

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

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 25TH - 26TH OCTOBER 2025 Year C

Saturday 25th October Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Nick Barnfather RIP
	St Bede	5pm	George & Elizabeth Cox and deceased Cox and Stephenson Families
Sunday 26th October 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	David and Anne Crombie and son David RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Eddie Ashburner RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

First Reading: The Prayer of the Humble

Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 35:15b-17, 20-22b

The Lord is the judge, and with him is no partiality. He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan or the widow when she pours out her story. He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him and does justice for the righteous and executes judgement. And the Lord will not delay.

Response to the Psalm: *The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.*

Second Reading: Paul's Farewell

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing. At my first defence no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Luke 18:9-14

At that time: Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: 'Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get." But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.'

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 27th October 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 27th October	St Bede	10am	John Barker RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Holy Souls in Purgatory - Unborn Babies
Tuesday 28th October Ss Simon & Jude	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Sherry Hughes RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Pauline Moist RIP
Wednesday 29th October	St Bede	10am	In Thanksgiving for 60th Anniversary of St Bede's Church
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intentions
Thursday 30th October	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Peter James McQuillan Anniversary RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Leo McLemon RIP
Friday 31st October	St John Boste	10am*	Gerard Dent
	St Joseph	10am	Pauline Moist RIP
Saturday 1st November Bereavement Mass	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Holy Souls
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Patricia Stobbart nee Ford RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Clare & Stephen Bottoms RIP
Sunday 2nd November All Saints Day	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Teresa & Geoff Storey
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Charles, Veronica & Patrick Murray RIP

Some people say that religion and politics should not mix, but I found it impossible to read today's readings without reflecting on what is happening in our country and the world right now.

The first reading tells us that *"The Lord is the judge, and with him is no partiality."* Psalm 34 says that *"The Lord hears the cry of the poor. The Lord confronts the evil-doers"* and Luke's gospel compares the arrogance of the Pharisee with the humility of the tax collector. Injustice, evil-doing and arrogance seem to be in plentiful supply in our world and in our country today.

I noticed a comment on social media the other day which read like this: *"I saw a poor man in the street today and was moved with pity. So I went and found the wealthiest house in the neighbourhood and put £10 through the letterbox. I felt better knowing that my money would trickle down to the poor man really soon."*

Scripture calls us to stand in the shoes of the oppressed, the orphan, the widow, the lowly, the poor, the broken-hearted, those crushed in spirit, the abandoned, the threatened, the humble.

As followers of Jesus who identified with the poor and oppressed, we should look for the same attitudes and values in the politicians and leaders in charge in our country regardless of whatever political party they represent.

Perhaps all our political leaders would do well to reflect on the words of Jesus – "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

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 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.

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
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.'*

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.

Special Collection This Week - Clergy Training Fund - This weekend we take the annual collection for the Clergy Training Fund, and remains open until the 28th November for personal donations. Thankyou for your generosity. A letter from Fr. John Bagnall, Vocations director is at the back of Church.

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.

Thank you for celebrating World Mission Sunday - Thank you for your donations to the World Mission Sunday appeal. Your prayers and support will help missionaries work alongside communities worldwide, regardless of background or belief. Please continue to pray for all who share the love and hope of Christ with our sisters and brothers in need throughout the world. To support mission year-round, visit missio.org.uk or call 020 7821 9755 (office hours).

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.

Churches Together in Washington - Our new community support group will offer a space for individuals to connect with others facing similar challenges or interests, providing emotional support, practical advice, and a sense of belonging. We are hoping to bring together people who are going through or have gone through similar experiences. All are welcome to come and have 'cake and coffee' to find out more or just to have a chat in a relaxed atmosphere. Our new group started on 29 October at Holy Trinity Church, Washington Village, NE38 7LE. For more information please ring 0191 4187911 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](#).

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](#)

Tradition v Change? The Nicene Creed and the Development of Doctrine - Does faith change, or does it stay the same? In this 1700th anniversary year of the first Ecumenical Council of Nicaea [which formulated the Nicene Creed we proclaim at Mass] Professor Karen Kilby from Durham University will explore the Council, the Creed and the question of development of doctrine on Tuesday 4 November at 7pm in the Holy Name Hall, Jesmond NE2 3JX. All are welcome.

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.

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

Adventurous Accompaniment November 2025 - Sunday 9th November & Sunday 16th November 2025 - We are made to walk together. Our short formation programme Adventurous Accompaniment is designed to help us become better at walking with others, supporting them to see God at work. Over two sessions, you will explore how to accompany others whether it is informally while out talking with your neighbour or over a sustained relationship with family and friends. The 'Adventure' of this formation is that God is the one leading the way. Session 1: Sunday 9 November 1:00pm-4:00pm. Session 2: Sunday 16 November 1:00pm-4:00pm. Participants will need to attend both sessions. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available during the session. We will offer an online follow-up session in spring 2026 (details tbc) Booking deadline Monday 3 November 2025. To book [click here](#). Cost £10.

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).

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!

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](#).

Reflections

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

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](#)

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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