

Parishes of St John XXIII & St Joseph, Birtley



Incorporating: **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate**, Washington;
Our Lady Queen of Peace, Peshaw; **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, Peshaw, Sacriston, Washington

THE TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 05TH - 06TH OCTOBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 5th October	St Joseph	5pm	Priest's Intention
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	William & Eileen Harland and deceased Family
Sunday 6th October	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Robert Hudson
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Alan Peter Callaghan RIP

First Reading: God gives Man a Partner
Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate." So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed, "This at last is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man." This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body

Response to the Psalm: May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.

Second Reading: The Leader to Salvation
Hebrews 2:9-11

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.

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

The Gospel: Mark 10:2-16: Two Become One Flesh

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?" They were testing him. He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" "Moses allowed us," they said, "to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce." Then Jesus said to them, "It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide." Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, "The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too." People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

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 7th October 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary	St Bede	10am	Priests Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	World Peace
Tuesday 8th October	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Margaret Glesson RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 9th October St John Henry Newman	St Bede	10am	Vera & Paul Monaghan & Deceased Family
	St John Boste	7pm	World Peace
Thursday 10th October Ss Denis, John Leonardi & Paulinus of York	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	John & Theresa McIntyre RIP
	St Joseph	12 noon	Angela Gardiner RIP
Friday 11th October St John XXIII	St John Boste	10am	Vera Frazer (RIP)
	St Joseph	10am	Marie Lawrie RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	2pm	Mary Green Requiem Mass
Saturday 12th October St Wilfrid	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	Alan Peter Callaghan
	St Joseph	5pm	Maurice Mulcahy
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 13th October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Linda & David Banks RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	In thanksgiving for Diamond wedding Anniversary: (Bridie & Seamus)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Clare Madden RIP

Today Jesus sets the bar high for marriage. When the Pharisees ask him about divorce Jesus responds by going back to the book of Genesis (2:24) and quotes, 'This is why a man leaves his father and mother and the two become one body.' However, the Jewish law of Moses (Dt 24:1) allowed a man to write a certificate or writ of divorce and hand it to his wife and send her from his house. This would free the man to re-marry, but that certificate would also protect the woman, to allow her to re-marry also. It was proof that she was legally divorced. However, a woman could not divorce her husband, the ultimate decision was always his.

Jesus refuses, however, to get involved in the legal arguments and picking over the meaning and nuances of particular words with the Pharisees. He presents a higher aspiration, he raises the bar, by inviting the pharisees to think as God does not as we weak, unteachable humans do; he sets them, and us, a challenge! I am sure that we all know of family or friends who, for whatever reason, have not managed to live up to that ideal for marriage, set by Jesus.

Our sacrament of marriage is rooted in scripture, and it is clearly a sacred institution. In very stark contrast, modern Western popular culture has gradually eroded the sacred nature of marriage completely. TV 'reality' programs abound that match people up in strange false environments as entertainment. No fault divorce is now legal – there is a web site called, www.quickie-divorce.com, www.divorce-online.co.uk. Fewer people are getting married in church and so do not make their solemn vows before God. Most churches, these days, do many baptisms, many first Holy Communions and many funerals, but very few marriages, in comparison.

Couples today who choose to marry in church and who reflect seriously on these sacred words of the marriage ceremony should be celebrated:

To have and to hold from this day forward
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
till death do us part.

Let us all pray for more couples who choose these words in a church and so take on the challenge set by Jesus.

Tony Joy

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 5pm, and a Requiem Mass on Wednesday 16th October at 10.45am celebrated by Bishop Stephen."

Fr's Morris, Wheaton, and Wilkinson

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!

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.

"Thankyou to all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who attended the recent meeting's in St. John 23rd Parish. As agreed ministers will now come forward after the Holy Comunion

prayer to receive the Blessed Sacrament and a blessing."

"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

Special Collection This 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 £1.65 from 7th October this year. So, if we send 1 Christmas card we will spend as much as many families will have to live on. How scary is that? Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD today and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online by [clicking here](#).

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 sh." A volunteer is anyone who gives their time freely and regularly to assist anywhere within the Parish, School or Diocese. During weekend 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.



Fr. Jim's Final Mass at St. Bede's

For those unable to attend you can watch and hear his wonderful homily. The full video of Fr Jim's last Parish Mass at St Bede's is available on the Parish website now in the Church Services video section. The url is <https://www.churchservices.tv/penshaw/archive/recordings/EnLzreBdv9xqhCm>

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. Parents, 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@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 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.

Holy Communion for the sick and housebound

We would like to update our holy communion lists.

If you know of any parishioners who are unable to get to mass and would like holy communion brought to them at home, please could you give their name, address and telephone number to Fr Martin Morris, Chris O'Neill (07815162153) or Audrey at the parish office. Thank you.

St. Bedes

St Bedes would like to thank the family of the late Anne Carr for the funeral donation of £461.15p. We will buy something for the church to commemorate Anne.

“**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 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.**

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.

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, Penshaw, followed by Soup Lunch, (for charity) & **Sunday 6th October** at 4pm in Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Rosary & Benediction. **Thank you.**

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.

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

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

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](#) [27th 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](#)