue witnessing to the Lord in very poor parts of the world.

Thank you for your continued support of Missio. For more information, please visit missio.org.uk/wm

SVP Sing And Chat at the Black Bush.

Everyone is welcome at this event which will be held at the Black Bush Washington Village from 12:15 until 3 pm on Friday 24th October

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Cemetery.

I would like to thank all those who keep our cemetery and grounds looking clean and tidy. Thank you to all who take the time in caring for graves and plots. This is very much appreciated.

The on-going costs for ground maintenance, i.e. grass cutting, tree pruning and path clearance continue to be a significant cost for the Parish, approx. £1,000 Per Month. Considering the extensive site of our Cemetery, these costs are understandable. However, following discussion at the recent Parish finance committee we now need to introduce some further means in funding the upkeep of our Cemetery grounds. I would like families to consider making a 'suggested donation' of one hundred pounds to the Parish, whenever a grave is reopened. (Council/state Cemetery charges are much higher). If anyone would like to make a personal donation for the general upkeep of our Cemetery here at Our Lady's, that would be greatly appreciated. Or why not consider leaving a donation as part of your Will for our Cemetery upkeep? All donations can be made by cheque/bank transfer via the Parish office. Thank you, Fr. Martin Morris. Parish Priest.

Parish Finance Meeting

Following the latest meeting of the finance team on 1 October 2025 please find a copy of the minutes and schedule from the meeting on the church notice board.

St John Boste, Evening Prayers

Starting from 29th October, evening prayers will be prayed at 6.45pm every Wednesday before 7pm Mass. All welcome to join in.

Annual Bereavement Mass.

November is the month of the Holy souls. At this time we pray for all our departed loved ones.

On Saturday November 1st the 10am Mass at Our Lady's will be a time to remember all the faithful departed.

The names of all who have died in the last twelve months in our parish will be read out, and everyone will be invited to come forward and light a candle in their memory.

Refreshments afterwards in the Emmaus room. All welcome.

Remembrance Sunday. On Sunday 9th November at 4pm there will be Rosary at the Crucifix in the cemetery at Our Lady's followed by the blessing of graves.

Other News

"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](#)

Appeal for Foundation Governors - Bishop Stephen is extremely grateful for the time and dedication that our school governors and Catholic Education Trust directors commit to our Diocese. We are constantly looking for new foundation governors to join local governing committees in our schools. For further information please contact Rebecca Daglish from the Diocesan Department for Education. 0191 2433313 or rebecca.daglish@diocesehn.org.uk.

Helping Hands Needed for Care Home Garden. Do you enjoy being outdoors and lending a helping hand? St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) are looking for volunteers to help tend their extensive garden. The garden is a special place for the residents, a space for peace, fresh air, and community. We are looking for volunteers to assist with weeding, clearing undergrowth and general upkeep. No special skills or experience are needed, just a willing spirit, kind heart and a bit of time to share. Just bring yourself and we'll provide the tools. If you would like to be part of this rewarding work and share joy with the residents, please contact Sr Brigitte or Anne Whale (Tel: 0191 2731279) to get involved. Let's join together to make the garden flourish for the residents to enjoy!

Marriage Preparation Days - Engaged couples can find more information [here](#). To 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.)

Open Scroll (Book of Revelation) - Oct 2025 - Mar 2026 (Monday Evenings). A six-session study group on the Book of Revelation, titled OPEN SCROLL. The talks will take place once a month on the second Monday of each month, starting on 13th October and will be from 7.00pm to 8.30pm via Zoom. The Book of Revelation is a chunky book of the Bible and is quite involved. Please contact Mia Fox (mia.fox@diocesehn.org.uk) to join the WhatsApp group and get the link. We're looking forward to journeying with you through the Book of Revelation (or Apocalypse in Greek). You may wish to extend the invitation to your friends. The series is not being recorded. We recommend attending all sessions live to maximise the benefits of this course.

Little Sisters of the Poor – Christmas Fayre

The Little Sisters of the Poor will be holding their Christmas Fayre on Saturday 8th November from 12-3pm at St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle

There will be lots of stalls, raffle, home baking and refreshments. All welcome.

Fr. Dermott Donnelly founded the charity '**Significance**' to enable young people to become all that God has created them to be. Significance supports YMT and the ongoing development of the **Emmaus Village** and also provides grants for particular projects which provide opportunities to young people. To raise funds, Significance has launched a Grand Draw: First prize is 2 tickets for a 'Britain's Got Talent' live semi-final in 2026, first class LNER travel and overnight stay in a London hotel and there are other exciting prizes. Each ticket costs £5 and the aim is to raise £20,000 by selling 800 books x 5 tickets. The draw will take place on Youth Sunday 23rd November 2025. Please support by buying a ticket or taking a book to sell. Raffle tickets can be sent to you by contacting significance316@gmail.com

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](#).

Could you be a CAFOD Schools Volunteer? Volunteers are wanted to help children/students learn about the work of CAFOD. Could you help your local school deliver assemblies and/or workshops that encourage young people to put faith into action to help others? It would only require a few hours of your time each term and you would be assisting your local community to work together for the Common Good. No experience is necessary, and full support and training will be given.

Find out more [here](#).

All Saints' Day: Brunch by the Sea - 1 November 2025. Following our wonderful, summer's day gathering at Holy Name Jesmond, we'd like to welcome and invite, again, women in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle to come together to share brunch and a time of prayer and reflection led by Sr Sheila McNamara. 11am – 1pm on Saturday 1st November at St Cuthbert's, Albion Road West, North Shields, NE29 0JB. Please bring pastries, fruit or other to contribute to the bring and share brunch table. To RSVP or for more information please contact: Mary (mmadziva@ymt.org) or Amy (formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk).

Reflections

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

Examen - Examen - Please follow the links to go to [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

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](#)



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