

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

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 11TH-12TH NOVEMBER 2023, Year A

Saturday 11th November	St Joseph	5pm	Thanksgiving to St Joseph (VD)
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Barney & Connie Casey & Christopher Bartley (deceased)
Sunday 12th November	St John Boste	9:30am	Eleanor and Maldwyn Roberts
The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time and Remembrance Sunday	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Gerard McCabe & Deceased Relatives
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	(Private Intention) 90th Birthday Anniversary

Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday, we honour the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces, the emergency services and especially those who lost their lives to defend our freedoms and way of life. Jesus says in the gospel - *"Greater love has no-one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13)* - it is fitting, therefore, that we take time to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to pray for their families.

People often ask what lessons have been learned from the two world wars. The establishment of the United Nations in 1945 and the agreement of the UN Charter was certainly a global attempt to prevent another war like the one they had just lived through. But despite efforts to maintain peace, protect human rights and uphold international law over many years, it is clear that war still exists to this day - and foremost in our minds right now are the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East.

The church's teaching on war begins and ends with its teaching on peace. The Catechism says: *"Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintain a balance of power between adversaries. Peace cannot be attained on earth ... without respect for the dignity of persons and peoples ... Peace is the work of justice and the effect of charity."* (No.2304)

Pope John Paul II warned that peace is destroyed *"wherever the strong exploit the weak; wherever the rich take advantage of the poor; wherever great powers seek to dominate and to impose ideologies."* Pope Paul VI put it neatly, *"If you want peace, work for justice."*

So, as we give thanks today for those who gave their lives in the two world wars, let us also pray for those caught up in current conflicts, echoing the words of Pope Francis in his first Easter Sunday message in 2013:

*"We ask the Risen Jesus, who turns death into life,
to change hatred into love,
vengeance into forgiveness,
war into peace.
Yes, Christ is our peace,
and through him we implore peace for all the world."*

Deacon Frank



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 13th November 2023

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 13th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Holy Souls
Tuesday 14th November	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Theresa Madden
St Dyfrig	St Joseph	7pm	Millie McCormick
Wednesday 15th November	St Bede	10am	Billy Craggs (birthday memorial)
St Albert the Great	St John Boste	7pm	Souls in Purgatory
Thursday 16th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Bill Hudson R.I.P.
Ss Margaret of Scotland, Gertrude & Edmund of Abingdon	St Joseph	12 noon	Dennis Duffy
Friday 17th November	St John Boste	10am	John Carr
Ss Elizabeth of Hungary, Hilda of Whitby & Hugh of Lincoln	St Joseph	10am	Alec Proctor
Saturday 18th November	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Terry Merman (Recently Deceased)
	St Joseph	5pm	Norah Mc Kenna
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Harry Reah (Deceased)
Sunday 19th November	St John Boste	9:30am	Burdis & Bengston Families
The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Audrey Gaffney

First Reading: The Search for Wisdom: Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim. By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her. Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates. Even to think about her is understanding fully grown; be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you. She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

The Response to the Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

Second Reading: The Last Trumpet: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them,

to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord forever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

The Gospel: The Ten Wedding-Attendants: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Ten Wedding-Attendants

Of course, they weren't bridesmaids! According to the custom of the time the girls were attendant on the bridegroom, to greet him with their lamps as he arrived at the wedding-reception. Anyway, half of them weren't ready, let him down, and then found themselves shut out. There is a subtle difference between the parables given in Mark's and Matthew's gospels. In Mark they are all about the sudden coming of God's Kingship in history, at the time of Jesus. Jesus proclaimed that the crisis was now. In him God's reign had arrived: it was time to take drastic action. Matthew's parables take a longer-term view: there will be a final judgment at the end of time, for which we, in the Church and in the course of history, must prepare. Some will and some won't. Some will be found to be wheat, others to be weeds. When the catch of fish comes in, some fish will be thrown away, some kept. Some will be sheep and others goats. Each year, as the liturgical year draws to a close, the Church reminds us of this. And the End will be sudden and unpredictable, like a burglar on the one night I forgot to lock the door, or like a mouse-trap snapping shut, or like the unpredictable moment of birth pangs. **Am I ready for the coming of Christ? What does it mean to be like the wise bridesmaids and have oil in my lamp?**

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.

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.

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 Priests if you know of anyone who would appreciate a visit. Clergy landline: 0191 6498257. Thankyou.

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 9.30 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

Christmas Midnight Mass: Our priests have been discussing the programme of services to take place in our parish at Christmas this year. They have considered the possibility of a Mass around midnight on Christmas Eve (Carols at 11.00 p.m. followed by Mass at 11.30 p.m.), at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church, Washington. With this in mind 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

Advent Retreat "Wait for the Lord" - Sr. Sheila McNamara - £190 - Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd December 6.30pm-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.](#)

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 at 1pm-4pm on Saturday 25th November. All are welcome to attend.

Manzini Youth Care There will be a sale of Christmas and other handmade crafts after each mass in St John XX111 parish on the weekend of Sat 18th/Sun 19th November. 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.

Medjugorje afternoon of prayer - Sunday 12th November, 4-5.30pm. Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. Followed by refreshments. Rosary, Reflection, Benediction. Come along and spend some time in prayer and reflection. All welcome.

Other News

Penshaw OLQP C.W.G - Our annual collection of toys for the poor children in the area is on Sunday 3rd 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.

Update from Tyne & Wear Citizens - Delegates Assembly: Throughout 2022, Tyne and Wear Citizens members have been listening to the issues that are impacting their communities and beginning to organize together for change. On Wednesday 22 November they will be holding their Delegates Assembly where members will discuss, vote and agree on priorities for the next phase of action. **Date:** Wednesday 22 November 2023. **Time:** 6.00pm - 8.00pm. **Venue:** Banqueting Hall, Newcastle Civic Centre, Newcastle NE1 8QH. For information [please click here.](#)

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 6.00pm. Tickets are priced at £10 (non-refundable). For further information and booking details for this event can be found by [clicking here.](#)

'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 3.00pm at St Joseph's Church, High Street West, Gateshead NE8 1LX. You can view or download a poster by [clicking here](#).

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](#).

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](#).

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.

The Joy of the Gospel - "Often it is better simply to slow down, to put aside our eagerness in order to see and listen to others, to stop rushing from one thing to another and to remain with someone who has faltered along the way." Evangelii Gaudium, the Joy of the Gospel, looks at the new evangelisation for the transmission of the faith and has chapters on the following subjects: The Church's Missionary Transformation; The Crisis of Communal Commitment; The Proclamation of the Gospel; The Social Dimension of Evangelization; Spirit-Filled Evangelizers. The full text of Evangelii Gaudium can be downloaded [here](#). Quick Link: [Sharing the Faith](#).

Thank you - The family and friends of Terry Milne thank everyone for their prayers and generosity following his death. £460 has been raised for Young Minds in Terry's memory.

Confirmation Mass; Thankyou to everyone who made the Mass last Friday evening such a beautiful occasion. Congratulations to all our young people, and their families.

York Outing: Owing to low numbers we are unable to go ahead with the planned trip to York, 18th November. Maybe we can try this idea at a future date. Thanks

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go: [Saturday Examen](#) [32nd 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](#)

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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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