

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 0191 4163583
(Tuesday & Wednesday 8am-1pm, Thursday 11am-4pm & Friday 12-5pm)
Email: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk
Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>



In the Partnership of Benedict
Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Penshaw, Sacriston, Washington

The 4th Sunday of Advent, 21st - 22nd December 2024

The Holy Family, 28th - 29th December 2024, Year C

Saturday 21st December	St Bede	5pm	Martin Kerrigan
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Deacon Peter Lavery RIP
Sunday 22nd December	St John Boste	9.30am	Ada Bell RIP
4th Sunday of Advent	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Andrew Bell RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

Readings for 4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading: The Ruler from Bethlehem
Micah 5:2-5a

Thus says the Lord: You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Response to the Psalm: Bring us back, O God: let you face shine forth and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: I am coming to do your will
Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." 'When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices

and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings' (these are offered according to the Law), then he added, 'Behold, I have come to do your will'. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Alleluia!

The Gospel: The Visitation
Luke 1:39-44

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.'

Fr Martin Morris 0191 649 8257

Fr Martin Wheaton 0770 996 1040

Fr Luke Wilkinson 0191 649 8257

Deacon Frank O'Neill 0779 115 5845

Deacon Tony Joy 0779 989 3419

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 23rd December 2024

Day	Church	Time	Intention
Monday 23rd December	St Bede	10am	Thomas Robinson RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Pauline Green
Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve	St Bede	5pm	Living & Deceased members of the McCoy & Ranaghan Families
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	5.30pm	Patrick Larkin
	St Joseph	6pm*	People of the Parish
	St John Boste	7pm*	John & Vera Frazer RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7.30pm	Gerard McCabe RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11.30pm*	Margaret Gleeson
Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day	St John Boste	9.30am	The Bartley & McGee Family
	St Joseph	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Private Intention & Parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Peace (SRS)
Thursday 26th December St Stephen	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am *	Deceased Hall & Lyons family & Diamond Anniversary Cathy & Ray Lyons
	St Joseph	Noon	Our Altar Servers
Friday 27th December St John	St John Boste	10am*	Golden Wedding Celebration
	St Joseph	10am	Gary Caufield RIP
Saturday 28th December Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Hilary Cassidy RIP
	St Joseph	5pm*	John & Joan Taylor + Bob & Cath McLeman RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Theresa Madden RIP
Sunday 29th December The Holy Family	St John Boste	9.30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	John & Theresa McIntyre RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	2nd Anniversary David Barry RIP

Readings for The Holy Family

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked for him from the Lord.' The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and dwell there for ever.' And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.' And he worshipped the Lord there.

Response to the Psalm: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his

commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

The Gospel: The Child Jesus in the Temple Luke 2:41-52

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. After three days they found him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, 'Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.' And he said to them, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and man.

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

Monday 30th December	St Bede	10am	Victor Fonde 95th Birthday
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Terry Ford RIP
Tuesday 31st December St Sylvester I	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	John Barker RIP
Wednesday 1st January Mary, Mother of God	St Bede	11am*	Eileen, William, Brian, Stephen and Paul Harland RIP
	St Joseph	11am	Ron Fryer RIP
Thursday 2nd January Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Cathy Lyons
	St Joseph	12 noon	Zillah Richardson RIP
Friday 3rd January The Most Holy Name of Jesus	St John Boste	10am*	Vera Frazer RIP
	St Joseph	10am	Priest's Intention
Saturday 4th January Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Living & Deceased members of the McCoy & Ranaghan Families
	St Joseph	5pm*	Alec Proctor RIP
	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 5th January Epiphany of the Lord	St John Boste	9.30am	Syd McElhenny RIP Anniversary
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Deceased Members of the Cosgrove Family
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Mary, Peggy, Jim & John Walker RIP

December 1978 was a hard time for Chris Rea. His debut album wasn't doing too well. He was being dropped by his manager, and his recording contract was up. He'd been banned from driving, and his record company wouldn't pay for a train ticket to get him back to Middlesbrough. So his wife, Joan, had to drive their old Mini down to Abbey Road Studios to bring him home for Christmas. On the way home, heavy snow slowed their journey, and in the traffic jams, Chris noticed how miserable all the drivers were. Jokingly, he started singing 'We're driving home for Christmas...' – which, as we all know, has become one of the nation's favourite Christmas songs.

Part of the reason for the song's popularity is that it taps into the strong desire to be with loved ones at significant life moments. Many people will be travelling at this time of year for that very reason – people 'can't wait to see the faces' of their family and friends to tell them everything that has happened since they last met, to renew relationships and create new memories together.

Maybe this was what motivated Mary to go and visit her cousin Elizabeth. Let's face it – they had a lot to talk about! How Mary's relationship with her fiancé Joseph was going, her extraordinary experience with the angel Gabriel and her resulting pregnancy, how Elizabeth's husband Zechariah had encountered the same angel who promised they would have a child and how he was struck dumb for doubting Gabriel's word and how, despite her advancing years, Elizabeth was now expecting her son, John. When they met, the child in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. This was a significant meeting – Mary brought Jesus to meet his cousin John.

The Christmas season reunites us with family and friends with much joy and celebration. Let us also be aware of the opportunity to repair any relationships which may have become difficult. May we be like Mary and bring Jesus' peace and healing into all of our encounters.

Deacon Frank O'Neill

Christmas Wishes

Fr. Martin and all the Clergy in our two Parishes wish all Parishioners a very Happy Christmas, and every blessing for 2025, the Jubilee Holy Year. We would like to thank everyone who gives of their time and effort to keep our Parishes running smoothly over the course of the year. May God Bless you all.



Parish Newsletter - This will be the last edition until Sunday 5th January 2025.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2-3pm;

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) is taking a Christmas break and will resume on 7th January 2025.

Please note that there will be Carols at St Bede's from 4.30pm on Christmas Eve.

Parish Fundraising Activities - Could I please remind all groups and individuals that, when conducting any fundraising efforts within the parish, all monies raised must be banked via the Parish current account. This is at the express request of Bishop Stephen and the Diocesan Trustees in accordance with the statutory regulations. Fr Martin.

Penshaw Catholic Women's Guild – The response to our Christmas Toy Appeal was amazing. A special thank you to everyone who made a donation. Hopefully we have made Christmas a little more magical for some poor families. A Mass of thanks will be said for you all in the near future. Members of the P.C.W.G.

Christmas - People have shown such generosity in preparation for Christmas. We celebrate so many gifts and talents amongst us: hospitality which is vital in building community, the offering of spirituality in leading prayer and sharing reflections, leadership and organisation, ministries of the Eucharist, reading, music, serving and doing the newsletter. Cleaning, flower arranging and sacristy work. The tremendous work done with young people in our schools, our catechists, children's liturgy and youth club. Those who listen and counsel others, visit the sick, bereaved and imprisoned, feed the hungry and thirsty. Those who fund raise for the less well off locally and those who live in far away places; for those who organise collections of food, clothes and money to help those struggling and those who in their generosity give to those appeals for help. For all those who work in hidden ways and those who feel forgotten but without whom some things would never get done! All of this is of course inspired and built upon our study and praying of the Word of God and our celebration of Mass which sustains and enables us to become Christ in our place and time. Thank you for such an inspiring and lively witness to the work of the Lord in our communities of St John XXIII!

Marriage & Family Life Mass 2025 - Bishop Stephen will be presiding at the Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage and the graces received in Family Life, which will take place on Saturday 8 February 2025, from 12 Noon at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. All married couples will be invited with particular focus on those celebrating a significant anniversary together with bereaved spouses, separated individuals and families experiencing or have experienced domestic difficulties. Further details will be given in future newsletters and via the Diocesan website.

Marriage Preparation Days - Saturday 1 February: The Sacred Heart, North Gosforth NE3 5EB. Engaged couples can find **more information** [by clicking here](#). To find and **book on a course**, [please click here](#).

OLQP SVP - Friendship meal (supported by SVP) Saturday 15th February 2025 1pm, at the Masonic Hall, Shiney Row. 2 course meal, entertainment and bar. SVP subsidised tickets £8.00 for 'the not so young', the housebound, the lonely, the bereaved, etc. Contact any member of the SVP for tickets. Preceding Healing Mass at OLQP, 12 noon.

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.

Note Mass on Christmas Eve will be streamed at 6pm and 11.30pm.

Christmas Day Mass will be streamed at 10am

In addition, we live-stream Mass from St Joseph's, Birtley on:

Saturday at 5pm.

To access live streaming from St Joseph's Birtley, please click the link

<https://www.churchservices.tv/birtley>.

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go: [Saturday Examen](#)
[4th 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](#).

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](#)