

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

26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 30TH SEPTEMBER -01ST OCTOBER 2023, Year A

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|--|-----------------------------|--------|---|
| Saturday 30th September | St Joseph | 5pm | Vi Summers |
| | St Bede | 5pm | Margaret Walker (deceased) |
| Sunday 1st October The 26th Sunday in Ordinary time | St John Boste | 9.30am | Living and deceased members of the Irwin family |
| | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | 40th wedding Anniversary Anthony & Kathryn McDevitte |
| | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am | Theresa Madden |

Lord, make me know your ways.

Jesus had little time for the Scribes, Pharisees, Chief Priests and Elders of the people who refused to accept the Good News which Jesus was proclaiming to his people. He condemned them as hypocrites and 'whitened sepulchres' – full of righteousness on the outside but inwardly full of corruption and sinfulness.

Earlier in Chapter 28 of St Matthew's gospel, they had challenged the authority of Jesus, but his response had left them dumbfounded and now he expresses his frustration with them by issuing his own direct challenge, inviting them to give their opinion on the Parable of the Two Sons.

When the Father, the owner of the vineyard, asks his two sons to labour for him, they give two very different responses.

The first son tells his Father that he is not willing to labour in the vineyard but clearly his heart is heavy and his conscience is troubled. Afterwards, he reflects on his decision, on his rejection of the Father; he recognises the hurt he has caused, acknowledges his mistake and turns back and is re-united to his Father where he rejoices in his tender mercy and forgiveness.

The second son gives what appears to be the perfect answer and faithfully promises to obey but his response is empty and shallow. He says one thing but fails to act upon it – his obedience is only mere show, it has no substance. He lacks integrity – in the same way as those who were challenging the authority of Jesus.

How often do we say the right thing, just as we have been taught by our family, our school and our parish community and yet we know, deep within our hearts, that our words are sometimes shallow and superficial?

How often do we lack the heart-felt commitment to transform our spoken word, our outward expressions of faith, into a passionate love of Christ and a life of integrity devoted to the love and service of others – with a preferential care of the poor?

So, let's be honest with ourselves and with God, let's recognise our failings and turn back to the Father. He will be quick to forgive, will fill us his grace and mercy and accompany us as we seek to transform our personal lives and the life of our Parishes and Partnerships.

*Lord, make me know your ways,
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.*

Deacon Peter

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

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 2nd October 2023

| Day | Church | Time | Intention |
|---|-----------------------------|--------|--|
| Monday 2nd October The Holy Guardian Angels | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 7pm | Tom Kaley |
| Tuesday 3rd October | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am | Pearson Family & Deceased Members of the Family |
| | St Joseph | 7pm | Harriet Rowntree |
| Wednesday 4th October St Francis of Assisi | St Bede | 10am | Eileen & William Harland (deceased anniversary) |
| | St John Boste | 7pm | Feast of St. Francis |
| Thursday 5th October St Faustina Kowalska | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | People of the Parish |
| | St Joseph | Noon | Maurice Mulcahy |
| Friday 6th October St Bruno | St John Boste | 10am | In thanksgiving for a successful operation and the wellbeing of Baby and Mother |
| | St Joseph | 10am | Ursula Jobson – Requiem Mass |
| Saturday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am | Theresa Madden |
| Vigil | St Joseph | 5pm | Ruth Guymer |
| | St Bede | 5pm | Sick of the Parish |
| Sunday 8th October The 27th Sunday in Ordinary time | St John Boste | 9.30am | Louise Tobin Davies |
| | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | People of the Parish |
| | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am | Sick of the Parish |

First Reading: The Justice of God Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Response to the Psalm: Remember your mercy, Lord.

Second Reading: God Emptied Himself in Christ Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume

the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

The Gospel: Doing the Will of the Father Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Doing the Will of the Father

Matthew loves to tell parables of Jesus which contrast 'goodies' and 'baddies' like these two contrasting sons. Matthew's parables put everything in black-and-white terms with no shades of grey (wise and foolish wedding-attendants, sheep and goats, etc.). Luke uses a different kind of parable, in which the characters - just like ourselves - often do the right thing for the wrong reason. The sayings of Jesus were handed down by word of mouth for some years before being written down. Did the straightforward contrast in Matthew (it is odd that both change their minds without a reason) develop into Luke's parable of the Prodigal Son? Both times the 'goodie' son ends up bad, and the 'baddie' son ends up good, but in Luke's version both changes of mind are motivated, and there is great emphasis on the son's repentance and the father's overwhelming joy at getting him back. The lesson in Matthew's story is given also by Jesus' word in the Sermon on the Mount, 'It is not anyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord" who will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in Heaven'. It is no use simply saying that Christ is our 'Lord'; we have to express it in our behaviour. **What meaning do you find in this parable for yourself and the relationship you have with the Father?**

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 now available in all of our Churches:

St Bede's - Saturday after Vigil mass

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

St John Boste - Friday morning, after Mass;

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning, after Mass.

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

Rosary and Soup - October is traditionally the month of the Rosary. This Sunday afternoon (1st Oct) at 4pm we will pray the Rosary at the statue in the Garden at Our Lady Queen of Peace, and then celebrate Benediction in Church. Saturday 7th October is the Feast of The Holy Rosary, The Rosary will be said at 9.35am before Mass at **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate. Rosary & Soup** - every Wednesday commencing 4th October at 12 noon and at 6.35pm each Monday at **Our Lady Queen of Peace**. All are welcome. Thanks,

Parish Pastoral Council
While Fr. Morris is familiarising himself with all aspects of St John XXIII Parish life, Fr Morris has asked that we pause further meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council until further notice.

Reconciliation at St. Bede's: Reconciliation at St. Bede's on Wednesday evening will no longer be available and is replaced with 6pm after Saturday Vigil.

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 at embellscic@outlook.com or call Emma on 07453 625139. There is a poster at the back of church with details."

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 07815162153 if you need items collected.

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](#).

Rosary Rally - Some Catholic faithful are planning to hold a procession with a statue of Our Lady from St Joseph's Church, Gateshead to Northumberland Street, Newcastle followed by public Rosary in Northumberland Street on Saturday 7 October 2023. [Click here](#) for more information.

Holy Island Camp

Holy Island Vinnies Camp is looking for new helpers to help in their kitchens on Holy Island. The Camp runs holidays for many of our Catholic Schools in the North East during the months of April to July and then September to November, but relies on volunteers to do caretaking duties and kitchen helpers to wash up, serve meals and help prepare light meals, salads and sandwiches etc for the groups staying on site. Commitment can be as little as a few days a year or more if you are able to and willing!

We are running a camp afternoon tea at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Newcastle airport, on Saturday 7th October from 2.15pm until 4.45pm. People who are interested in volunteering are more than welcome to join us, but would need to email John Flynn on JohnF@svp.org.uk to book a place. Anyone who is thinking they might like to volunteer in 2024 could also contact Barbara Taws via BarbaraT@svp.org.uk to find more information about Camp and the process of becoming a volunteer. We hope to see you soon!

Are You ready to accept? We invite men aged 18+ who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. The next Discernment Evening is on **Tuesday 3rd October at the Cloister Café** - St Mary's Cathedral Clayton Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5HH 6.00pm - 8.00pm There will be a time of Prayer, talk/discussion, followed by a meal together If you would like to attend, or for more information, please contact the Vocations Promoter, Fr Shaun Purdy by email: vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk or by phone: 01670 812 200.

Quiet Day - Minsteracres Team - £30 - Tuesday 3rd October -10am-4pm. An opportunity to sep aside, listen to God in Scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside here at Minsteracres. Lunch and refreshments included. [Please click here for more information.](#)

Feast of St. Francis: On Wednesday 4th October Fr. Morris will celebrate Holy Mass at 7pm in St. John Boste Church Washington to commemorate the Feast of St. Francis and The Season of Creation. Please come along and join our chat and cuppa afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

Retreat Weekend for Individuals and Parishes - Minsteracres Team - £180 - Friday 6th - Sunday 8th October - 6.30pm-2pm. A warm welcome to individuals and parishes to join us here at Minsteracres for a reflective retreat which comprises talks, discussions, reflections and social time. [Please click here for more information.](#)

MiniVinies – The minivines newsletter is now available by [clicking on this link](#).

Diocesan Courses:

Days of Reflection:

Liturgical Leaders of the Celebration of the Word and Holy Communion (Lay Leaders): Saturday 7 October 2023 (10.30am - 3.00pm), St Joseph's, Gateshead. [View here](#)

Courses:

New Readers of the Liturgy of the Word: Commencing Monday 9th & 14th October 2023 (2 sessions), St Aidan's, Benton. [View here](#) **This has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.**

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](#).

A Resource for individuals and groups - As part of our aim to promote growth and knowledge of the Eucharist, the Association of the Eucharist offer [The Eucharist: A Gift to be Nurtured](#), which gives us words from Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis to guide time before the Blessed Sacrament. This resource can be used by both individuals and groups.

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>.

The Call of the soul: Meister Eckhard Speaks to our World Today - Bridget Hewitt - £35 - Tuesday 10th October -10am-4pm. Meister Eckhart (c.1260-1328) was a German Dominican friar, an academic, a theologian, and most importantly a mystic – and his extraordinary writings still speak vividly to our contemporary world. This retreat day will give an insight into some of his most famous themes, particularly that of the 'Eternal Birth of God in the Soul.' We will explore the mystical voice of Meister Eckhart, and quietly discern interpretations meanings, and relevance of his beckoning call to us in the clamorous and agitated world of the 21st Century. Lunch and refreshments included. [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](#).

Centre for Catholic Studies - The following are audio recordings from our podcasts and a link to a feature that appears in The Tablet: **CTRS Seminar: Chris Insole - Pantheism: A Word for the World** - In this CTRS seminar, Professor Chris Insole of the University of Durham, speaks about 'Pantheism: A Word for the World'. To listen please [click here](#). **CTRS Seminar: Greg Hillis: Opposing the "Heresy of Individualism"** - In this CTRS seminar, Professor Greg Hillis of Bellarmine University talks about 'Opposing the "Heresy of Individualism": Thomas Merton and Interreligious Dialogue'. To listen please [click here](#). **CTRS Seminar: Tia Noelle Pratt: Anti-racism and the Catholic Church** - In this online CTRS seminar, Tia Noelle Pratt, Assistance Vice-President for Mission Engagement and Strategic Engagements at Villanova University, gives a presentation on "Do the Work: Anti-racism and the Catholic Church". To [listen please click here](#).

Special Collection Next Week - Family Fast Day for CAFOD: Just imagine living on £1.10 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 £1.10. 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](#).

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal - David and Theresa O'Neill ask you to support their fundraising for the Sisters through their collections of stamps, foreign currency, old or broken gold & silver & military medals. To date they have raised over £16,200 by these means. If you can help, contact them at: David & Theresa O'Neill, 34 Morston Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 7RZ Tel: 0191 264 5771 Email: david-oneill3@sky.com

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 visit www.diocesehexham.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go

[Saturday Examen](#) [26th 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](#)