

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

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA - 8TH - 9TH NOVEMBER 2025 Year C

Saturday 8th November	St Joseph	5pm	Denis Welsh RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
	St John Boste	9:30am	Hollie Gordon
Sunday 9th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	SVP
Lateran Basilica	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Anniversary Mass for Norah & Owen Hagen

First Reading: The Water of Life

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

In those days: The angel brought me back to the door of the Temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the Temple towards the east (for the Temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the Temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me round on the outside to the outer gate that faces towards the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side. And he said to me, 'This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.'

Response to the Psalm: *The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the abode of the Most High.*

Second reading: The Master Builder

1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

Brothers and Sisters: You are God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord, that my name may be there for ever. Alleluia.

Gospel: Rebuilding the Temple

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, 'Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade.' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' So the Jews said to him, 'What sign do you show us for doing these things?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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 10th November 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 10th November St Leo the Great	St Bede	10am	Bernard & Connie Casey, daughter Maureen and grandson Christopher RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	In Thanksgiving
Tuesday 11th November St Martin of Tours	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	John Barker RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Marion & Bob Slavin
Wednesday 12th November St Josaphat	St Bede	10am	Billy Craggs
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	12 Noon	Requiem Mass: Ann Kelly
	St John Boste	7pm	Bob Hodgson RIP
Thursday 13th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Mary Bowman RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Deceased Duffy & Coates
Friday 14th November	St John Boste	10am*	Michael Quinn RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Sr. Margaret McMahon RIP
Saturday 15th November St Albert the Great	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Audrey Gaffney RIP
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Nancy & Martin Loughlin RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Kathleen Nattress (RIP 1st anniversary)
Sunday 16th November 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Burdiss & Bengston Families RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Repose of the Soul of Maurice Lumley
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

Today's Gospel is a very familiar one. The context is the Temple in Jerusalem; the holiest place for the Jews, particularly as they commemorate the Passover. The Temple is the subject of the First and Second Readings too. St Paul's Temple is very much in line with the Temple referenced by Jesus in his riposte to the astonished Jews amidst the overturned tables and the harsh flutter of pigeon wings breaking the outraged silence. Jesus is the Temple; his divinity should be the focus of those who believe and give worship. He prefigures his own Resurrection in contrast to bricks and mortar, the fate of the Temple. Unlike those struggling to comprehend this scene, Jesus knows the Romans will destroy the Temple in seventy years.

To be fair, the Jewish worshippers are simply doing what they have always done and Jesus will have witnessed this many times but a reckoning is coming. Roman coins are changed for Temple coins to buy a sacrificial offering. However their relationship with God has become secondary to human trade, which Jesus so angrily rejects. Soon there will be only one sacrifice in this new Covenant: his own.

St Paul in his letter to the early Christian community in Corinth, which he founded, is trying to make them individually more mature in their faith. They have been quarrelling about leadership, how to worship, who to admit but St Paul is unequivocal: "You are God's building." Like Jesus in the Gospel, St Paul is very clear; each Christian must embody their faith. From that strong foundation, the church will flourish.

Today is Remembrance Sunday and we rightly honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in war for future generations. We pray for the brave members of our Armed Services today. Let us take time too to pray for those whose lives have been lost in war in the ongoing conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine and the recent horrors in South Sudan. Let us pray for the children whose lives have been ruined and reach out for love and support. Let us pray for peace, reconciliation and justice. Let us pray for a fairer world. Let us pray for the dignity of each individual Temple of humanity. Help us to learn, Lord Jesus.

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.

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.

Songs of Peace and Praise - A date for next year's diary, **July 9th 2026**. The Parish is planning to hold an evening of **Songs of Peace and Praise**, starting at 7.00pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. More information will be given nearer the date.

To plan for the Songs of Peace and Praise there will be a **short meeting at 11.00 am Sunday 23rd November at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church**. Anyone interested in helping to plan the event will be most welcome. It will be great if all Churches in the Parish are represented. If you are unable to attend but wish to be involved with the planning please email me, Jane Everett ejeverettlane@gmail.com Many thanks.

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 - Evening prayers will be prayed at 6.45pm every Wednesday before 7pm Mass. All welcome to join in.

Remembrance Sunday - This 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.

'NEW SONG'! Come and join us for November's New Song! We'll be doing a deep dive Lectio into some scripture this time round. Come and be inspired by God's word! All are welcome! **Where:** Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Parish Room. NE38 7HS. **When:** 9th November 2025 @ 4.00 pm. **Email:** newsongne@gmail.com
Instagram: @newsongne

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 at Holy Trinity Church, Washington Village, NE38 7LE. For more information please ring 0191 4187911 or [click here](#).

Other News

What is your Jubilee Story? As the Year of Jubilee draws to a close in January 2026, the Diocese is preparing to celebrate the journey we have all walked together united as Pilgrims of Hope. Across the Diocese, communities have embraced the Jubilee in beautiful and creative ways and we are now collecting photographs, short stories and messages to form a Jubilee Legacy Collection. *"Let's close this Holy Year not with a full stop, but with a radiant exclamation of hope."* Please [click here](#) for further details and the closing date for us to use your submission(s) is 15th December.

CAFOD Cop 30 prayer - Cafod are asking everyone to pray for the success of COP 30 by saying the following prayer, daily if possible, from 10-21 November.

God of blessings,
the universe sings of your glory.
Deepen our gratitude for all you have made
and awaken in us a renewed commitment
to care for the earth and each other.

Inspire world leaders at COP30,
with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change
and with courage to act urgently and wisely,
so that our common home may be healed and restored
and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it. Amen.

"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](#)

Quiet Day - Led by the Minsteracres Team - Thursday 20th November from 10am to 4pm. Join us for a day of spiritual reflection and renewal in the peaceful countryside. This retreat offers time for personal prayer, contemplation and connection with God. Enjoy the serene environment, with lunch, tea and coffee provided, ensuring a relaxing experience. Whether seeking clarity, peace or a faith reconnection, this day offers gentle nourishment for the soul. Lunch and refreshments are included. Suggested Donation £40. To book please [click here](#).

Carbon Literacy Training - Three online sessions - Join us for The Carbon Literacy Project run by North East Churches Acting Together. Three online sessions will examine the science of climate change, our own personal carbon footprints, and what we can be doing together as churches. The course can lead to Carbon Literacy Certification for those who choose to take this option. The course will run from 7-9pm on Wednesdays, November 19th and 26th, and January 14th 2026. To express an interest, please email minnie.fraser@diocesehn.org.uk

Scriptures of Hope: In response to this Jubilee Year theme of hope, our Diocesan Writing Team were invited to share a short reflection on a scripture passage which speaks to them of hope throughout the challenges and the joys of life. What followed was a beautiful collection of reflections demonstrating how the Word of God has been a powerful source of strength, peace and hope to each writer in many ways. We share four reflections each week. We hope you enjoy. Please [click here](#) to read the collection.

Day of Consolation - At Minsteracres on Tuesday 11th November from 10am to 4pm. A poignant retreat day for people who have experienced bereavement, grief loss or significant change. This day will offer an opportunity to share a safe space, to be heard, to share with others who have had similar experiences and to hopefully find courage, hope and consolation. Lunch and refreshments are included. Suggested Donation £40 To book [click here](#).

Advent - "Worthy of the Promise"! Led by Pat Kennedy - Friday 28th November from 6.30pm to Sunday 30th November at 2pm - Time and space to find God's personal message for me. Our Advent Retreat invites you to explore the concept of waiting on the Lord. As we prepare for Christmas, this retreat offers a chance to reflect on your spiritual readiness for the season. Through guided reflections, prayer sessions, and communal discussions, we will explore themes of hope, peace, joy and love—the four traditional themes of Advent. The serene environment of the retreat centre offers a perfect setting for personal contemplation and spiritual renewal. Join us in this journey of waiting and preparation, embracing the Advent season with intentionality and grace. Suggested Donation £190. To book please [click here](#).

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 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.

Emmaus Bereavement Listening Service: If you are struggling after the death of a loved one, or suffering any significant loss, and would like to share your story with someone outside your family, then a member of the Emmaus Team may be able to help. The members of the Emmaus team are trained in bereavement listening skills and are experienced in supporting those who are suffering loss. If you think we could help, please ring the Emmaus Bereavement Support Team on 07732 980740. Please leave your name and number and a member of the team will get in touch with you.

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. We are looking for volunteers to assist with weeding, clearing undergrowth and general upkeep. 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.

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

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.

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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