

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 tel: 0191 4163583
 (Tuesday & Wednesday 8am—1pm, Thursday 11am—4pm & Friday 12– 5pm)
 Email: sj23office01@gmail.com



In the Partnership of Benedict

10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 8TH - 9TH JUNE 2024, Year B

Saturday 8th June	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	Pat Hogan RIP Thanksgiving (MF)
Sunday 9th June	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace	9:30am 10am	Margaret (RIP) & Joe Hodgson Mary Maw RIP
10th Sunday	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

First Reading: The Aftermath of the Fall Genesis 3:9-15

The Lord God called to the man after he had eaten of the tree. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden;' he replied 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, 'Be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts. You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life. I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel.'

Response to the Psalm: With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: The Weight of Glory 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – *I believed, and therefore I spoke* – we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God. That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal. For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

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: Jesus Rejected. Mark 3:20-35

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind. The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either – it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house. 'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.' His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

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 10th June 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 10th June	St Bede	10am	Priests Intentions
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Mary Rose Winship RIP
Tuesday 11th June St Barnabas	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Catherine Naughton RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Sister Maureen & Sister Veronica RIP
Wednesday 12th June	St Bede	10am	Elizabeth & Joseph Stephenson & deceased family members
	St John Boste	7pm	Priests Intentions
Thursday 13th June St Anthony of Padua	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Eileen Smare RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Deceased members of the Catholic Women's Guild
Friday 14th June	St John Boste	10am	In thanksgiving (EM)
	St Joseph	10am	Veronica Devlin RIP
Saturday 15th June Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Repose of the Christopher Gonzalez
	St Joseph	5pm	John Hogan RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Nelly & Bolton Fitzpatrick
Sunday 16th June 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Mary Maw RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Jim Walker RIP

An unsettling Gospel today. It is only in Mark's account of the turbulent early days of Jesus' ministry do we hear of his family thinking he was mad. It jars indeed.

We are more attuned to the attitude of the scribes from Jerusalem. Attracting crowds and performing miracles? To them he is clearly the instrument of the prince of devils. Jesus counters this with parables but is quick to point out the dangerous territory *they* are straying into.

In failing to recognize him, the charge of blasphemy lies at *their* door not his.

In another shocking statement for the scribes, he rejects the family bonds of mother and brothers and replaces them with the radical new bonds among those who listen and believe. "Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother." It is as simple as that. No amount of years spent on scriptural study can surpass this clear message. No wonder the scribes are angry. Jesus has come for the people, not the scholars. It is not an easy path Jesus chooses to tread. He is the one chosen to stand up against the forces of evil which threaten to overcome humanity. He is the strong man whose eventual humiliation on the Cross will be upended in the miracle of the Resurrection. Good will triumph over evil.

We have a sense too that Mark is providing some consolation for the first audiences of this Gospel; believers brought together in new communities, often rejected by their families. It is not something that most of us have experienced but we need to be open to the discomfort, the challenge that Jesus presents us with, if our faith is to be strong and evolving. In the verses which precede today's Gospel, Jesus chooses his band of apostles. At this point they become his community, his own people. We too have been gifted discipleship and share this with a global community. It is a sobering thought but one that must impact on how we live our lives

Angela Nichols

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 is open on Friday from 2pm - 3pm for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. All welcome.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now available in all of our Churches:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass

St Joseph - Thursday after noon Mass

St John Boste - Friday morning, after Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning, after Mass.

St Bede's - Saturday after Vigil Mass.

OLOF - Please note, the club is on a Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome!

Each Wednesday morning there will be silent Eucharistic Exposition at St Bede's before Mass from 9.15am - 9.50am. A time for quiet prayer with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

NEW SONG!

Join us for our next family-friendly New Song prayer event at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church on Sunday 9 June at 4pm. We'll give praise to our loving God, be inspired by praying and reflecting on God's Word and build friendship and community with others. This time our Diocesan Youth Ministry Team will be sharing their reflections on HOPE. All are welcome!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS.

When: 9 June, 14 July and 11 August @ 4pm.

Email: newsongne@gmail.com, Instagram: @newsongne

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The Novena will take place each Thursday at 7pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, beginning 2 May - 27 June. A petition box will be at the back of Church each week for personal petitions to be inserted. At the end of the Novena it will be taken to Lourdes on the Diocesan Pilgrimage. After the Resurrection Jesus appeared to his disciples. He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the descent of the Holy Spirit. A Novena echoes this prayer of waiting and is a traditional way of coming together to pray. Together with Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we too pray to God, in thanksgiving, in petition and in praise. It is good to pray, it is important to pray, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, "...with one heart all the apostles joined constantly in prayer, together with some women, including Mary the Mother of Jesus." All welcome to make the Novena. *Fr Martin Morris.*

From the Bishop

Dear Sisters & Brothers, in order to grow as a synodal Church it is important that we all have a chance to pray and discern how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to grow in mission in our parishes and communities. To facilitate this, I together with others, offer an initial Diocesan vision for your prayerful reflection. Our discerned Diocesan commitments are: To Walk with Jesus and Enable Others to Encounter Him; To grow as One Diocesan Family-Rebuilding Relationships; Forming and Developing People for Mission; Living Justly and Caring for Our Common Home. Each of these commitments are developed in the vision. It is not my intention to impose this vision. It is offered for further reflection and

I invite all of our parishes and communities to prayerfully reflect on them. We offer accompanying resources and support to enable this reflection. Please contact your parish office if you would like hard copies of these materials which are all available on the diocesan website. With assurances and prayers + **Stephen**

Re-homing Event. At 1.30pm on Saturday 22 June the Social Justice and Environment Group will be holding a free re-homing event in the parish rooms at Our Lady's Church in Washington Village. We would welcome donations of children's books and toys, kitchen items, DIY tools and gardening tools. (We cannot accept mains electrical goods or sharp kitchen knives.) Small donations can be brought to your churches. For larger amounts ring Chris on 07815 162153 to arrange a delivery directly to the parish rooms for storage. Please ensure items are complete and in an acceptable condition. Your excess items could really help a family in need.

Special Collection - Next Week - Day For Life: This day helps us all focus on the fact that the value of human life is constantly supported. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death. The collection goes to supporting projects in the Church in England and Wales which explore how best to support life, from the highly technical issues around 'euthanasia' to those who suffer domestic abuse. It is our way of showing we believe all life to be sacred.

Congratulations to all our children who will be making their first Holy Communion beginning this weekend and over the next few weeks. We pray for them and their families, may they always treasure the gift of Jesus in every Holy Mass.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Missio Red Boxes.

Missio is the Pope's charity for World Mission and many of our parishioners very kindly support it with their Red Boxes. Due to various problems the boxes have not been collected at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate for quite a while. If you have a Red Box and want to donate the contents please collect a Missio envelope from Winifred Waite or Lisa Armitage at the back of Our Lady's church on Sunday 9 or 16 June at 11am Mass. You can empty your Red Box contents into the envelope and return it the following Sunday at Mass. If you are unable to do this or need any help with donations please contact Winifred Waite Tel 0790 3565306 or Email sj23volww@gmail.com and I'll be pleased to help. Thank you so much for your very generous support of Missio. Last year in England & Wales Red Box donations raised £2.3 million to help the world's poorest children and helped fund the training of 2,854 seminarians. Today the need has never been greater!

The Parish Safeguarding Representatives (PSR)

"The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative's names are displayed on church notice boards, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0191 2433305 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk "

St Bede's Church - If you know someone who can no longer get to Holy Mass because they are sick or housebound, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Marian Fletcher Tel: 01914174413. We also would like to encourage those from **all our churches** that are no longer able to attend mass to have a Special Minister call with Holy Communion, Please ask or get in touch with any of our Priests or Deacons.

New Lectionary - A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. Visit the CBCEW [website](#) to find out more.

I would like to thank everyone who contributes to the financial upkeep of our Parish. Whether this is through the Gift Aid, scheme standing orders, offertory envelopes or private donations. Your generosity is so appreciated in the maintenance of our buildings and grounds, and the support of the Clergy and staff. Thank you. It seems an appropriate time, now that we have reached the ten year anniversary of St. John XXIII parish, to have a general update and appeal regarding the financial status of our parish and projected future costs that will be incurred. Members of the finance committee will speak at all Masses on the weekends of 30 June or 7 July to share with us our annual financial report and to promote the Gift Aid scheme, especially for any newcomers to the parish. Once again, thank you for your generosity and support. Fr Martin F. Morris.

Other News

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) 2024-2025

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The 2024-2025 CCRS course programme is now available on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/professional-development-and-formation/#ccrs>. If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk.

Significance Festival Weekend - 29 June 2024: We look forward to welcoming you to the Significance Festival Weekend this June, in particular for the main event on Saturday 29 June, from 10.00am onwards. There will be a fayre of stalls and activities, sessions for children and young people, guest speakers and live music, spread across the Emmaus Youth Village, which will be open for you to enjoy in the beautiful Derwent Valley! We welcome everyone to gather for Mass for the Feast of St Peter and Paul at 3.15pm, with Bishop Stephen Wright, followed by a BBQ and Ceilidh in the evening. Individuals, families, and parish groups are all welcome. For additional details and to book, [please click here](#).

Walking Retreat - Led by the Minsteracres team - £15 - Wednesday 26th June 2024 from 10am to 4pm. Enjoy a walk of seven to ten miles through the beautiful countryside around Minsteracres, with time for prayer, reflection and sharing the beauty of creation. You will need suitable footwear, warm, weatherproof clothing and a packed lunch. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Refugee Week 2024 is taking place from 17 to 23 June and the theme this year is 'Our Home'. During Refugee Week we are encouraged to extend our warmth and hospitality beyond our own homes and make entire neighbourhoods more welcoming. Simple acts like having a chat, walking together, or sending a message of welcome can help everyone feel like they belong. Together, we can work in solidarity to ensure all our neighbours, new and familiar, have safe and welcoming homes. At the Refugee Project, we will be celebrating Refugee Week jointly with the SVP with activities planned for our clients. The diocese is also hosting an event to welcome and celebrate refugees, asylum seekers and migrants at St Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday 18 June at 6.30pm. This event will bring together people of different nationalities who make their home in the North East of England and there will be an opportunity to listen to people's stories, celebrate their talents and recognise that we are better off when we welcome strangers and make them our friends. During the event Bishop Stephen will receive, on behalf of the whole Diocese, a Lampedusa Cross donated by CAFOD. This will then be housed in the cathedral as a sign of our commitment and welcome to those who are enriching life in our Diocese. Everyone is welcome to join in this celebration. Find out more by [clicking here](#).

The Medjugorje Centre (North East) has organised a MEDJUGORJE RETREAT AT MINSTERACRES from Friday 25th - Sunday 27th October. The Spiritual Director for the weekend is Fr. Martin Morris. The weekend is an opportunity to come together for prayer, talks and friendship. The cost is £195 per person. A £48 Deposit is required and booking forms are available from Marian Fletcher (St Bede's) Telephone 01914174413

Reflections

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

Examen -Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go
[Saturday Examen 10th 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](#). To amend the information on the list [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](#)