

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 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 30TH NOVEMBER - 1ST DECEMBER 2024, Year C

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| Saturday 30th November Vigil | St Joseph | 5pm | Conceicao Lucas Goncalves RIP |
| | St Bede | 5pm | Margaret Hodgson & Deceased Stephenson Family |
| Sunday 1st December 1st Sunday of Advent | St John Boste | 9:30am | People of the Parish |
| | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | Ann Guthrie |
| | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am | Janet Fawcett |

First Reading: The Branch for David

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

Response to the Psalm: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Second Reading: The Coming of the Lord Jesus

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Finally, then, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Show us, O Lord, your mercy and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

The Gospel: Liberation is Near at Hand

Luke 21:25-28. 34-36:

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

'But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

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| 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 2nd December 2024

| Day | Church | Time | Intention |
|------------------------|--|---------|--|
| Monday 2nd December | St Bede | 10am | Private Intention (AR) |
| | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 7pm | Vera Cosgrove |
| Tuesday 3rd December | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am | Jim Walker RIP |
| | St Francis Xavier St Joseph | 7pm | Dennis Duffy RIP |
| Wednesday 4th December | St Bede | 10am | Kieran Cushlow RIP |
| | St John Damascene St John Boste | 7pm | Living and deceased members of the Dougherty family |
| Thursday 5th December | Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | Special Intention (ATC) |
| | St Joseph | 12 Noon | Deacon Peter Lavery RIP |
| Friday 6th December | St John Boste | 10am | Anniversary Mass for Tom Cato and the Reid family RIP |
| | St Nicholas St Joseph | 10am | People of the Parish |
| Saturday 7th December | St Ambrose Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 10am | St Pio of Petricina & All Saints |
| | Vigil St Joseph | 5pm | Jean Greenwood RIP |
| | St Bede | 5pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday 8th December | St John Boste | 9:30am | Winifred Baulch RIP |
| | 2nd Sunday of Advent Our Lady Queen of Peace | 10am | Andrew Bell RIP |
| | Our Blessed Lady Immaculate | 11am | Joseph, Ellen Jordon & their Daughter Mary |

As we celebrate the first week of Advent we start our time of waiting and preparing for the coming of the infant Jesus. Spiritual preparation is essential to ensure we appreciate the importance of God sending his only Son for our salvation. No doubt we will also be involved in practical preparations for the secular elements of the season.

I hope that most of us will be looking forward to family and friends getting together to share food and traditional activities such as board games and watching television. One of my family Christmas traditions is when as many of us as possible gather on South Shields beach on Boxing Day and walk along the sand and in the water's edge with wellies on. We blow away the cobwebs from Christmas Day then come back to our house for cold turkey and fry-up. A great family day.

However, we should think of those who are not able to come together with family, for whatever reasons, and there could be many. I think particularly of those who have fallen out with family members and no longer speak to each other. Christmas might just be a perfect time to put the disagreement behind you and reach out to those to whom you have become estranged. Reconciliation can be very rewarding and uplifting for both parties.

So, over the Advent season, ask yourself if there is any way you can help to promote a reconciliation between family members or estranged friends? Do you have a fractured relationship with someone yourself? If not, we can all pray for reconciliations between family members and friends over this Advent and Christmas season. This would be spiritual preparation through action.

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>.

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 each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm, held in the front room of the Presbytery (main door will be open, first room on left). 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:

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!

NOTE: There will be no meeting on 10th December.

Advent Rosary - The Rosary will be prayed each Saturday morning at 9.35am at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, particularly for the Intention of World Peace. We will gather at the Lady Chapel. All welcome.

Advent Holy Hours. On the first three Sundays of Advent there will be a Holy Hour with Evening Prayer and Benediction, please come along and prepare for Christmas with prayer!

1 December at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, 4 - 5pm

8 December at Our Lady Queen of Peace, 4pm - 5.30pm (with Medjugorje devotions)

15 December at St John Boste, 4pm - 5pm.

Carol Service at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate in the village on Friday 6th of December commencing 6.30pm. In aid of Washington Rotary Club for local Charitable causes. There will be performances by St Joseph's R C Primary School and One Voice Community Choir. Seasonal refreshments, tea and coffee available after the Carol Service. All welcome please come along to support your local community.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw, Catholic Women's Guild.

Our annual collection of toys for the poor children in the area is on Sunday 8 December after 10am Mass. Please label any gifts 'Boy'/'Girl' with an age or 'Family'. Gifts can be left in the Church porch - all donations very much appreciated.

Advent Penitential Services - Tuesday 10th December at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate & Wednesday 18th December at St. Joseph's, starting at 7pm. An opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Churches Together Advent Carol Service at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Wednesday, 11th December, 7pm. All welcome.

St Robert's Carol Service: St Robert's Community Carol Service takes place at OLQP at 6.30pm on Tuesday 17th December. It will be a collaboration between St Robert's, the parish and OLQP primary school and our other primaries. All families and parishioners are welcome to join us for such a lovely celebration of music and readings to help us prepare for Christmas.

St Robert's Christmas Coffee Morning: On Wednesday 18th December we have our annual Christmas Coffee Morning for parishioners from 9.15 - 11.00am. There will be music, seasonal refreshments, a raffle, bingo and Christmas related things to buy which will be made by students. The coffee morning has become a great success over the last few years and if you would like to come, please contact Anne Marie McKenna at St Robert's to book your place as spaces are limited. amckenna@str.bwcet.com or 01917161700. All proceeds go to our nominated house charities this year. Christmas jumpers and accessories are encouraged!
Christmas Candle Vigil at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate; Friday 20th December 6-9pm. All Welcome.

Herrington Park Carols; Saturday 21st December, 2.30pm. All welcome with the Salvation Army Band.

Thank you - Andrew Iain Bell's family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, mass offerings, cards of condolence, flowers and donations to St Benedict's Hospice Sunderland. The sum raised at the funeral was £1242 the total amount donated to the hospice was £2602. THANK YOU

Partnership Christmas Cards - The Benedict Partnership Christmas Cards are available in all of our churches this weekend. The card includes details of the Partnership Advent Services and all of the Christmas Mass Times. There are enough cards for every family who attend Mass but as the card extends a welcome to people who do not regularly attend Mass you are asked to take cards for family, friends and neighbours who do not attend Mass and may respond to the invitation to "Come home for Christmas."

Missio Red Boxes - St John Boste. It is some time since we have asked for your Red Boxes to be returned for counting. For those of you who have been Agents, collecting and counting boxes, Missio would prefer that we don't go to people's houses and empty them there. Instead, could you contact the people you collected from and ask them to bring the boxes to you or hand them in at church. If that is not practical, we would ask that you go and collect the boxes and bring them to church to be counted. Please make sure that each box has a label with the name and address on it. Could you please bring the boxes to church by 15th December. If you need any assistance, please contact Liz Joy Tel 07917 322890

MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS

The following shows the Mass times and venues for Christmas. Please note the changes from the usual Mass times.

TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS EVE

Christmas Vigil:

5.00pm St Bede, Washington

5.30pm Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington

6.00pm St Joseph, Birtley (Carols from 5.30pm)

7.00pm St John Boste, Washington*

7.30pm Our Lady Queen of Peace (Carols from 7pm)

11.30pm Our Blessed Lady Immaculate (Carols from 11pm)*

WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER – CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am St John Boste, Washington

10.00am Our Lady Queen of Peace*

10.00am St Joseph Birtley

THURSDAY 26th DECEMBER – BOXING DAY

10.00am Our Lady Queen of Peace*

12 Noon St Joseph's, Birtley

* Indicates streamed Masses.

Missio Red Box Envelopes - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate. As we are nearing the end of Missio's financial year please collect an A5 Missio envelope from the rear of Our Blessed Lady Immaculate for your Red Box contents/donation. Could you please return it to church by mid December. If you need any assistance please contact Winifred Waite Tel 07903565306.

St John Boste, Christmas Memorial Candles. From this week envelopes will be available for your intentions for the Christmas candles. They need to be returned by Sunday 15 December.

Message from Deacon Peter Lavery's Family. Deacon Peter's family would like to say a great big thank-you for your generous contributions at both his funeral and further on-line donations. The total amount received was over £2,000. With special thanks to Cardinal Hume School who held a Coffee Morning for Macmillan in Peter's name, which raised over £500. We are therefore dividing the final amount - £1,000 to St Joseph's, which we have asked that this will help purchase the new Lectionaries (a dedication to Peter will be included in one of them) and the remainder to Macmillan. Many thanks again Pauline and family.

St Joseph's Primary School and Our Lady Queen of Peace are looking to appoint Foundation Governors to support the schools and strengthen the current governing body. If you feel you could fulfil the role for either school please speak to Fr Morris who can give further information.

Holy Year 2025 - 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.** Pope Francis has written an Encyclical Letter on 'The Sacred Heart of Jesus' and suggested the traditional practice of the 'Nine First Friday' devotion throughout 2025. We will offer this devotional practice throughout next year, with an evening Mass on the First Friday of each month in one of our churches, from February to October. Do you have any further ideas how we can make the Holy Year special in our Parish? Please let us know! Fr Martin Morris.

The Parish is planning a Parish Lenten Mission 2025, 15 March - 19 March. The Mission will be led by Sr Brieghe McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani. Sr Brieghe and Fr Pablo have many years experience of worldwide retreats and missions, and this will be an ideal way in keeping the Lenten season special. See poster and leaflets at the back of church for more information.

Other News

Advent Reflections from the Diocese: We hope that this year's edition of the Advent reflections will help guide us through the season of Advent, a time of preparation and waiting for the birth of Jesus. The reflections have been produced by a great number of people to express the richness of our diocesan community. They are available to view and download [here](#).

CAFOD Advent Reflections - Advent is here, and we'd like to invite you to join us in reflection and prayer during this season of anticipation and expectation. Starting on 1 December, we will be sharing daily Bible reflections, stories of our global family, prayers and practical ideas for action, as we create a space to prepare for the coming of Christ. [Click here](#) for more information.

"Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come.' Might God be calling you to discern a life of service as a priest within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle? For more information, Speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or [click here](#)

Little Sisters of the Poor Christmas Concert. The Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 7 December 2024 at 7pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters at St Joseph's Home. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home - 0191 273 1279.

Prayers for peace in Gaza and Israel are offered each Thursday at Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert RC Church, Crook from 7pm - 7.30pm. All are welcome.

A prayer vigil for peace in Israel and Gaza is held each Saturday morning from 9.30am to 10.00am outside the Abbey in Hexham. All are welcome to join, even if just for a few minutes.

Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 1st Sunday of Advent](#)
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.**

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