

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



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, 5th – 6th September 2026 Year A

Saturday 5th Sept. Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Fr Aniebiet Francis Xavier Inyang RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Colin Stratton & Thomas Humby
Sunday 6th Sept. The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Linda Harrigan RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Gerard McCabe RIP

First reading: Repentance for Sin

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Thus says the Lord: 'So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.'

Response to the Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Second Reading: The Debt of Mutual Love

Romans 13:8-10

Brothers and Sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet', and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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

The Gospel: Reconciliation

Matthew 18:15-20

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

Fr Martin Morris 0191 416 3583
 Fr Andrew Shaw 0191 649 8257
 Deacon Tony Joy 0779 989 3419

Fr Martin Wheaton 0770 996 1040
 Deacon Frank O'Neill 0779 115 5845

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 7th September 2026 (Streamed Mass *)			
Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 7th September	St Bede	10am	Franjo Zorka RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Volunteers of the Parish
Tuesday 8th September The Nativity of the BVM	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	George Fawcett
	St Joseph	7pm	Marion & Bob Slavin RIP
Wednesday 9th September St Peter Claver	St Bede	10am	Fr Leo Pyle RIP
	St. John Boste	7pm*	David & Anne Crombie & Son David RIP
Thursday 10th September	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Joseph & Henrietta Anderson
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Bell, Tom & Billie Blue RIP
Friday 11th September St Deiniol	St Joseph	10am	Priest's Intention
	St John Boste	10am*	Victims of Terrorism
Saturday 12th September Most Holy Name of Mary	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Delores & Augustin Ladino
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Catherine & Jim Tumelty, 60th Wedding Thanksgiving
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th September The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Joyce O'Brien
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Carl Poulter
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Welcome – Deborah, David, Nicole, Eleanor & Graham

LATELY DEAD: Sheila Tweedy, Joyce O'Brien, Jack Lawrie and Frank Casey.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Jesus said, 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

Christ is present at Mass in four ways; (i) in the bread and wine after they have been consecrated, (ii) in the form of the Priest as he presides over the Eucharist, (iii) in the form of the Word, as scriptures are proclaimed and explained, (iv) and also in the very process of the congregation gathering for Mass. The coming together of the people of God. Jesus is present with us when we go to Mass.

This is also true with all the sacraments. In Baptism with the child (or adult), the minister, the Parents and Godparents and any friends and family who attend. They are all witnesses to God's presence at the ceremony and in a special way God's presence in the person being Baptised.

In the sacrament of Reconciliation, Jesus is there with the penitent and the priest dispensing His mercy. In Confirmation, God is there, together with the candidates and their families and friends, giving his Spirit to those being Confirmed by the Bishop or his representative. In Matrimony, the couple come before God to express their love for each other, and they sanctify their vows by exchanging them in the presence of God. Again, with Holy Orders, God is present. Even the Sacrament of the Sick, there is the Priest and person who is sick, so God is there with his comforting presence.

But let's look at other times when two or more people come together in the name of Jesus. If we say family prayers, before or after meals or at bedtime. When children start their day at school with a prayer. Any church related meeting should start with a prayer, inviting Jesus to be with us in whatever deliberations we are making. Various Zoom meetings took place during the Covid restrictions, and some of those have carried on. Even a remote gathering using technology is a coming together in the name of Christ, so he is there with us.

So, this short sentence, 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.' is something worth reminding ourselves of whenever we gather in the name of Jesus. We should spend a few seconds just acknowledging Jesus' presence with us and ask for God's guidance in whatever we are doing in His name.

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 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.

OLOF (Our Lady's Over 50's club) is on each Tuesday at 1pm in the Lindisfarne Room at St Bede's. All most welcome!

Special Collection Next Week: Catholic Education.

Special BBC Songs of Praise Christmas Concert - to be recorded at the spectacular Glasshouse International Centre for Music in Gateshead on Tuesday 6th October. Join Aled Jones and some very special guests at the iconic Glasshouse for a spectacular Christmas concert. Bring your singing voice and Christmas jumper for an evening of classic carols and traditional hymns. For free tickets book [here or email](#) or telephone 020 8530 8154.

Parish 'LIFE' Group. - We are hoping to begin a 'LIFE' Group in the parish soon. The group will work closely with the project of The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel network, in supporting Mothers and Expectant Mothers with housing, feeding, and other practical difficulties. They will also promote the Annual day for Life, and the January 'white flower appeal'. A short meeting will be held in the office at Our Lady's after 10am Mass on Saturday 3rd October for any parishioner who may wish to know more. All welcome.

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](#).

Season of Creation 2026 - The Season of Creation starts on 1st September, the [Day of Prayer for Creation](#), and ends on 4th October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a time to join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. Follow the Diocese [Facebook](#) page for daily reflections.

Catechism Instruction for new Inquirers to the Catholic Faith - OCIA. Beginning Wednesday September 30th 7pm in the Emmaus Room at Our Lady's. Please register with Fr Martin Morris before attending.

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

Bishop Stephen's Review. Thank you to all those parishioners who attended meetings over the last few months, both in our own parish, and those in Sunderland and Washington. Your contributions were appreciated. Following the wider partnership meetings at Sunderland and Houghton-le-Spring, a summary document has been produced outlining all responses received, this is called 'Combined Local Communities Return Form.' I emphasise this is a summary of responses received, and does not reflect any final decision on any matter. The next stage of the review is for these responses to be forwarded to Bishop Stephen and his representatives at Deanery level, for consideration. The Return Form and the Executive Summary can be viewed [here](#) and on the parish website, and some paper copies are also available at the back of each Church. Thank you, Fr Martin Morris

A Message from Father Luke

Serving in Washington and Penshaw these past three years has been an incredible joy. I'm sure you will make Fr Andrew Shaw as welcome as you've made me. I wanted to say thank you to everyone for your kindness and welcome over the years, for faith and friendliness, and as I leave, for your incredible generosity. I'm somewhat nervous about the new appointment, but knowing that you're praying for me is certainly smoothing the path ahead. Thank you and be assured of my ongoing prayers. If you're ever in St Dominic's do say hello! God Bless, Fr Luke.

Newsletter - Unfortunately we have had to temporarily suspend the circulation of the electronic version of this newsletter due to a change in the software we use. We are actively looking for ways to recommence the circulation as soon as possible. An electronic version can be found on our website or by following this link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-ZzukeToyNY8ngyzq1N6HEfy2JU8l8un/view?usp=drive_link Please bear with us.

Other News

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi - Bishop Stephen will lead a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and the centre of the Eternal City before then moving onto Assisi in Umbria, the 'green heart' of Italy, and the centre of St Francis and St Clare's ministry. The Pilgrimage will take place **22nd - 29th October 2027** at a cost of £1,725 per person. Places are limited to 50 pilgrims and places are allocated on a first come first served basis with payment of the deposit securing your place. For information and how to book please [click here](#) or type in the link: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/diocesan-pilgrimage-to-rome-assisi/>

Heritage Open Days - 11th to 20th September - This September, national heritage festivals are taking place across the UK. They are a fantastic opportunity to welcome and introduce new visitors to our churches. Taking part can be as simple as opening up your church, or if you want to do more, perhaps offer refreshments, run activities or display some historical information - photographs are always popular! If you plan to take part, let us know and we can help promote across our social media channels. Find out more by [clicking here](#).

A warm welcome to Father Andrew Shaw as our new Assistant Priest. Father Andrew will live in the Presbytery at Our Lady Queen Of Peace. We wish him many happy years here in our parish.



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](#).

MINSTERACRES - The Medjugorje Centre (North East) has organised a retreat from Fri 9th - Sun 11th October. Fr. Martin Morris will be leading the retreat. The cost is £205 per person. A £50 Deposit is required. Although this is not a parish organised event, several people have shown interest but transport to Minsteracres is a problem. Some already going with cars have offered to car share. If there is enough interest a minibus could be booked but at an extra cost. For more information or booking forms please contact Marian Fletcher - Telephone 0191 4174413. For information about Medjugorje see - <https://www.medjugorje.hr/en/>

Ave Maria Brunch - Women of all ages and from all across the Diocese are warmly invited to our Ave Maria brunch on Saturday 12 September, 10.00-12.00pm at English Martyrs Church, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 3JR. Inspired by Mary's Magnificat, the morning will include prayer, reflection, music and fellowship as we rejoice in God's goodness. For the bring and share brunch, we ask that you bring an item e.g. pastries, croissants, fruit, and drinks will be provided. For more information, please contact Mary Madziva at mmadziva@ymt.org

Children and the Word - 17 October 2026 - Each Sunday, God's people gather together to celebrate in Word and Sacrament the mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection. The celebration of the Mass includes everyone, both young and old. The key aim of Liturgy of the Word with Children is to proclaim a Gospel translation and facilitate interactive discussion appropriate to children. "Children and the Word" is a diocesan day of Refreshment and Reflection on Sunday Children's Liturgy and Godly Play and is prepared and led by the Liturgical Team. Date: Saturday, October 17th, Time: 10.00am-3.00pm. Cost: £15 (payable by parish or attendee as appropriate) Venue: St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7NL. Teas and coffees provided but participants will need to bring a packed lunch. Booking is essential - please register [here](#)

Church Action on Poverty - 18 October 2026 - This year's Church Action on Poverty Sunday will take place on Sunday 18th October, with a theme of "Food, faith and fellowship". A record number of churches took part last year, and interested churches are encouraged to register now. Resource packs will be sent out over the summer, containing bring & share lunch ideas, worship materials, prayer cards, Scriptural reflections, activity sheets, and inspirational stories of churches already doing great work through food. To sign up, visit church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

Life in the Spirit Seminar Series: Harlow Green - 24th September 2026—12th 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: 24th September 2026: Introduction, 1st October 2026: God's Love - Andy Drozdziak, 8th October 2026: Salvation - Fr Anthony Ohaekwusi, 22nd October 2026: The New Life - Christine Dixon, 29th October 2026: Receiving God's Gifts - Fr Chris Warren, 5th November 2026: Baptism in the Holy Spirit - Fr Shaun O'Neill, 12th November 2026: Growth - Nikki Dickenson, 19th November 2026: Transformation in Christ - John Wheeler. Please book your place [here](#).

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear Pat Devlin speak on World Week for Peace in Palestine & Israel, in the hall of Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle, NE2 3JX, on Monday 21 September 2026, at 7.30pm. The theme for this year highlights in particular the trauma experienced by children in Palestine & Israel. The talk will move from examining the tragedy unfolding in the current situation to the hope found in the joint Palestinian/Israeli groups committed to working together for a Just Peace for all, and will conclude with practical suggestions for how we in the UK can contribute to that work.

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.



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