

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



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In the Partnership of Benedict

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

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 18TH-19TH NOVEMBER 2023, Year A

Saturday 18th November	St Joseph	5pm	Norah Mc Kenna
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Harry Reah (Deceased)
Sunday 19th November The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Burdis & Bengston Families
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Audrey Gaffney

A Man Who Left His Mark

In speaking of the readings at Mass the Second Vatican Council recalls that: 'within the cycle of a year, [The Church] unfolds the whole mystery of Christ, from the incarnation and birth until the ascension, the day of Pentecost, and the expectation of blessed hope and of the coming of the Lord. Recalling thus the mysteries of redemption, the Church opens to the faithful the riches of her Lord's powers and merits, so that these are in some way made present for all time, and the faithful are enabled to lay hold upon them and become filled with saving grace.' (Sacrosanctum Concilium §102)

Each year in this unfolding of Our Lord's life, the Church guides us by way of a different Gospel, in Year A – St Matthew, in Year B – St Mark; and in Year C – St Luke; with the Gospel of St John filling in throughout the whole cycle, notably in Lent and in Easter. As we draw nearer to the end of the Church's year with the Solemnity of Christ the King our time with St Matthew is drawing to a close and we will move into the Gospel of St Mark.

The shortest of the Gospels, St Mark – we are told by tradition – was written not by an Apostle of the Lord, but on behalf of one – his Gospel being the distilled teaching of St Peter to the Church in Rome likely recorded by John Mark a companion of St Peter, St Paul and St Barnabas (see Acts 12:12 and 13:13). When we look at the contents of the Gospel we see much that would give credence to this ancient tradition; for the Gospel of Mark is categorized by a pace and urgency that would have spoken powerfully to the persecuted Church of Rome in the first century. It's call for conversion and the healing presence of the Lord a great comfort to a Church reeling from the attacks of the Emperor Nero.

Reading through the Gospel we find that almost everything that occurs happens 'immediately', the account of Our Lord's life is found between an almost breathless series of 'ands'. Mark 1:14 – 1:39 presents what we might consider 'A Day in the Life of Jesus', over these few verses the word 'and' appears 52 times and immediately 6 times. Reading through this short passage one cannot help but be struck by the sheer excitement of the Evangelist to communicate the life and teachings of Jesus – and that excitement is what in Year B we are called to enter into, to pick up. For we, like the Evangelist, are called to leave our mark upon the world by sharing with it the invitation to enter into the life of Jesus. I encourage you, set aside some time over the next few weeks to take up and read the Gospel as a whole, in a single sitting if you can, allow yourself to be swept up in the immediacy of the narrative. In 16 chapters we are plunged into the life of The Lord, surely there is no better way than this to prepare for Advent?

Fr Luke Wilkinson

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 20th November 2023

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 20th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Holy Souls
Tuesday 21st November The Presentation of the BVM	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Theresa Madden
	St Joseph	7pm	Dominican Sisters of St Cecilia
Wednesday 22nd November St Cecilia	St Bede	10am	The People of the Parish
	St John Boste	7pm	Deceased Roberts, Readman & Bell Families
Thursday 23rd November Ss Clement I & Columban	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Theresa Curran RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	Ursula Jobson
Friday 24th November St Andrew Dung-Lac	St John Boste	10am	80th birthday celebration (TF)
	St Joseph	10am	Billy Hogg
Saturday 25th November St Catherine of Alexandria Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Diamond Wedding Anniversary (Private Intention)
	St Joseph	5pm	Kathleen Burlison
	St Bede	5pm	Harry Reah (Deceased)
Sunday 26th November Our Lord, Jesus Christ Universal King	St John Boste	9:30am	Kathleen Burlinson
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Joan McCabe RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Rob Holland

First Reading: A Woman about the House

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her; from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax; she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff; her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor; she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The Response to the Psalm: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Second Reading: A Thief in the Night

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman;

and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

The Gospel: A Story about Talents

Matthew 25:14-15.19-21

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

A Story about Talents

It is encouraging to think of all the talents which friends and neighbours have and which I don't have. It is all part of the gifts of the Spirit, which Paul sees as making up the whole Body of Christ. Everyone has a special contribution to make. As for me, it is extraordinary that God created me with all my twists, defects, fears and failures and it is precisely because of those boils, sores, abscesses that God loves me, helps me and guides me to work out my salvation. And it is just possible that there may be friends who can think that God has given me talents which make a tiny contribution to the happiness and goodness of the world. In the longer version of this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus mentions a man with just one talent who hides it in the ground: the master calls him "wicked and lazy" and has him thrown out. Why is he so severely treated? This is surely someone who resolutely turns his (or her) back on the goodness she (or he) has received and refuses to work with it for the Lord's purposes or for anyone else's. Such a talent goes to waste and merely rusts and corrupts. If I know anyone like that, it is just worth asking whether, with infinite and patient kindness, I can help that person to release their talent and bring it to blossom. Just think for a moment: **what is your best talent? Is it a gift, skill or humour which brings joy and happiness to those around you? Are you like the man who buried his talent in the ground, or do you use this skill or gift or wisdom to bring joy to others?**

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 from 2pm to 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:

Our Lady Queen of Peace on Thursday morning after Mass.

St John Boste on Friday morning after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Saturday morning after Mass.

St Bede's on Saturday evening after the Vigil Mass.

OLOF Club

The club is on Tuesdays at 1pm in the Emmaus Room at Our Lady's in the Village! All Welcome.

Medjugorje Northeast Prayer Group

The group will hold its afternoons of prayer in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Penshaw, on the second Sunday of each month, 4pm to 5.30pm, beginning Sunday 12 November, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Medjugorje Centre Northeast Pilgrimage

In conjunction with Northern Star Travel Ltd. (0161-7732115) Flying from Newcastle – Dubrovnik, 2- 9 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.

Sick and Housebound in the Parish

Fr Martin and Fr Luke are very happy to visit any sick or housebound parishioner with the Sacraments. The Sacrament of Holy Anointing and Confession can be a great help in such circumstances. Please contact the Priests if you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit. Clergy landline: 0191 6498257.

Tuesday Night Holy Rosary prayers for the people of the Holy Land. Please join us at 6.40pm on Tuesdays at St Joseph's Birtley, to pray the great prayer of the rosary for all sides in the conflict in Palestine.

St Bede Toddler Group.

The toddler groups meet every Monday during term time from 9.30am until 11am. 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

Craft Sale for Manzini Youth Care

There will be a sale of Christmas and other handmade crafts after each mass in St John XXIII parish this weekend. Every penny raised will be used to improve and purchase supplies at four feeding stations used by poor families in Manzini, eSwatini (formerly Swaziland). Please support this worthy cause. Thank you.

Penshaw OLQP CWG

Our annual collection of toys for the poor children in the area is on Sunday 3 December after 10am Mass. Please label any gifts Boy/Girl with an age or Family. Gifts can be left in the Church porch - all donations very much appreciated.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at <https://cafod.org.uk/> or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

Shoebbox Appeal

Please remember your donations for the shoebox appeal and put in the box at the back of church before December 3. See the list at the back of church for suggestions. Thank you.

Winter Coats Needed

Please donate any child or adult winter coats you no longer use to Our Lady's SVP. We will distribute them to local charities to help someone to stay warm this winter. Thank you.

SVP 200 Club Draw November Result

First prize £50 No. 76, Second prize £25 No. 57.

Mass Intentions

Please be aware that there are a significant number of Mass Intentions already allocated and any request for a specific date may not be possible due to an Intention previously received and allocated to the Mass on that date. If the date requested is already filled, then the intention will be allocated to the first available Mass in the preferred church which could be a few weeks after the requested date.

Special Collection Next Week – Catholic Youth Ministry

Our Diocese is blessed! We have a dedicated team of people exploring how our young people can become more dedicated followers of Jesus. It is a tough ask! This team works alongside our Catholic Schools to help ensure that our young people look seriously at what it means to be a committed Catholic in our world today.

Other News

Little Sisters of the Poor – Christmas Fayre

The Little Sisters of the Poor are having a Christmas Fayre at St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle from 1pm to 4pm on Saturday 25 November. All are welcome to attend.

Engaging the Disengaged: How to accompany 'Non-Religious' persons

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, along with the Diocese of Portsmouth, will be hosting an **Online Seminar** featuring the eminent evangelist, speaker and author Sherry Weddell. This seminar will provide an opportunity for people who work within the fields of evangelisation to explore how Catholics can fulfil their mission to bring all to Christ.

The seminar will take place on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 6pm. Tickets are priced at £10 (non-refundable). For further information and booking details for this event can be found by [clicking here](#).

Advent Retreat "Wait for the Lord"

Sr. Sheila McNamara - £190 - Friday 1 December 6.30pm to Sunday 3 December 2pm. Welcome to our Advent retreat, where we reflect on the idea of 'Waiting on the Lord'. As we begin to prepare for Christmas, we offer this opportunity to prepare our heart space for the forthcoming gift, through Scripture, image, music, silence, and poetry. [Please click here for more information](#).

'A Light in the Darkness', a Diocesan Service of Remembrance for those who mourn the loss of a child

The service will take place on Sunday 19 November 2023 from 3pm at St Joseph's Church, High Street West, Gateshead NE8 1LX. You can view or download a poster by [clicking here](#).

The Refugee Project

The Refugee Project continues to welcome clients from across the world. In September, we supported 531 individuals and families and received 29 new registrations from clients in need of food and toiletries to supplement their meagre allowance. With constantly growing numbers, we really do need and appreciate your donations of food, toiletries and finance. The full list of items required is available [here](#). With the government's announcement that they are committed to clearing the backlog of cases that have been in the asylum system for some time, we are expecting the Home Office to make decisions about some of our clients in the coming months. We are always very pleased when clients receive news that they have been granted leave to remain, but recently the government has made changes, which are adversely affecting these clients by changing the time people are given to move out of asylum accommodation once they are given refugee status - the 28-day so-called 'move on' period - with some refugees having just seven days' notice. This is leaving some of our clients homeless. The Refugee Project has added its name to a letter from several charities to the Home Secretary asking the Home Office to amend this policy and prevent eviction notices and homelessness.

Update from Justice & Peace Refugee Project

This month's update from the J&P Co-ordinating Council includes details of the next Annual General Meeting. We join with other organisations to pray for peace across the world. We pray for wherever there is conflict and look with horror on the developing crisis in Israel and Palestine. The AGM of the Justice and Peace Co-ordinating Council will be held on Saturday 13 January 2024. We will be joined by Sir John Battle who was a Labour party Member of Parliament for 1987 to 2010. A committed Catholic, John frequently speaks on issues around Catholic Social Teaching and is chair of the Justice and Peace Commission for Leeds Diocese. He will be speaking to us about integrity in public life. We will be having the meeting in Newcastle (venue to be confirmed) and the day will last from 10.30am to 3.30pm. More information available by [clicking 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](#).

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go: [Saturday Examen](#)
[33rd 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](#)