

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: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk



In the Partnership of Benedict

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

THE TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 7TH - 8TH SEPTEMBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 7th September	St Joseph	5pm	Cath & Bob McLeman RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 8th September	St John Boste	9:30am	David and Anne Crombie and son David RIP
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Leslie Thompson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Gerard McCabe RIP & Patricia Denton RIP

First Reading: The Day of the Lord

Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, "Courage! Do not be afraid. Look, your God is coming; vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed; then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland; the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Response to the Psalm: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Second Reading: Shabby or Chic?

James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, "Come this way to the best seats;" then you tell the poor man, "Stand over there," or "You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest." Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

The Gospel : Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. "He has done all things well," they said. "He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

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 9th September 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 9th September St Peter Claver	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Cecily McDevitte 90th Birthday
Tuesday 10th September	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Alan Callaghan RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Michael Johnson RIP
Wednesday 11th September St Deiniol	St Bede	10am	Adam Ray RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intention
Thursday 12th September Most Holy Name of Mary	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Sick Person - Jonathon
	St John Boste	11am	Requiem Mass for Vera Frazer
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Edward McGraghan RIP
Friday 13th September St John Chrysostom	St John Boste	10am	Priest's Intention
	St Joseph	10am	Viola Summers RIP
Saturday 14th September Exaltation of the Holy Cross Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Rest of the Soul Dave Dyson
	St Joseph	5pm	Conceicao Lucas Goncalves RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Joe Lourie In Thanksgiving for 70 years service to St Bede's Church
Sunday 15th September 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Alfie Cruddas RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Bernard & Clare Simons

Next Saturday we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. St Andrew of Crete highlights the particular importance of this great feast for us:

We are celebrating the feast of the cross which drove away darkness and brought in the light. As we keep this feast, we are lifted up with the crucified Christ, leaving behind us earth and sin so that we may gain the things above. So great and outstanding a possession is the cross that he who wins it has won a treasure. Rightly could I call this treasure the fairest of all fair things and the costliest, in fact as well as in name, for on it and through it and for its sake the riches of salvation that had been lost were restored to us.

Had there been no cross, Christ could not have been crucified. Had there been no cross, life itself could not have been nailed to the tree. And if life had not been nailed to it, there would be no streams of immortality pouring from Christ's side, blood and water for the world's cleansing. The legal bond of our sin would not be cancelled, we should not have attained our freedom, we should not have enjoyed the fruit of the tree of life and the gates of paradise would not stand open. Had there been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, nor hell despoiled.

Therefore, the cross is something wonderfully great and honourable. It is great because through the cross the many noble acts of Christ found their consummation – very many indeed, for both his miracles and his sufferings were fully rewarded with victory. The cross is honourable because it is both the sign of God's suffering and the trophy of his victory. It stands for his suffering because on it he freely suffered unto death. But it is also his trophy because it was the means by which the devil was wounded and death conquered; the barred gates of hell were smashed, and the cross became the one common salvation of the whole world.

The cross is called Christ's glory; it is saluted as his triumph. We recognise it as the cup he longed to drink and the climax of the sufferings he endured for our sake. As to the cross being Christ's glory, listen to his words: *Now is the Son of Man glorified, and in him God is glorified, and God will glorify him at once. And again: Father, glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world came to be. And once more: "Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." Here he speaks of the glory that would accrue to him through the cross. And if you would understand that the cross is Christ's triumph, hear what he himself also said: When I am lifted up, then I will draw all men to myself. Now you can see that the cross is Christ's glory and triumph.*

Fr Luke

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 each Friday 2-3pm;

St Bede's each Wednesday 9.15am - 9.50am;

St. Joseph's (until November) each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm. I do encourage as many of you as possible to spend some time in quiet prayer with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.

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

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning, after Mass and Saturday morning from 10am-11am.

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.

'Feast of Our Lady's Birthday' - Sunday 8th September 2024.

Eucharistic Adoration 4pm followed by Rosary and Benediction at 5pm. Refreshments in hall afterwards. (Birthday cake and a cuppa!) Our Lady Queen of Peace. Penshaw. All Welcome.

OLOF (Our Lady's Over 50's Club) -Tuesday at 1pm in the Emmaus Room, at Our Lady's in the Village! All most welcome!

Special Collection This Week - Catholic Education: The Catholic Church was the first provider of schools and universities in England and Wales, thanks to religious orders – there was a school on Holy Island run by St Aidan in 640! There were secret schools in farms and hedgerows throughout the Reformation in the 16th/17th centuries. The Catholic Education Service offers legal and educational advice to the Church in England and Wales and helps the Church to negotiate its way through all political discussions regarding education in this country.

Special Collection Next Week - Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Formally Mission Sunday): Pope Francis often uses the phrase 'missionary disciples' to describe those who are baptised. He wants to see every Catholic become more aware of their responsibility to spread the Joy of the Gospel in their own area. This collection helps the Bishops' Conference prepare resources to help parishes become involved in welcoming people back into active worship; to encourage 'Journeys in Faith', Alpha and RCIA and to explore ways in which local parishes can make a difference in the world they live in.

Car Parking at St John Boste Church - The car park at St John Boste is very small and has caused complaints in the past as it is difficult to find other places to park. The school car park is open on Sundays as additional parking and we will endeavour to advertise on the newsletter when the school car park will be open at other times, such as Holy Days of Obligation.

The family of Alan Callaghan wish to say thank you for the Masses, Cards, Flowers and the generous donation to Charity in Alan's Memory. Thanks to Fr Martin Morris for a wonderful service.

Eucharistic Congress Birmingham 14 September 2024.

The Bishops of England and Wales have called the Congress to help parishes reflect more deeply on the great gift of the Eucharist and how our Faith in this Sacrament can be strengthened and renewed. Representatives from each parish community will attend the event and share with us at a later date the ideas put forward at the Congress. I am very grateful to those who have offered to attend the event as reps. for our partnership of parishes.: Sophie Taylor, Andrew French, Dominique Lentchou, Tom Kelly, Darren Trotter, Paddy Denton, Stanley Duru and Chibuzo Kabul. Thank you, Fr Martin.

NEW SONG! We look forward to welcoming you at our monthly time of prayer and fellowship TODAY, Sunday 8 September at 4pm in the less formal surroundings of OBLI Parish Room, St Joseph's Primary School, NE38 7HU. In this session we will be re-visiting the theme of HOPE. Look forward to seeing you there! Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church NE38 7HS Parish Rooms. When: TODAY, Sunday 8 September at 4pm.

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

Deacon Frank O'Neill

Seven years with St Joseph and St John XXIII

I'd like to invite you to join the congregation who worship at St Bede's for 5pm Mass on Saturday 28 September.

It's just over a year since I began the Sabbatical time and I wrote explaining how I was looking at six options for the future. I'm pleased to say 'it worked'. It became clear to me during the year that the right thing to do was to retire from responsibility as a priest serving the parishes where I'd lived, and actually retire - while still being able to serve other communities when the local priest is either ill or on holiday. I've just moved into a flat in the presbytery of the Sacred Heart parish in Boldon Colliery - and I'm very happy here. But after talking to Fr Martin (the big one), it seems right to celebrate mass for a final time in the community where I lived and in the parishes I tried to serve. So, you're more than welcome that evening at St Bede's. There'll be an expansive cup of tea - and who knows, maybe more - after mass to catch up. I notice that Pope Francis reminds our Church - i.e. the Universal one, the whole Church, not just St Bede's! - marks the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees that weekend. I'd no idea we'd been praying for migrants for so long. I don't feel like a migrant in Boldon Colliery, though moving and change is challenging. Our diocese is trying to move and change and it is really challenging. Please feel free to gather and remember our sisters and brothers throughout the world who have to move in such awful circumstances, and the fact that I've loved being in Washington/ Birtley over those years. Take care and God bless. **Jim O'Keefe.**

Holy Hour of Prayer - As part of the National Eucharistic Congress Adoremus 2024 taking place in St Mary's Oscott on 14 September, the Bishops of England and Wales are requesting all parishes across the country to host a period of Adoration on Sunday 15 September. The objective of this Adoration in parishes is to fruitfully unite the faithful in focusing on the Eucharist in anticipation of the Jubilee Year 2025 with renewed and deepened devotion. Each parish is able to decide for themselves the best time to organize this Adoration. Bishop Stephen is supportive of this nationwide Adoration across the diocese, depending on the resources available to host such a time of prayer and reflection for our local parishes and communities to enrich and nourish the faithful. Our Holy of Prayer will take place at St Bede's 4-5pm on Sunday 15 September, where there will be time for reflection and prayer around the Eucharist. All Welcome.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage : 1-8 June 2025. Flying from Newcastle to Dubrovnik. Led by Fr Martin Morris. The pilgrimage is almost full, a few places remaining if interested. Contact Adrian Duffy at Northern Star pilgrimages on 0161- 7732115.

Other News

The Season of Creation started on 1 September with the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and ends with the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. The people of the Diocese are urged to pray and take action to reduce our impact on our common home and fellow creatures. The theme of this year's Season of Creation is "*To Hope and Act with Creation*" and we need to understand that there *is hope* and to support each other with inspiring action and stories. We can all make a difference by changing to a simpler lifestyle and by talking about it to inspire others. To find out more please [click here](#).

Diocesan Courses - The Liturgical Formation team will be delivering a course for those who wish to become a Liturgical Leader of Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion in the Autumn. The course, being held at St Hilda's Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY, runs over six sessions between 30 September through to 4 November, with full details available by [clicking here](#) or see your Parish Priest. Note that people booking for liturgical formation courses (e.g. Lay Leaders) need to be endorsed by their parish priest/deacon with booking via the Parish Office.

Marriage Preparation Days- 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 find and **book on a course**, [please click here](#).

Life in the Spirit Seminars - Plans are now coming together for the delivery of Life in the Spirit seminars on Monday evenings at 7.00pm at St Mary's, **Newton Aycliffe** on 30 September, 7, 14, 21 & 28 October and 4 & 11 November 2024. Final details of speakers and how to book a place can be [found here](#).

The Medjugorje Centre (North East) has organised a Medjugorje Retreat at Minsteracres from Friday 25 to Sunday 27 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 more information and booking forms are available from Marian Fletcher (St Bede's) Telephone 0191 4174413.

"Courage! Do not be afraid." Have courage to discern the will of God. Might He be calling you to priesthood? For more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

The Embodied Contemplative Led by Tery Doyle - £190 - Friday 13 September 2024 from 6:30pm to Sunday 15 September at 2pm. The Embodied Contemplative Retreat will explore finding inner stillness and peace through the practice of both Christian Meditation and gentle Tai Chi movement and breath work. It is suitable for all ages and abilities. Come with a Beginner's Mind and Enjoy Learning! For more information, [please click here](#).

Walking Retreat Led by the Minsteracres team - £15 - Saturday 14th September 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. For more information, [please click here](#). Note the title page states July but this retreat is September.

Day of Reflection Led by the Minsteracres team - £30 - Wednesday 18th September 2024 from 10am to 4pm. An opportunity to step aside, listen to God in scripture and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside. Lunch, tea and coffee are provided. For more information, [please click here](#).

A Circle of Prayer Led by Joyce McAndrew - £45 - Saturday 21st September 2024 from 10am to 4pm. This is an inviting programme which explores the beauty of music whilst incorporating responsive movement which echoes both feelings, and mood as non-verbal self-expression which touches both the soul and the imagination. Throughout this retreat you will have an opportunity to learn both... For more information, [please click here](#).

'Faith and Fellowship' Evening - The Interreligious Relations Team are holding an evening devoted to 'Faith and Fellowship' on 25 September 2024 at 7.00pm. The venue for this evening will be English Martyrs Parish Hall, Stamfordham Road, Newcastle NE5 3JR. The evening will provide an opportunity to discuss the importance of faith and fellowship in the lives of people of faith. This event is being held in support of the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee Year of 2025. For more information, please [click here](#). Quick Link: [Dialogue & Unity](#)

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen](#) [23rd 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](#)

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