

# 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@diocesohn.org.uk](mailto:StJohn23rd@diocesohn.org.uk)  
Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



**In the Partnership of Benedict**

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

## THE THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 16TH - 17TH NOVEMBER 2024, Year B

Saturday 16th November	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Theresa Burn</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Bede	5pm	<b>Anniversary Mass for Norah &amp; Owen Hagger</b>
Sunday 17th November	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Michael Quinn</b>
<b>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>People of the Parish</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>Audrey Gaffney RIP</b>

**First Reading: The Resurrection of the Dead**

**Daniel 12:1-3**

At that time Michael will stand up, the great prince who mounts guard over your people. There is going to be a time of great distress, unparalleled since nations first came into existence. When that time comes, your own people will be spared, all those whose names are found written in the Book. Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace. The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as stars for all eternity.

**Response to the Psalm: Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.**

**Second Reading: One Single Sacrifice**

**Hebrews 10:11-14. 18**

All the priests stand at their duties every day, offering over and over again the same sacrifices which are quite incapable of taking sins away. Christ, on the other hand, has offered one single sacrifice for sins, and then taken his place for ever, at the right hand of God, where he is now waiting until his enemies are made into a footstool for him. By virtue of that one single offering, he has achieved the eternal perfection of all whom he is sanctifying. When all sins have been forgiven, there can be no more sin offerings.

**Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!**

**The Gospel: Mark 13:24-32: The Coming of the Son of Man**

Jesus said to his disciples, "In those days, after the time of distress, the sun will be darkened, the moon will lose its brightness, the stars will come falling from heaven and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; then too he will send the angels to gather his chosen from the four winds, from the ends of the world to the ends of heaven. Take the fig tree as a parable: as soon as its twigs grow supple and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. So with you, when you see these things happening: know that he is near, at the very gates. I tell you solemnly, before this generation has passed away all these things will have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father."

<a href="#">Fr Martin Morris</a>	<a href="tel:01916498257">0191 649 8257</a>	<a href="#">Deacon Frank O'Neill</a>	<a href="tel:07791155845">0779 115 5845</a>
Fr Martin Wheaton	0770 996 1040	Deacon Tony Joy	0779 989 3419
<a href="#">Fr Luke Wilkinson</a>	<a href="tel:01916498257">0191 649 8257</a>		

## Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 18th November 2024

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 18th November <b>The Dedication of the Basilica of Ss Peter &amp; Paul</b>	St Bede	10am	<b>Donaghey Family</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	<b>Fr Ciarain McDonnell RIP</b>
Tuesday 19th November	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Gerard McCabe RIP</b>
	St Joseph	7pm	<b>Billy Gaff RIP</b>
Wednesday 20th November	St Bede	10am	<b>Billy Craggs (Birthday Memorial)</b>
	St John Boste	7pm	<b>Private Intention of ME and Family</b>
Thursday 21st November <b>The Presentation of the BVM</b>	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Private Intention (DJF)</b>
	St Joseph	12 noon	<b>Violet Caufield RIP</b>
Friday 22nd November <b>St Cecilia</b>	St John Boste	10am	<b>Evelyn McElhenny</b>
	St Joseph	10am	<b>Patricia O'Malley RIP</b>
Saturday 23rd November <b>Ss Clement &amp; Columban</b>	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	<b>Jim Walker &amp; Peggy Lawson</b>
<b>Vigil</b>	St Joseph	5pm	<b>Young People of the Diocese</b>
	St Bede	5pm	<b>John &amp; Elizabeth Hall &amp; Helen Ritchie RIP</b>
Sunday 24th November <b>Christ the King</b>	St John Boste	9:30am	<b>Norman Smithson RIP 1st Anniversary</b>
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	<b>Andrew Bell RIP</b>
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	<b>People of the Parish</b>

### Ripe for the Harvest

Our Gospel this week (Mark 13:24-32) makes it clear, we do not know the hour or the date when he will come or whether or not we will be alive or dead when he does arrive. Nor do we know the time of our individual calling before him, but Jesus goes on to use a fig tree to teach us to be ready.

The summer at hand is the day of Judgment, in which every tree shall show what it had within it, deadness for burning, or greenness to be planted with the tree of life. And we should always remember, everything now in the dark will be seen in the light. Everything now hidden will be seen by all, when the farmer harvests his crop in the general judgement.

"This generation shall not pass away, until these things are done." Jesus is referring to the new generation, his people, the children of light. And every generation until he comes himself, for every future generation will now receive the invitation to be ripe fruit, basking in the rays of his grace.

Are we to be fruit pleasant to his eye, genuine and full of goodness or are we going to put ourselves first? In the latter we will shrivel in the sun, For unless we allow ourselves to be nourished by the water of life, which every plant and tree requires to grow, we will indeed shrivel and die. It's only by following the analogy of the fig tree that we will grow into ripe fruit. We must accept the water of God's grace in the sacraments and in turn share that water with every dry plant that is lacking in life.

But we should take heart. Our Lord's words of darkening skies and fading light are more of an invitation than a threat. He is simply telling us the consequences of accepting his grace or refusing it. In parables, analogy, or simple prose, the words of our Lord are always truth.

Fr Martin Wheaton

**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 2pm - 3pm;

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

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!

**Matthew: The King and His Kingdom**, a 24-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. *Matthew: The King and His Kingdom* started on 10 October and will meet every week at 6pm 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](mailto: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.

**A Message from Michael Leckenby:** It is with a great deal of sadness, after giving the matter much consideration, that I have decided to retire from organ playing duties in the parish. Initially, I will no longer be playing for funerals and weddings after December. I intend to continue playing for Sunday Masses in the short term to provide some time for any likely successor(s) to be introduced to the pipe organs in the parish. To this end, both Fr Martin and I would welcome enquiries from prospective players. Anyone with reasonable piano playing ability, i.e. Grade 3 or above, is invited to contact us for further information.

### SVP Recruitment Appeal at Our Lady Queen of Peace.

This weekend we welcome SVP Membership Support Officer, Deacon Patrick Rutherford to Our Lady Queen of Peace for our 10am Sunday morning Mass. During Mass, he is talking about volunteering for the SVP in the local area. He will also hold a follow up information meeting in the coffee room on Wednesday 20 November, 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Deacon Patrick can be contacted about any SVP related questions, or if anyone interested is unable to attend the information meeting, on [patrickr@svp.org.uk](mailto:patrickr@svp.org.uk), 07557 562715 or Tony Smare on 07516 888326

**Holy Year 2025.** Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Holy Year. The Holy Door at St Mary's Cathedral will be opened by Bishop Stephen on 31 December. 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.

**We are also planning a Parish Lenten Mission 2025**, 15 March - 19 March. The Mission will be led by Sr Briega McKenna (OSC) and Fr Pablo Escriva De Romani. Sr Briega 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.

Do you have any further ideas how we can make the Holy Year special in our Parish? Please let us know! Fr Martin Morris.

### Our Lady Queen of Peace, Penshaw, Catholic Womens 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.

**Youth Sunday – a message from YMT.** As we near Youth Sunday on the Feast of Christ the King on 24 November, we invite you to celebrate and encourage young people in our Diocese. World Youth Sunday resources are now available, including a registration link for CYMFed's World Youth Funday, a free, interactive livestream event on Friday 22 November. Join live from studios in London, Nottingham, and YMT, with special guests like Sr Anna and Sr Linda (Daughters of Divine Charity), Bishop David Oakley and more, ending the day with a moment of Adoration. Thank you for any support or fundraising you can offer for youth ministry in our Diocese. Follow YMT and visit the [CYMFed website](https://www.cymfed.org.uk) for more details.

### The Social Justice and Environment Group Christmas

**Shoebox Appeal.** Lists are available with suggested donations for this year's appeal for local refugee and asylum seeker projects. If you wish to fill a shoebox, that would be wonderful, but donations of any items from the list will be gratefully received. The closing date for donations is Sunday 24 November Please hand your donations in to your local church or deliver to Our Lady's Church in Washington Village. If you need anything collected, please contact Chris O'Neill (07815162153). Thank you.

**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.

**Special Collection Next Week - Catholic Youth Ministry.** Our Diocese is blessed! We have a dedicated team of people exploring how our young people can become more dedicated followers of Jesus. It is a tough ask! This team works alongside our Catholic Schools to help ensure that our young people look seriously at what it means to be a committed Catholic in our world today.

**Next Weekend, 24 November**, Fr Stephen Botto, Mill Hill Missionary, will say the 9.30am Mass at St John Boste and thank all you parishioners for your continued support to the Red Box appeal.

**Evening Prayer for the Dead with Benediction.** This Sunday afternoon 4pm at St. Bede's an opportunity to pray the evening prayer of the church for all the Holy souls. All welcome.

**Little Sisters of the Poor.** A huge thank you to everyone who very kindly supported our Christmas fayre at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 9 November. It was a great success. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did. We look forward to welcoming you back. Mother Kathleen Mary and Community.



## Other News

**“But as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father.”** They say if you want to give God a laugh, tell him your plans. We don't know what God has planned for us, but we can discern his will. Is God inviting you to discern his will to be a priest? Come and See! We invite men aged 18 and over 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 3 December at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL between 6pm and 8pm 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](#)

**Year of Jubilee 2024 – 2025.** The Diocese has a vast array of opportunities for formation either as part of a parish or partnership or for your own individual faith development. There is a new series of leaflets coming soon that outline what is on offer and can be accessed via the [Living the Faith page](#). If you feel there is something you would like to learn more about that isn't currently offered then please get in touch. The Diocesan synodal vision continues to be reflected upon across the Diocese. Everyone is invited to engage in prayerful reflection, where possible, holding 'Spiritual Conversations.' Formation in this style of discernment is available, alongside suggested session sheets, to access follow this [link](#).

**The Justice and Peace Refugee Project.** In the UK and many other countries, November is a time for remembering. All Saints and All Souls Days remember those who have lived and died in their faith. And, of course, on Remembrance Day we remember those who died in battle – above all, the millions who perished in the two world wars of the last century. The First World War was called by many, 'the war to end all wars', but sadly history has proved this was not to be the case. In June 2024, the UN Refugee Agency reported that a record-breaking 120 million individuals have been forced to flee their homes due to war, violence and persecution – the twelfth year in a row the number has increased. Many of our clients come from countries affected by war and persecution, so it is important to all involved with the project that they receive a warm welcome, compassion and a listening ear. The Refugee Project continues to welcome clients from across the world. In September, we supported 510 individuals and families and received 27 new registrations from clients in need of food and toiletries to supplement their meagre allowance. We also provided eighteen destitute clients with supermarket vouchers. With such high numbers of clients needing support, we really do need and value your donations of food, toiletries and finance. Items most urgently needed can be [found here](#). The latest newsletter can be found by clicking [here](#). For more information please click [here](#).

**On Saturday 16 November, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia.** Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. "And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least, God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it." (Jonah 3:5,10) Please invite others to join the day on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/911998444365954/>.

**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.

**New Lectionary** - A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. Visit the CBCEW [website](#) to find out more.

**Bishop Dunn Memorial Lecture:** Thursday 21 November 2024, from 6pm at St Cuthbert's Catholic Church, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3HL. Speaker: Fr Hyacinthe Destivelle, O.P., 'Abemus Papam. An Ecumenical Primacy in a Synodal Church'. With respondents: Reverend Professor Fr Andrew Louth (Emeritus Durham University) and Professor Anna Rowlands (Durham University). A Lecture to mark the 60th anniversary of the promulgation of Lumen Gentium and Unitatis Redintegratio. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception. All are welcome. [Read more and find out to register here](#).

**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.

## Reflections

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

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

[Saturday Examen 33rd 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](#)