

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

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 21ST–22nd OCTOBER 2023, Year A

Saturday	St Joseph	5pm	Ursula Jobson
21st October	St Bede	5pm	Clare & Stephen Bottoms (Deceased Anniversary)
Vigil			
Sunday	St John Boste	9.30am	Louise Tobin Davies
22nd October	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Dennis Wilson
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Theresa Madden

Paul's love for his new Christian communities

Paul's letters to his new communities are among the earliest writings of the early Christians; some of them dated many years before the Gospels were written.

In today's letter to the Thessalonians we hear the first five verses of Chapter one which is his introduction and welcome. After his introduction, blessing and welcome he is particularly complementary about the community and how thoroughly they embraced his message of the Kingdom of God, '... when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.' In his second letter to the Thessalonians he is similarly enthusiastic about them, 'Among all the churches of God we take special pride in you.' They seem to be one of the most effective communities he established, and possibly one that gave him least worry.

Paul travelled through the countries of the eastern Mediterranean between Jerusalem in the South- East and Rome in the North-West. He suffered several arrests, shipwreck, floggings and attempts on his life, all in order to spread the Kingdom of God beyond Israel. He would visit a town or city and start with the local Jewish community telling them about Jesus as their Messiah and that the Kingdom of God is for all people's, not just the Jews. He would extend his message to anyone who would listen. He would stay with those who embraced his message, sometimes for months or years. Hopefully leaving a new Christian community which could follow his example and be able to continue to grow without him.

He developed a great affection for these burgeoning communities and would write to them with encouragements, teaching, correction (where necessary) and giving judgement on questions or issues. The more places he visited the more communities he had to maintain. Some he would visit a second time on a future journey. But he cared for them all and worried about them. The temptations for these new communities were many: they might revert to their previous pagan gods and sinful way of life, the Jewish people could lose faith in Jesus as the Messiah and return to their Jewish life, they could lose faith because of fear of the Romans and the frequent persecution of Christians.

The fact that these communities survived, and indeed thrived, to the extent where they became the foundations upon which all Christians today are built, is an amazing miracle. By 313 AD the Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan which accepted Christianity as an acceptable religion of the Roman Empire. Prior to this Christianity was an illicit, persecuted sect. After the edict Christianity became a welcomed, and eventually, the dominant religion of the Roman empire.

This miracle of the growth of Christianity was shaped by the love and care of Paul for those early communities. He, of course, would give all of the credit to the Holy Spirit working through him.

Deacon Tony

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 23rd October 2023

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 23rd October St John of Capestrano	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	7pm	Edward Ashburner
Tuesday 24th October St Anthony Mary Claret	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Repose of the Soul of Theresa Madden
	St Joseph	7pm	Theresa Burn
Wednesday 25th October The Six Welsh Martyrs	St Bede	10am	Paul & Shaun Marriner (Deceased)
	St John Boste	7pm	Our Schoolchildren & Staff
Thursday 26th October Ss Chad & Cedd	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	The Grant Family
	St Joseph	12 noon	John McGrachan
Friday 27th October	St John Boste	10am	John Barker 2nd Anniversary
	St Joseph	10am	Jim Towell
Saturday 28th October Ss Simon & Jude	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	John Barker Anniversary
	St Joseph	5pm	Dennis Welsh
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Mary Dragone (Deceased)
Sunday 29th October The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	John & Joe Erskin
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Geoff Storey
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Joan Shaw

First Reading: Cyrus, King of Persia, Chosen by God

Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more. 'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

The Response to the Psalm: Give the Lord glory and power.

Second Reading: Paul Greets the Church in Thessalonika

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord

Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

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

The Gospel: Giving God His Due

Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'

Giving God His Due

They must really have thought they had their victim sewn up! If Jesus said he paid the Roman taxes, he recognised the Emperor, not God, as his Lord. If he said he didn't pay, he was a traitor to Rome. Jesus turns the question back on them. First he makes them admit that they themselves recognise Rome as overlord by carrying a Roman coin, for the coin would carry the Emperor's head. Next he puts them a question: what do they consider is due to Caesar? Finally he goes beyond their question, to interrogate their ultimate loyalty: in the last analysis, just what is due to God? At a superficial level this seems a little verbal tussle, in which Jesus outwits his opponents. But the story was remembered and passed on in the Christian community not because of Jesus' cleverness, but because at a deeper level it is a question which Jesus puts to each of us: just where do our loyalties and priorities lie? Money? Respect? Sex? Fame? A good holiday? Comfort? Power? Jesus is not a dictator who imposes his will. He just asks the question and leaves us to give our own answer. To those who question him he gives no easy response, but always replies with another question. **What takes priority in my life? Does God get a look-in? In what way? 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.

Special Collection This Week – World Mission Sunday: We live in a privileged part of the world. Throughout the year we are reminded that we are not meant to be a 'cosy' local Catholic Community but have to look to support our fellow Christians throughout the world who witness to their faith in very difficult circumstances. Some people reckon that 1 in 10 Christians are persecuted throughout the world. This Collection helps us to help others to continue witnessing to the Lord in very poor parts of the world. To find out more please [click here](#).

Special Collection Next Week – Clergy Training Fund: The annual collection is for the training of current and new candidates for the Priesthood and Diaconate. Thank you for your generosity.

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.

Medjugorje Centre Northeast Pilgrimage – In conjunction with Northern Star Travel Ltd. (0161- 7732115) Flying from Newcastle – Dubrovnik, 2nd- 9th June. 2024. Led by Fr. Martin Morris. For booking and info: please contact: Adrian Duffy on the above number, or Kath Ash on 01670- 733358.

October Rosary & Benediction: To conclude the month's devotion a Holy Hour at St. John Boste next Sunday afternoon 4-5pm. All welcome. Why not come along and spend some time with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist?

"Blessing of Graves.." Sunday 5th November 2023 at 4pm. An opportunity to gather in Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church and pray for all our Departed loved ones. At the end of the service we will process into the cemetery where the traditional blessing of graves will take place.

Macmillan Cancer Support - A huge thank you to everyone who baked, bought, ate cake and donated to the Macmillan coffee morning at St John Boste church. You raised an amazing £305 for the charity.

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.

Sick/Housebound in the Parish - Fr. Martin and Fr. Luke are very happy to visit any sick/housebound parishioner with the Sacraments. The Sacrament of Holy anointing and Confession can be a great help in such circumstances. Please contact the Priest's if you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit. Clergy landline: 0191 6498257. Thankyou.

Reception of Holy Communion and Covid Infections - With the current rise in the number of Covid infections in society at the present time, and as we go towards the winter season, it may be worth considering some aspects of receiving Holy Communion during Mass. Reception from the chalice is up to each individual's personal choice. The full presence of Jesus Christ in the bread of Life is fully received in the Consecrated Host. (Body, Blood, Soul & Divinity.) If you do choose to receive from the Chalice please do not 'dip' the consecrated host into the chalice. (This practise called 'intinction' is no longer an option, at the request of the Bishop's.) If you think you may have a cold, infection, etc, or consider yourself 'vulnerable' then please receive only the Consecrated host.

The sign of Peace - If the Priest or Deacon invites the 'sign of Peace' please consider that not everyone may wish to 'shake hands.' A simple smile, or bow suffices. Thank you, Fr. Martin.

SVP 200 Club Draw - CORRECTION for September: 1st Prize £50 No. 93 2nd Prize £25 No 84. October: 1st Prize £50 No 177. 2nd Prize £25 No 55. Congratulations to Vera Duffy winning first prize.

Other News

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family

Fast Day Appeal – Together we are supporting local experts like Dr Nasha in Pakistan to get help to families and communities when they need it most. It's not too late to give online [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, social time. [Please click here for more information.](#)

CAFOD Speaker – Thursday 26th October 7pm - Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Gosforth -

We are delighted to welcome Carlos Revilla to Newcastle from Bolivia to speak about his work for one of our CAFOD partners. Carlos works with communities and universities to implement practices to enable rural farming families to decontaminate water from the rivers that they depend on for irrigation and feeding their animals. Please come along and hear from Carlos about the work that he does and the challenges he faces. Contact Rachel by [clicking here](#) for more details.

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](#)

Children's Liturgy of the Word Autumn Programme: Commencing Monday 30 October 2023 (2 sessions), St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre. [View here](#).

New Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion: Commencing Tuesday 7 November 2023 (3 sessions), The Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble. [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](#).

New Podcast episode: The Church's Radical Reform - Season 2, Episode 6 - Synodal Review and Papal Leadership. The synod process in the Catholic Church is attracting interest from other Christian denominations, including from unexpected quarters. In this episode, Christopher Lamb interviews Neil Hudson, a Pentecostal pastor for 30 years. He is a senior leader at the Elim church in Salford, the northwest of England, and has worked at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. [Listen to it 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](#).

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](#).

Blessed Carlo Acutis Exhibition - St. Joseph's Gateshead. 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](#).

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go: [Saturday Examen 29th 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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