

# 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

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**In the Partnership of Benedict**

Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Penshaw, Sacriston, Washington

## 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 9TH-10TH SEPTEMBER 2023, Year A

Saturday 9th September	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Mary Shields</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Bede	5pm	<b>The People of the Parish</b>
Sunday 10th September	St John Boste	9.30am	<b>David &amp; Anne Crombie and Son David</b>
<b>The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary time</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Alfie Cruddas RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Gerard McCabe RIP</b>

**Jesus said, 'For wherever two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with 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 wherever two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with 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.

**Fr Martin Wheaton** 0770 996 1040

**Deacon Peter Lavery** 0730 505 9297

**Deacon Frank O'Neill** 0779 115 5845

**Deacon Tony Joy** 0779 989 3419

## Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 11th September 2023

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 11th September <b>St Deiniol</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>Edward Ashburner</b>
Tuesday 12th September <b>Most Holy Name of Mary</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Hannah Crawford Murphy</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Frank McEnaney</b>
Wednesday 13th September <b>St John Chrysostom</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>The Holy Souls</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>The Parish Schoolchildren</b>
Thursday 14th September <b>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>The Sick of the Parish</b>
	St Joseph	Noon	<b>Smith &amp; Longstaff families</b>
Friday 15th September <b>Our Lady of Sorrows</b>	St John Boste	10am	<b>The People of Ukraine</b>
	St Joseph	10am	<b>Vi Summers</b>
Saturday 16th September <b>Ss Cornelius &amp; Cyprian</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Mrs Lucas &amp; Deceased Family</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Duffy &amp; Coates families</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>Priest's Intention</b>
Sunday 17th September <b>The 24th Sunday in Ordinary time</b>	St John Boste	9.30am	<b>In thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>The People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Bernard &amp; Claire Simons</b>

**First Reading: Repentance for Sin**  
**Ezekiel 33:7-9**

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

**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**

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: *You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet*, and so on, are summed up in this single command: *You must love your neighbour as yourself*. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!**

**The Gospel: Reconciliation**  
**Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

## Reconciliation

The Church has had to be selective as we work through the Gospel of Matthew for this year's readings. In this eighteenth chapter of Matthew on relationships within the community it is striking that the Church has chosen this passage to put before us. The first part is all about sorting out disputes and about forgiveness. Despite the presence of Christ in the Christian community there are going to be disagreements and misunderstandings in every church and every family. The vital thing is to sort them out and not to let them fester. So here we are given a safe process to do this. Just after today's passage, Jesus underlines his teaching here when he says that we have to forgive not just seven times (the perfect number) but seventy-seven times. That means again and again and again, without limit. Christ also reminds us that he is present always in his community. The same promise is given at the beginning (the name Emmanuel means 'God with us') and at the end of the gospel ('I am with you to the end of time'). Therefore the decisions of the community will be considered binding in the sight of God. It is especially striking that the same pledge (of binding and loosing) is made with the Church here as had earlier been made with Peter himself; Peter on his own exercises the authority of the Church. How may we best put this process of reconciliation described by Jesus into practice? **How may we best put this process of reconciliation described by Jesus into practice?**

**Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB**

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**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 Church will be open on Friday afternoons, 2pm - 3pm for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** - The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available in all of our Churches as follows:

St Bede's - Wednesday at 6pm;

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass;

St John Boste - Friday morning, after Mass;

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning, after Mass.

St Joseph's Birtley - Thursday afternoon after midday Mass

**Urgent Request - Ukrainian Refugees** - Please see leaflets at the back of our churches asking for people to once again consider hosting a family fleeing the war in Ukraine. The war is very much in the news at the moment because of the NATO Conference, the plight of refugees is now sadly taken for granted. Please take a leaflet and give it some consideration. Very many thanks.

**OLOF** - The club is on a Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village. All most welcome!

**Towards a Parish Pastoral Council:** There was some information about the setting up of a Parish Council circulated amongst the churches. Please find out more information on this by [clicking here](#).

**Pope Francis' film 'The Letter'**. The film will be shown in the Emmaus room at Our Lady's Church on Thursday 21 September at 6.30pm. All welcome. If you need transport please contact Chris O'Neill on 07815162153.

**Plant and Seed Exchange.** After our success in the spring we have decided to do an autumn exchange at each mass on 7th & 8th October. Donations of plants and seeds will be gratefully received. Contact Chris O'Neill on 07815 162153 if you need items collected  
**Special Collection This Week - Catholic Education:** The Catholic Church was the first provider of schools and universities in England and Wales, thanks to religious orders – there was a school on Holy Island run by St Aidan in 640! There were secret schools in farms and hedgerows throughout the Reformation in the 16th and 17th centuries. The Catholic Education Service offers legal and educational advice to the Church in England and Wales and helps the Church to negotiate its way through all political discussions regarding education in this country.

**Special Collection Next Week - Home Mission Sunday:** Pope Francis often uses the phrase 'missionary disciples' to describe those who are baptised. He wants to see every Catholic become more aware of their responsibility to spread the Joy of the Gospel in their own area. This collection helps the Bishops' Conference prepare resources to help parishes become involved in welcoming people back in to active worship; to encourage 'Journeys in Faith', Alpha and RCIA and to explore ways in which local parishes can make a difference in the world they live in.

## Other News

### Partnership Ministry Day - Saturday 16 September

Everyone is invited to the Partnership's Ministry Day on Saturday 16 September at 10.30am at St Robert of Newminster School, when we can assemble as a Partnership to recognise and celebrate together the talents and commitment of people involved in the many ministries from across our Partnership and spend time reflecting on how we can build on and develop all the good things that are happening and perhaps fill some gaps.

The recent announcement of Clergy moves in the Diocese will see one less priest in the Benedict Partnership. It is therefore timely that as a Partnership we have time together to look at how we the lay people can use our talents as we look to the future with fewer priests.

You will find full details of the Ministry Day on the Partnership newsletter and can put your name down to attend after Mass this weekend. The invitation is open to everyone, our Ministries and talents go way beyond the liturgical church-based ministries and include the gardeners, the cleaners, the people who count the collections, the finance people, those who help in foodbanks, credit unions, the SVP and especially those who play their own part in building God's Kingdom in a quiet often unseen way.

We invite those who are already involved plus new volunteers and those who just want to 'have a look' to come and celebrate their ministries and reflect on how they can support the needs of the church. Please come along and join others from the Benedict Partnership in celebrating the talents that we have in serving God and each other.

### Rosary Rally.

A Rosary procession will be held on Saturday 7 October 2023 from St Joseph's Church, Gateshead to Northumberland Street, Newcastle followed by public Rosary in Northumberland Street. The day will start with First Saturday Mass and devotions at 11am at St Joseph's, High West Street, Gateshead (near to Gateshead Metro Station), then the Marian procession will start with a statue of Our Lady from the church at 12.30pm, walking over the Tyne Bridge before assembling in Northumberland Street to pray the Rosary starting at 1.15pm. All are welcome and anyone can join at any stage of the event.

## Diocesan Courses:

### Days of Reflection:

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Saturday 23 September 2023 (10.30am - 3pm), St Joseph's, Gateshead. [View here](#)

Liturgical Leaders of the Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion (Lay Leaders): Saturday 7 October 2023 (10.30am - 3pm), St Joseph's, Gateshead. [View here](#)

### Courses:

New Readers of the Liturgy of the Word: Commencing Monday 9 October 2023 (2 sessions), St Aidan's, Benton. [View here](#)

Liturgical Leaders of the Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion (Lay Leaders): Commencing Thursday 26 October 2023 (6 sessions), St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle. [View here](#)

Further information and booking details are available on the [Liturgy and Prayer webpage](#).

**Miracles of the World Exhibition.** The Association of the Eucharist will be hosting an exhibition about Blessed Carlo Acutis and his documentation of Eucharistic Miracles from around the world. The exhibition will be held at St Joseph's, Gateshead, NE8 1LX from Saturday 14 October to Saturday 28 October. On Saturday 14 October, Bishop Emeritus Séamus Cunningham will celebrate Mass to mark the opening of the exhibition; there will also be a guest speaker and a time of Adoration. For the remaining two weeks, the exhibition will be available to visit, for a period of time, on a daily basis. More details about the launch day and timings to follow. Parish groups are welcome to attend.

Event details can be found at <https://bit.ly/DHNCarloAcutis>.

**Season of Creation: Rivers of Justice Webinar** - Join the Diocesan Environmental Group on Saturday 30 September (10am - noon) to hear from guest speakers about the Season of Creation and updates from parishes and schools working towards the Live Simply Award in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. Bishop Stephen has confirmed he is able to attend to give the opening address and participate in the event, including the Q&A session. For more information [please click here](#).

**Bereavement Support**- Whilst bereavement is extremely hard at any time, the time spent in lockdown when funerals had to take place in very restricted circumstances have taken their toll on so many. Whilst family and friends can be immensely supportive, sometimes a bereaved person wants to talk to someone outside of their immediate circle. The Emmaus Bereavement Support Team, trained in the Ministry of Consolation, is available to support those who wish to talk about their loss. Due to current restrictions, such conversations will most likely take place on the phone, but we hope as restrictions ease, it may be possible for people to meet face-to-face again. Since the launch of this service, there have been a number of requests for support, and several of our listeners have been able to accompany others on their journey of loss and bereavement. The **Emmaus Bereavement Support Service** number is **07732 980740** a member of the team will contact you promptly. [Read More](#) Quick Link: [Accompaniment in Difficult Times](#).

**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](#).

**Tyne & Wear Citizens invite you to join them** on a webinar titled, 'Discipleship, Politics and Anger: Catholic Social Teaching and Community Organising'. This webinar, on 27 September 2023, will explore the relationship of the values of Catholic Social Teaching with the methods of broad-based community organising. This webinar will highlight how members of the Diocese, through working with Tyne and Wear Citizens, have been successful with a number of campaigns that have improved mental health services, won cheaper and safer public transport, improved local parks, developed anti-racism, work in schools, sought migrant justice and significantly increased the number of accredited Living Wage employers in the region. We will also hear from Catholics from other parts of the country working with Caritas, the SVP and other parts of the community within and beyond the Church, who have integrated the values of our tradition with this method for grassroots change. This will include Sir John Battle, Chair of Leeds Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission and Leeds Citizens. [Read more and register here](#).

## Reflections

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

**Examen** - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go: [Saturday Examen](#)  
[23rd 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](#).

**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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