

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 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 12TH - 13TH OCTOBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 12th October	St Joseph	5pm	Maurice Mulcahy
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th October	St John Boste	9:30am	Linda & David Banks RIP
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	In thanksgiving for Diamond wedding Anniversary: (Bridie & Seamus)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Clare Madden RIP

First Reading: The Riches of Wisdom
Wisdom 7:7-11

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me. I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones; compared with her, I held riches as nothing. I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside her silver ranks as mud. I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to the light, since her radiance never sleeps. In her company all good things came to me, at her hands riches not to be numbered.

Response to the Psalm: Fill us with your love so that we may rejoice.

Second Reading: The Word of God
Hebrews 4:12-13

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip through the place where the soul is divided from the spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

The Gospel: Mark 10:17-30: The Rich Man's Question

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, "Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother." And he said to him, "Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days." Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said, "There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" The disciples were astounded by these words, but Jesus insisted, "My children," he said to them, "how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." They were more astonished than ever. "In that case," they said to one another, "who can be saved?" Jesus gazed at them. "For men," he said, "it is impossible, but not for God: because everything is possible for God." Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is no one who has left house, brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and land – not without persecutions – now in this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

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 14th October 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 14th October St Callistus	St Bede	10am	Fr. John McElhone (RIP)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Carl Poulter (poorly)
Tuesday 15th October St Teresa of Avila	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Edith & Michael McAdam
	St Joseph	6pm	Funeral reception: Rev. Peter Lavery (RIP)
	St Joseph	7pm	Special Intention (MK)
Wednesday 16th October Ss Hedwig, Margaret Mary Alacoque & Gerard Majella	St Bede	10am	Mary Dragone RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intention.
	St Joseph	10.30am	Deacon Peter Lavery Requiem
Thursday 17th October St Ignatius of Antioch	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	David Bentham RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	Peter & Mary Magdalen Mulcahy
Friday 18th October St Luke	St John Boste	10am	Paul Raymond Lyons (RIP)
	St Joseph	10am	Deacon Peter Lavery RIP
Saturday 19th October Ss John de Brebeuf & Paul of the Cross	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	John & Alan Callaghan RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	12 noon	Nuptial Mass : Gabriella Di Giorgio & Kevin Ange Felix Tita.
	Vigil	St Joseph	5pm
	St Bede	5pm	Joe Lourie & his Intentions
Sunday 20th October 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Peggy & Charlie Purvis RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Eddie Ashburner RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

What would you do if you won the lottery? This week, I was having a conversation with someone about this. These hypothetical, almost ice-breaker-like questions always make me smile, hearing often lovely answers family holidays, cars they would buy and all the renovations to their homes they have been planning to do for years. Yet, if Jesus was asked this same question, we can be certain of his answer – He would give all the money away to the poor and those who need it most in order to create a society of fairness and equality.

In today's Gospel, we hear how hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God. As a child, I remember finding the image of a camel passing through the eye of a needle almost comical, as something the camel would simply be silly to try. Though now, I've found myself wondering why it is hard for those who have riches to enter the Kingdom of God, when we serve a God who loves all people, irrespective of monetary wealth.

Yet, I would suggest how we use our riches is key, both monetary and otherwise. Jesus is calling us to use our money to help those around us, to donate to charities and not become prideful and boastful about our material wealth. Likewise, using our own spiritual wealth (i.e., the gifts and talents the Lord has given us) to further build the Kingdom of God allows us to become more Christ-like in our generosity, service and willingness to leave everything behind to follow Jesus. Indeed, as the first will be last and the last will be first, the Lord calls us to treat all people as our equal, regardless of who they are or their status of wealth.

Leaving everything behind may look different for all of us. For some of us, it may be leaving behind those we love as we follow the call to a vocation the Lord has placed upon our hearts, but for some of us it may be leaving behind the things that prevent us from growing closer to God, like pride, anger or grudges. Is there anything this week that you may need to leave behind in order to grow closer to Jesus? How can you better use your wealth, monetary or spiritual, to benefit those around you? And, I wonder, what would you do if you won the lottery?

Hannah Bartlett

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

As the initial shock of deacon Peter's death begins to subside we now move into a time of prayer and reflection. We pray for him, and his family, and we reflect on all the good he achieved in his ministry, for the parish of St Joseph and our partnership as a whole. I can't recall one instance when Peter said "No" to any request, Far from it, he always went further than requested. His work with those couples preparing for marriage covered the whole diocese, and will have lasting effects. He touched so many lives for the better, well beyond our partnership boundary. He will be sorely missed, but we have great confidence that his work will be eternally rewarded. May he rest in Peace.

Deacon Peter's body will be received into St. Joseph's Church on Tuesday 15th October at 6pm, and a Requiem Mass on Wednesday 16th October at 10.30am celebrated by Bishop Stephen.

Family request that only **clergy from Birtley and Washington to concelebrate/assist as Deacons.**

After mass, tea & coffee will be available at **St Joseph's Parish Centre & Catholic Club from 11:30am.**

Fr's Morris, Wheaton, and Wilkinson

Margaret Gaffney passed away on 24th Sept

Her funeral will be held on the 15th October 2pm St Wilfred's Sunderland Road NE8 3QR

Followed by cremation at 3:15pm Saltwell

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) - There will be no meeting on Tuesday 15th October.

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

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 months, whose names will be read out and family members will be invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance. Teas and coffees in the hall afterwards.

All welcome.

"Holy Communion from the Chalice. With the rising number of Covid infections and other viruses at present, it seems wise to receive Holy Communion under one form only, i.e the Host. (In the Consecrated Host we receive the Sacramental presence of Christ whole and entire, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.) This seems to be current practise across the Diocese, and we will review this around spring/ Easter time. **Fr. Morris**

The Diocese is currently carrying out a volunteer census in our parish. This is to ensure we identify all our volunteers, to offer support and appropriate training and recognition for the important part all play in the life of our parish A volunteer is anyone who gives their time freely and regularly to assist anywhere within the Parish, School or Diocese. During weekends of 12th/13th and 19th and 20th of October the census will be explained in more details after the weekend Masses

If you volunteer within the Parish/School/Diocese please complete one of the forms which will be available at the back of church or complete your details via the QR code.



VERY MANY THANKS to all those who were able to gather at St Bede's for 5.00pm mass on Saturday 28th September. I felt very nervous before it, but it turned out to be a wonderful celebration of a community giving thanks, I felt very humbled by the response of those who'd gathered and appreciate all the kindness and affection expressed during and after Mass. I'm sure our experience was truly enhanced by the great music, it was a pleasure to experience the enthusiasm and energy of a lot of people enjoying their singing. So as I move from 'doing nothing to having nothing to do..' as one priest said about retiring, I have great memories of our gathering and celebration together. Very many thanks and God bless.

Jim O'Keefe

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* starting on the **10th October at 6pm** and 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@diocesehn.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.

St Bede's Primary School has spaces in Reception class and flexible 15 & 30 hour places in Nursery. To enrol your child or for any enquiries please contact the school on 0191 416588.

Special Collection Next Week – World Mission Sunday: We live in a privileged part of the world. Throughout the year we are reminded that we are not meant to be a 'cosy' local Catholic Community but have to look to support our fellow Christians throughout the world who witness to their faith in very difficult circumstances. Some people reckon that 1 in 10 Christians are persecuted throughout the world. This Collection helps us to help others to continue witnessing to the Lord in very poor parts of the world. For more information about World Mission Sunday, please visit missio.org.uk/wms.

Oppose Assisted Suicide

Bishops are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide. On Wednesday, 16 October, the House of Commons will hear the first reading of a new bill on assisted suicide tabled by Kim Leadbeater MP. The proposed legalisation undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. We are a praying community. Please pray that our lawmakers will act wisely and will value human life. Please contact your local MP to express your views. The charity **Right to Life UK** has a simple online mechanism to do this with a provided factual letter. It can be found on the Bishops' Conference website together with materials explaining the Church's grave concerns about the proposed legislation at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>. Thank you for your prayers and action. **Bishop Stephen.**

Assisted Suicide—Should the Law be changed?

Dr Domenic Whitehouse, a palliative care consultant working in a hospice, explains why changing the law would be harmful to patients, doctors and society.

Date: Wednesday 23rd October

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Royal Station Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle, NE15DH. Please register to attend at www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures (If you are unable to register online you will still be welcome to come along.)

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.](#)

“**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
Annual Parish Count: - Weekend. 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.

Life in the Spirit Seminars - Plans are now underway 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](#).

Hexham Abbey will be hosting an exhibition of 12 huge spectacular silk panels depicting the story of creation in the bible, from October 9 until November 23. Entry for all ages is free.

More information is available from Hexham Abbey website by [clicking here](#).

A free pdf for primary & secondary schools is available to download from the artist's website by [clicking here](#).

Mary's Place offers free meals to the homeless and socially disadvantaged. We do this in a cafe environment, every Monday from 10:00-13:00, in the Conference Centre at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. We would love more people to join us in this exceptionally rewarding ministry, if you are interested or would just like to find out more about Mary's Place, please contact Lynne Winship on 07932058078 or email Lynnelewis579

Reflections

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

Examen -Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go
[Saturday Examen](#) [28th 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](#)