

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: 01916498257



Administrator: Audrey Huntley 0191 4163583 sj23office01@gmail.com

In the Partnership of Benedict

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

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 7TH – 8TH OCTOBER 2023, Year A

Saturday	St Joseph	5pm	Ruth Guymer
7th October	St Bede	5pm	The Sick of the Parish
Vigil			
Sunday	St John Boste	9.30am	Louise Tobin Davies
8th October	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	The People of the Parish
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	The Sick of the Parish

A CORNERSTONE FOR THOSE AROUND ME

Like all parables, the parable of the vineyard owner speaks the same truth to each generation, but just as each generation of Christians finds itself faced with a different but always challenging world, so the parable speaks to each generation at a different level.

On the face of it, Jesus is explaining how the prophets were sent by his Father to warn and guide God's people. However, the people's lack of faith and trust made them blind. The prophets were treated badly by the Pharisees, scribes, and most of the people, ultimately, they were rejected. The Father, in his overflowing mercy and love for them, then sends his own son, yet he too was destined to be rejected and murdered, by the very people he was sent to save. In this, Jesus is predicting his own agony and death on the cross.



They refused him because it was not the message they wanted to hear. They didn't want freedom from the Romans, they wanted to destroy them. They wanted to crush and humiliate the Romans, just as the Romans did to them. Instead, Jesus is telling them to, "love their enemy", and "treat everyone as you would wish to be treated". While their minds were set on something very different, a worldly liberation, political and military dominance. The spirit was unable to penetrate such hard hearts.

Unlike those first hearing the parable of the vineyard owner, by Christ's suffering and resurrection, we have the opportunity to walk each day in God's grace. Yet we too can take Jesus and cast him from our minds and ignore the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts.

The question raised for us is a simple one, am I going to live an empty and vacuous life, following the urges of my body while allowing my pride to push me to seek the affirmation of others or am I going to take control and become a cornerstone for those around me, am I going to free myself by becoming Christ-like for others - Each day we are faced with the same choice, do we follow the tempting but ultimately superficial ways of the world, or the divine Logos and spiritual liberation?

Fr Martin Wheaton

Fr Martin Morris	0191 649 8257	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Peter Lavery	0730 505 9297
Fr Luke Wilkinson	0191 649 8257	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 9th October 2023

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 9th October St John Henry Newman	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	John & Theresa McIntyre
Tuesday 10th October Ss Paulinus of York, Dennis & John Leonardi	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Theresa Madden
	St Joseph	7pm	Peter Neal
Wednesday 11th October St John XXIII	St Bede	10am	Tom Trainor & Deceased Family
	St John Boste	7pm	Deceased SVP Members
Thursday 12th October St Wilfrid	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Billy Simpson
	St Joseph	12 noon	Kate Flood
Friday 13th October St Edward the Confessor	St John Boste	10am	Our Schoolchildren & Staff
	St Joseph	10am	Norman Harris
Saturday 14th October St Callistus I	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	John Pendergast, 90th Birthday
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	John Hogan
	St Bede	5pm	Margaret Walker (Deceased)
Sunday 15th October The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Deceased Members of the Selfridge Family
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	In Thanksgiving for Daniel Bentham
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	James & Elizabeth Beadle & George & Theresa Dawson

First Reading: The Song of the Vineyard Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower; he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

The Response to the Psalm: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Second Reading: Advice for the Community Philippians 4:6-9

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing

all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

The Gospel: True Justice Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next, he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance". So, they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: "It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see!" I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

True Justice

Jesus' understanding of the sovereignty of God brought him violent opposition from some of the Jewish leaders. Were they corrupt, or just closed to any new way of thinking, so closed that they could not see that Jesus was the promised Messiah? Anyway, Jesus used this story about the tenants of a vineyard to show that the religious authorities were not leading the people as they should. Everyone would immediately understand the image of the vineyard. The prophet Isaiah had used this image in a well-known poem eight centuries earlier to show that the vineyard of Israel refused to yield a good harvest to God, whatever care God lavished on it. God expected fairness of judgment from the people and all he found was a shriek of agony (the same word is used in Hebrew for 'fair-judgment' and for 'shriek' apart from one letter). What does this mean for us? Not that we have to follow every new idea. But it does mean that we must be open to the idea that we may be wrong, that our service of the Lord may be faulty, that people we find tiresome or unacceptable may have more good in them than we credited. God's ways are not our ways. Life may not be mapped out how we think, so we need to watch out for the bend in the road.

What is God asking of you?

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, 2 pm to 3 pm 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:

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 Bede's - Saturday after Vigil Mass.

OLOF - The club is on a Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All Welcome. Please note there will be no OLOF on Tuesday 17th October at OBLI

Special Collection This Week - Family Fast Day for CAFOD:

Just imagine living on £1.25 a day! Millions of our sisters and brothers have to survive on less than the cost of a couple of first-class stamps. A first-class stamp costs £1.25. So if we send 1 Christmas card we will spend as much as many families will have to live on. How scary is that? In Pakistan, Dr Nasha's mobile medical clinic gets life-saving help to where it's needed most, fast – so when her team arrived in Meera's village after it had been destroyed by flooding, she rushed to the clinic to get her children the treatment they needed. Please donate to CAFOD using the envelope in church or give online [by clicking here](#).

Medjugorje Northeast Prayer Group - The group will hold its afternoons of prayer in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Penshaw, second Sunday of each month, 4-5.30pm, beginning Sunday 12th November, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Induction Mass of new Parish Priest - Fr Martin invites all parishioners to his Mass of Induction as our new Parish Priest on Monday 23rd October, 7pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate. Fr Colm Hayden (Episcopal Vicar) will celebrate the Mass which will be followed by refreshments in the hall. All most welcome as we invoke God's blessing upon our Parish. This will replace the usual Monday evening Mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace for **this week only**.

Rosary & Soup – During October, every Wednesday at 12 noon and each Monday at 6.35pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace. All are welcome.

Nicene Creed - Fr Martin would like us to pray the 'Profession of Faith' i.e. the creed each weekend at Mass. (The Apostles Creed – shorter form is only prayed during the Easter season.) Mass cards with the longer version of the Creed are available at the back of each Church for those who wish to use them. Thankyou.

October Devotions – This Sunday afternoon 4pm at St. Bede's. An opportunity for Rosary & Benediction. All welcome.

St Bede Toddler Group - The toddler groups meet every Monday during term time from 9.30 until 11.00. We currently have spaces and would love to welcome new members from the community. Just come along on a Monday morning. For more information contact Joan Formosa on 07504579591

Community Lunch - Members of the SVP along with other groups have been involved in setting up a "Pay as you Feel" weekly community lunch at Leam Methodist Church NE10 8UP which will run every Monday from October 9th. Anyone who would like to get involved or volunteer to help can contact the project by [clicking here](#) or call Emma on 07453 625139. There is a poster at the back of church with details.

Other News

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. Our liaison with statutory and non-statutory agencies ensures that we promptly and properly respond to allegations of abuse, report to police; appropriately support any victims and hold perpetrators to account. 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](#).

Blessed Carlo Acutis Exhibition - St. Joseph's Gateshead. Saturday 14th October, 10am. The exhibition remains open until 28th October, formally opened by emeritus Bishop Seamus Cunningham with 10am Mass, 14th October. The exhibition traces the short life of Blessed Carlo, and his message for our own times. Event details can be found [by clicking here](#).

Retreat Weekend for Individuals and Parishes - Minsteracres Team - £180 - Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th November - 6.30pm-2pm. A warm welcome to individuals and parishes to join us at Minsteracres for a reflective retreat which comprises talks, discussions, reflections and social time. [Please click here for more information.](#)

First Steps – Exploring the Catholic Faith online - Wednesday 11 October at 7 pm for 7 weeks - The Vicariate for Faith and Mission is pleased to be able to offer First Steps this Autumn. Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? First Steps is aimed at people who are thinking about their faith or their relationship with God. Perhaps you were baptised a Catholic, but didn't make First Communion, or receive Confirmation, or were baptised as a member of another Christian Church or have never been baptised at all. If you are currently wondering whether joining the Catholic Church is the next step for you this may be the way forward. For further information, or to register, please [click here](#).

Vacancies - The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Administrator, Dept for Education, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date: 10 October

Cleaner, St Charles, Gosforth – part-time, permanent. Closing date: 11 October
Please [click here](#) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Diocesan Courses - 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](#).

Centre for Catholic Studies - The following are audio recordings from our podcasts and a link to a feature that appears in The Tablet: **The Church's Radical Reform: Season 2, Episode 4 'Reform from the Grassroots Upwards, an interview with Professor Myriam Wijlens**. Professor Myriam Wijlens is a theologian and church lawyer who is playing a pivotal role in advising the global synod process. She understands church reform: how it happens, what is possible, and what isn't possible and was one of the first women called to be involved in the synod organising committee. In this episode, she takes me through what has happened in the synod so far, including the groundbreaking reforms Pope Francis made to allow women to vote in the forthcoming October assembly. To [listen please click here](#).

Justice & Peace Autumn Newsletter - The latest Justice & Peace newsletter has been published. The Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council urges people, if they have not already done so, to send a letter to their MP urging them not to pull back on their green commitments. We have produced a template letter which can be found in the appendix to our newsletter. [Read more](#).

Synod - Linking with the first session of the Synod on Synodality in Rome (October 2023), Clifton Diocese will be exploring the same themes through a series of webinars (7.30 - 9.00pm) through October. They include:

Dr Greg Ryan: **10 October**; 'A Communion that Radiates'. [Click here to register](#)

Jenny Sinclair: **19 October**; 'Co-responsibility in Mission - How can we better share gifts and tasks in the service of the Gospel?'. [Click here to register](#)

Canon Christopher Thomas: **24 October** (to be confirmed); 'Participation, governance and authority in a synodal Church'. [Click here to register](#)

Diocesan Church Music Association - Calling all musicians and singers, save the date! On Sunday 12 November there will be a workshop with the renowned composer Will Todd to learn his new Mass setting, *Gaudete*. This Mass setting has been commissioned by the Bishop Chadwick Catholic Educational Trust and made available for all churches and schools in our Diocese. *Gaudete* is upbeat and accessible and has been written to work in all sorts of settings, including parishes with limited musical resources. More details to follow. Register your interest by [clicking here](#).

Centre for Catholic Studies - ISHWRA Seminar - Dr Laurence Lux-Sterritt will present a paper entitled '"Aut Maritus, Aut Murus": Love, marriage, and the convents'. This session will take place in a hybrid format. **Date:** Wednesday 11 October 2023. **Time:** 2.00pm.

Venue: The Department of Theology and Religion, Abbey House, Palace Green, Durham.
[Register here](#) to attend online via Zoom. [Register by email](#) to attend in person.

Marriage Preparation Days- 2023: Saturday 4 November: St Mary's, Bishop Auckland DL14 6PQ. Saturday 18 November: Sacred Heart, Gosforth NE3 5EB. **2024:** Saturday 9 March: St Joseph, Blaydon NE21 5AE. Saturday 16 March: St Mary's, Bishop Auckland DL14 6PQ. Saturday 13 April: St Hilda's, Sunderland SR5 2JD. Saturday 18 May: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth NE61 1QF. Saturday 21 September: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth NE61 1QF. Saturday 9 November: St Mary's, Bishop Auckland DL14 6PQ. Engaged couples can find more information [by clicking here](#). To book on a course, [please click 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 27th 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.



[To post a notice on this Newsletter, please click here](#)