

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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 28TH - 29TH SEPTEMBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 28th September Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	Priest's Intention Lawrence & Cecilia Holland, Brendan Holland & Judith Holland RIP
Sunday 29th September 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am 11am	Tina & Ted Dickinson RIP Anne & John Cantwell RIP People of the Parish

First Reading: Openness to the Spirit Numbers 11:25-29

The Lord came down in the Cloud. He spoke with Moses, but took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. When the spirit came on them they prophesied, but not again. Two men had stayed back in the camp; one was called Eldad and the other Medad. The spirit came down on them; though they had not gone to the Tent, their names were enrolled among the rest. These began to prophesy in the camp. The young man ran to tell this to Moses, "Look," he said, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." Then said Joshua the son of Nun, who had served Moses from his youth, "My Lord Moses, stop them!" Moses answered him, "Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all!"

Response to the Psalm: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

Second Reading: The Dangers of Wealth James 5:1-6

An answer for the rich. Start crying; weep for the miseries that are coming to you. Your wealth is all rotting; your clothes are all eaten up by moths. All your gold and your silver are corroding away, and the same corrosion will be your own sentence, and eat into your body. It was a burning fire that you stored up as your treasure for the last days. Labourers mowed your fields, and you cheated them - listen to the wages that you kept back, calling out; realise that the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. On earth you have had a life of comfort and luxury; in the time of slaughter you went on eating to your heart's content. It was you who condemned the innocent and killed them; they offered you no resistance.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

The Gospel: Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48: Helps and Hindrances

John said to Jesus, "Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him." But Jesus said, "You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out."

Fr Martin Morris	0191 649 8257	Deacon Frank O'Neill	0779 115 5845
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419
Fr Luke Wilkinson	0191 649 8257		

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 30th September 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 30th September St Jerome	St Bede	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Stephenson Family
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Mary Askew (Special Intention)
Tuesday 1st October St Therese of the Child Jesus	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Deceased members of the Pearson Family
	St Joseph	7pm	Bill and Tom Bull
Wednesday 2nd October The Holy Guardian Angels	St Bede	10am	Special Intentions
	St John Boste	7pm	Vera Frazer RIP
Thursday 3rd October	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Mary Barron RIP
	St Joseph	11am	Billy Gaff Requiem
Friday 4th October St Francis of Assisi	St John Boste	10am	Priests Intention
	St Joseph	10am	Margaret Gaffney RIP
Saturday 5th October St Faustina Kowalska Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Robert Holland Memory RIP
	St Joseph	5pm	For all Marriage Anniversaries
	St Bede	5pm	William & Eileen Harland and deceased Family
Sunday 6th October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Robert Hudson
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Alan Peter Callaghan RIP

“Occasions of Sin”

It is fair to say today's Gospel from Mark Chapter 9 is a challenging one. It certainly has an uncomfortable second half. Perhaps it is best to start there.

Safe to say, Jesus is talking symbolically. This is *not* a call for self-mutilation. These are strong metaphors to remind his followers not to be casual about sin. Perhaps Jesus had been driven to such strong language in reaction to the slightly self-righteous tone of John's earlier question at the start of the Gospel. We shall return to this. Rather than focus on the sincerity or lack of it of others, Jesus is asking his followers (and this circles down the centuries to us) to question their own spirituality and be alert to what blocks a real relationship with God. Those of us of a certain vintage will remember the ominous phrase “occasions of sin” from our catechism training. There is a need in all of us for self-control, an imperative to self - check actions against the principles of a Christian life.

The first half of the Gospel is an early warning by Jesus against the dangers of tribalism in religion; one woefully ignored throughout history. John objects to “the one who is not one of us” casting out devils. He misses the significance of “in your name”. Jesus knows how his Name, his message will spread, will dim, be obliterated, revived, again and again in the words and actions of imperfect humans. He is not giving sole copyright to his twelve apostles. This echoes Moses' plea for a proliferation of prophets in the First Reading.

Perhaps then, this Gospel is meant to give us a bit of a spiritual shake-down; our own relationship with God is a serious commitment to be worked at on a daily basis. We need to turn the spotlight on ourselves, not others. Not only that, we need to beware of the dangers of exclusivity and recognize those in our wider communities who are inspired in the name of Jesus. They have a lot to teach us.

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>.

Deacon Peter Lavery

It is with the greatest sadness that we include a message received from Michael Lavery, Deacon Peter's son, which is self-explanatory.

Following the rapid progression of his brain cancer, Peter is now receiving end-of-life care at home, surrounded by close family. We ask for your continued prayers for Peter and all the family in the coming weeks but respectfully ask for no calls, visits, or flowers at this time.

Thank you for all your kindness and prayers to date. They are a great comfort to Dad and Mam.

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. Fr. Martin Morris

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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.

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!

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - I am very grateful to all parishioners who serve as Ministers of Holy Communion both at Mass and in taking Holy Communion to the sick and

housebound, we are blessed with many dedicated volunteers. I would like to invite all Ministers of Holy Communion to one of the

following meetings during the coming weeks as part of our preparation, and to share any areas for reflection. At the end of

each meeting there will be the act of recommissioning for any minister who was not present for the ceremony last June.

(The meetings should last no more than one hour.) Thankyou, Fr. Martin Morris. **The meetings will be held at: St. Bede's on**

Wednesday 25th September, 11am; Our Lady Queen of Peace on Thursday, 26th September, 11am; Our Blessed Lady

Immaculate on Saturday, 28th September, 11am; and St. John Boste on Sunday, 29th September, 10.30am.

NEW SONG! We look forward to welcoming you at our monthly time of prayer and fellowship on Sunday 13 October at 4pm in

OBLI Parish Room. In this session we will be exploring the theme of LOVE. Look forward to seeing you there!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Church Parish Room, NE38 7HU. **When:** Sunday 13 October at 4pm.

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

Deacon Frank O'Neill

MacMillan Coffee Mornings:

At Our Lady Queen of Peace after Mass on Sunday 6th October 2024. You can also donate directly by using the QR code on the poster in the church porch. At Our Blessed Lady Immaculate on Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th October. At St John Boste on Sunday 13th October. All welcome. **All proceeds to MacMillan Cancer Support.**

Special Collection Next Week - Family Fast Day for CAFOD:

Just imagine living on £1.00 a day! Millions of our sisters and brothers have to survive on less than the cost of a first-class stamp. A first-class stamp costs £1.35. So, if we send 1 Christmas card we will spend as much as many families will have to live one.

How scary is that? Please do what you can do...

Partnership Day of Reflection - This year's Ministry Morning will take place on Saturday 28th of September and be led by Fr Peter Randall S.J. with the title 'Facing Ministry in a Changing World'. This will all take place at St Cuthbert's, Ropery lane, Chester le Street. The centre will be open at 9:00 AM for refreshments. At the same time there will be Mass at 9:00 AM in church for those who like to attend Saturday Mass first. The day will begin with a call to prayer at 9:45 and Fr Peter, who has lots of experience working with different groups, will give two inputs, leaving time for group discussion and feedback. The morning will end at 12:30 with a short time of prayer. At weekend Masses the different ministries will be celebrated and commitment can be made. Please note that there is plenty of car parking in the school to the rear of the church. Follow the school sign on Ropery Lane. All Welcome.

RCIA (RITE of Christian Initiation of Adults) Journey in faith - The preparation begins Tuesday October 1st in the meeting room at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, 7pm. For all those who have registered with Fr. Martin already.

First Holy Communion Preparation - Parents of Children in year 4 (aged 8-9 years) The First Holy Communion programme begins in coming weeks. Fr. Martin will be meeting with all parents of Children to introduce the year's preparation at the meetings arranged in your particular school. Parent's, please make every effort to attend. Catholic children in non- Catholic schools and in year 4 please contact the parish office to register your child.

Matthew: The King and His Kingdom The book of Matthew brings the history of Christ to life. We see Jesus as the awaited Messiah who fulfils the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament, establishes the New Law, and inaugurates the kingdom of heaven. **Matthew: The King and His Kingdom**, a twenty-four-part Bible study, explores how Jesus is challenging and empowering us to a new level of holiness and shows how we must be thoroughly immersed in the kingdom of heaven on earth, the Church, to live it. Our parishes will begin **Matthew: The King and His Kingdom** on **10th October at 6pm**. We will meet every week with Fr Luke at OLQP to view an engaging video presentation and a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information or to sign up please email Fr Luke

(luke.wilkinson@diocesahn.org.uk) There is no cost associated with this programme but you'll need a Catholic Bible and resources books are available online if you would like one.

Last Weekend Pope Francis wrote a letter to the whole Church entitled "**The Queen of Peace**." The letter is an invitation for us to pray for the gift of peace in our world, especially the Prayer of the Rosary during the month of October. The Rosary will be prayed at the following times during October. **Tuesday evening's** at St. Joseph's 6.40pm, **Monday 7th October -Feast of the Holy Rosary**, 6.30pm Our Lady Queen of Peace. **Each Wednesday Lunch time** 12 Noon in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Pensahw, followed by Soup Lunch, (for charity) & **Sunday 6th October** at 4pm in Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Rosary & Benediction. **Thank you.**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Washington welcomes families to attend an open evening on Tuesday 8th October at 4:30 for prospective Nursery and Reception placements for January 2025 and September 2025. This will be a great opportunity to meet the Head teacher and EYFS team, tour our classrooms and garden as well as ask any questions you may have.

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. After mass there'll be an expansive cup of tea - and who knows, maybe more - to catch up. Take care and God bless. **Jim O'Keefe**.

"Living Faith." Autumn edition. This excellent little book offers Scripture reflections for each day of the year and encouragement in prayer. Available from the back of Church, £1.20 each **Saturday 2nd November, All Souls day**. The 10am Mass on this day at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate will be for all our departed loved ones, but especially those who have died in our parish during the last twelve month's, whose names will be read out and family member's will be invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance. Tea's and coffee's in the hall afterwards. **All welcome**.

Annual Parish Count - 4Weekends. Including 28th/29th Sept. 5th/6th and 12th/13th October. Welcomers / volunteers at Church entrances please record count each weekend and inform the parish office by phone or e-mail. Many thanks, Fr. Martin.

Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency - The Agency has now completed its final report, 'Interim Review' of Safeguarding in Leadership, Governance, Ministry and Culture in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. (September 2024) The report can be viewed on the Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency' website, or copies from the Parish office.

Other News

2025 Jubilee Year - Holy Year - 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The Holy Father Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year with the motto and theme - **"Pilgrims of Hope."** There will be two Holy Doors in our Diocese, one at St. Mary's Cathedral and one at St. Joseph's Church, Hartlepool. Bishop Stephen Wright (Hexham & Newcastle) is very grateful to Canon Paul Douthwaite for his welcome to pilgrims at St. Joseph's. The Holy Father has decreed that the **Holy Doors are opened on Sunday 29th December**. It is the Bishop's intention to celebrate both openings that day. **The Holy Doors will be closed on 6th January 2026**.

Monday Lunch Club at St. Michael's and all Angels Church, Manor Road, Sulgrave.- FREE! Starting every Monday from October 7th. 12-2pm. Food, Bingo, Friendship and Quiz. Donations only. All welcome.

Bereavement support Group - at St. Michael's Sulgrave, First and Third Monday of each month 2-4pm. All welcome.

"If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward." The many graces and blessings of priesthood can be found in the simplest of encounters. No matter how small an act of kindness, God is there. Might you be called to discern a vocation to priesthood? **Come and See!** We invite men aged 18+ who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. The next Discernment Evening is on **Tuesday 1st October at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL between 6.00pm - 8.00pm** There will be a time of Prayer, talk/discussion, followed by a meal together If you would like to attend, or for more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

This October we invite you to mark **Sight Loss Sunday** at your church. This year Sight Loss Sunday will be taking place on Sunday 13 October. It is an opportunity for churches across the UK to put on a sight loss accessible service and to become more aware of ways that services can be adapted to be more sight loss friendly. The Torch Trust is enabling churches across the UK to include people with sight loss in every aspect of church life. Join their network of churches to access training, advice, resources and to be added to our sight loss friendly church finder. Best of all, it's all free of charge! [Visit their website](#).

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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 7, 14, 21 & 28 October and 4 & 11 November 2024. Final details of speakers and how to book a place can be [found here](#).

Reflections

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

Examen -Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go [Saturday Examen 26th 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!



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