

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

OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST UNIVERSAL KING, 25TH-26TH NOVEMBER 2023, Year A

Saturday 25th November	St Joseph	5pm	Kathleen Burlison
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Harry Reah (Deceased)
Sunday 26th November	St John Boste	9:30am	Kathleen Burlinson
Our Lord, Jesus Christ Universal King	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Joan McCabe RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Rob Holland

On this feast day of Christ the King, we hear Jesus telling his disciples the parable of the sheep and goats. In this parable, Jesus separates those who do the work of the Kingdom of God, like feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and welcoming the stranger from those who choose to ignore the person in need. Perhaps the most powerful statement here is Jesus' phrase 'in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me'.

Whatever we do for others, we do for Jesus. If we believe each individual is made in the image of God, each individual must be treated with the same dignity and respect as you would wish to treat Christ. This is a real challenge, and so often we find ourselves so caught up in our own preoccupations that it doesn't seem convenient to help the stranger in need. Yet, this feast day, we are called to make this our priority, caring for others as Christ himself would. This practical Gospel gives us some really concrete ways in which we can do this – I'd encourage you this week to reflect upon how you can do this and help someone in need, seeing Christ in every person around you.

Jesus came to serve, He came as a servant King. On this feast day, we remember Christ is King of the Universe, his power and might unmatched. Yet, simultaneously, He is not a King of wealth and materialistic power, but of humility and servanthood. This is the King we serve.

Today is also Youth Sunday, a day to celebrate all young people in our Church and in our schools. Taken from Pope Francis' message to thousands of young people gathered in Lisbon on World Youth Day, the theme for this year is 'Come and See', and is an encouragement for all young people around the country to come and see what Church is like, and the beauty of what happens when people of all ages come together to worship and be changed by our servant King. Our Church really is for everyone.

So today, on the Feast of Christ the King and Youth Sunday, let us endeavour to be a community ready and willing to serve, and encourage our young people to 'Come and See' what the Lord can do, if only we are willing to say 'yes'.

Hannah Bartlett

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 27th November 2023

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 27th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	The repose of the soul of Maura Docherty
Tuesday 28th November	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Tracey Fay RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Christopher Hattam
Wednesday 29th November	St Bede	10am	The Sick of the Parish
	St John Boste	7pm	Debbie Hull & John O'Brien
Thursday 30th November St Andrew	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	The Parish Schoolchildren
	St Joseph	12 noon	Maureen Joslin
Friday 1st December	St John Boste	10am	Priest's Intention
	St Joseph	10am	Holy Souls
Saturday 2nd December	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Janet Fawcett
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Patrick Riordan
	St Bede	5pm	Kieran Cushlow (deceased anniversary)
Sunday 3rd December 1st Sunday of Advent	St John Boste	9:30am	Paul Iley and deceased members of the Crombie family
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Jim Walker

First Reading: The Loving Shepherd

Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

The Response to the Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: King Jesus Presents the Kingdom

1 Corinthians 15:20-26.28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of

them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet, and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!**

The Gospel: The Last Judgement

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

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(The Gospel continued from Page 2)

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

The Last Judgement

This is the last of Matthew's great parables. The world is finally divided into 'goodies' and 'baddies'. The great dramatic scene here depicted is that of the Final Judgement of all, but we shall each of us at the moment of death face the judgement of our divine Lord in his glory. This confrontation will be an experience far more awesome and shattering than any description can express, and yet fulfilling and re-assuring. We will know at last in a naked way our own sin and also our own infinite value before the transcendent figure of the Lord. Two striking points are stressed in the parable. Firstly, we will be judged uniquely on our treatment of those in any kind of need. Not first of all on our prayer-life; not on our asceticism; not on penances undertaken; but on our respect for others - how far we look to see what they need and what we can give. The ten commandments of the Old Testament, the eight beatitudes of the New can be summarised in this way: speak the truth, be honest (including financially), honour father and mother (or children), hunger for justice, make peace. The second striking point is the reason for the first: that Christ is in each person. What we do to others, we do to Christ. **What does it mean that Jesus is in all other people, especially the stranger, the sick, the comfortless, even those in prison? How does this teaching of Jesus change my attitude to people I despise or avoid or just ignore?**

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

Today is the Feast of Christ the King. It is also 'Youth Sunday.' We have a pastoral letter from Bishop Stephen, who invites us to support the Youth Mission Team with our prayers and a retiring collection. The Bishop also writes about the 'Lourdes Youth volunteers' and encourages us to support and promote this important ministry in our Diocese. Thank you. Fr Martin

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church is 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 after Mass as follows:

Our Lady Queen of Peace on Thursday morning.

St John Boste on Friday morning.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Saturday morning.

St Bede's on Saturday evening.

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.

Christmas Eve Carol Services

Carol Services will take place on Christmas Eve as follows:

St Joseph, Birtley, Mass at 6pm, Carols from 5.30pm

St John Boste, Washington, Mass at 7pm, Carols from 6.30pm

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw, Mass at 7.30pm, Carols from 7pm

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington, Mass at 11.30pm, Carols from 11pm.

Christmas Midnight Mass

If any singers in the parish would like to meet before Christmas to prepare music for the service please contact Michael Leckenby at mleckenby@yahoo.com or 07981396544.

MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS

The following shows the Mass times and venues for Christmas. Please note the changes from the usual Mass times.

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

4TH Sunday of Advent:

9.30am St John Boste, Washington

10am Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw

11am Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington

Christmas Vigil:

5pm St Bede, Washington

5.30pm Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington

6pm St Joseph, Birtley (Carols from 5.30pm)

7pm St John Boste, Washington (Carols from 6.30pm)

7.30pm Our Lady Queen of Peace (Carols from 7pm)

11.30pm Our Blessed Lady Immaculate (Carols from 11pm)

MONDAY 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

9am St Bede Washington

9.30am Our Lady Queen of Peace

10am St Joseph Birtley

10.15am St John Boste, Washington

Mass Intentions most welcome for these Christmas Masses.

Advent Penitential Services

This year we have two Penitential services in our Partnership. On Wednesday 13 December at 7pm – St Cuthbert's, Chester-le-Street, and on Thursday 21 December at 7pm St. Bede's. Several Priests will be available to hear Confessions in our preparation for Christmas.

Sacrament of the Sick/ Sacrament of Healing

The Sacrament will be celebrated during Mass at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate at 10am on Saturday 9 December, and at Our Lady Queen of Peace on Sunday 10 December at 5pm. A beautiful Sacrament for those who are in need of the Lord's Grace in times of sickness and infirmity.

Advent Holy Hour at St. Joseph's Sunday 3 December, 3pm. All welcome.

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

Special Collection This 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.

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.

Advent Candlelit Vigil & Blue Christmas Service

You are warmly invited to share in a quiet time of prayer and reflection in preparation for Christmas. The candlelit vigil will take place on Friday 15 December from 6pm -8.15 pm in Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church. The last half hour of the vigil will incorporate the annual Blue Christmas Service in which we remember our loved ones who have passed away and whom we miss especially at this time of year. There will be tea, coffee and mince pies in the Emmaus Room afterwards, so please come for all or part of this quiet time in the run up to Christmas.

Shoebbox Appeal

Please remember your donations for the shoebox appeal and put in the box at the back of church. Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd December is the final weekend for donations. See the list at the back of church for suggestions. Thank you for the amazing donations so far.

SVP Coat Collection

Please continue to donate any coats you no longer need and we will pass them to local charities who are able to distribute them to those in need. Thank you.

St Robert's Christmas Coffee Morning

The student leadership team from St Robert's would like to invite parishioners to come and join them for a Christmas Coffee Morning on Wednesday 20 December from 9.30am - 11am. Students will provide a warm space, live festive music, seasonal treats and there will be a raffle and a game of bingo. There is no charge for the coffee morning, but any proceeds raised will go to CAFOD and the Washington Community Food Project.

If you would like to join us for our coffee morning, please could you register your interest no later than Wednesday 13 December by emailing amckenna@str.bwcet.com or by ringing 0191 7161700 and ask to speak to the Chaplain, Anne Marie McKenna. We look forward to welcoming you at St Robert's.

St John Boste - Christmas Memorial Candles

Envelopes are available for the Christmas Memorial Candles. The envelopes need to be returned to church by 10th December.

SVP 200 Club Draw November Result

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

Ecumenical Carol Service

Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, 14 December, 7pm. All welcome.

The meeting of the **Newman Association** on Wednesday 29 November has had to be cancelled as the speaker is ill.

Reflections

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

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

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](#)