

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: 0191 4163583
Administrator: Audrey Huntley tel: 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

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 30TH - 31ST AUGUST 2025 Year C

Saturday 30th August Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Deceased Members of the Pallister Family
	St Bede	5pm	Margaret Jones RIP
Sunday 31st August 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Margaret Logan RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Oswald Shannon

First Reading: Humility. Ecclesiasticus 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

My son, perform your tasks in meekness; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord. For great is the might of the Lord; he is glorified by the humble. The affliction of the proud has no healing, for a plant of wickedness has taken root in him. The mind of the intelligent man will ponder a parable, and an attentive ear is the wise man's desire.

Response to the Psalm: In your goodness, O God, you provided a home for the poor.

Second Reading: The City of the Living God. Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Brothers and Sisters: You have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. But you have come to Mount Sion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Invitations. Luke 14:1, 7-14

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honour, saying to them, 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honour, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, "Give your place to this person", and then you, with shame, will take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher." Then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at table with you. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.' He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends, or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'

Fr Martin Morris	0191 416 3583	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 1st September 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 1st September	St Bede	10am	Holy Communion & Word Service
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	Paul Lyons 29th Anniversary and Deceased Family
Tuesday 2nd September	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Maureen & Stan Metcalfe 65th Wedding Anniversary
	St Joseph	7pm	Christine Thompson RIP
Wednesday 3rd September	St Bede	10am	Mary Dragone RIP
	St Gregory the Great St Bede	1pm	Funeral Service Anne Fearon
	St John Boste	7pm	Holy Communion & Word Service
Thursday 4th September	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	SVP
	St Cuthbert St Joseph	12 Noon	Living & Deceased Jones & Tweedy Family
Friday 5th September	St John Boste	10am*	Private Intention (AO)
	St Joseph at St Benet's School	9:15am	Charles Clark RIP
Saturday 6th September	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Vocations to the Priesthood
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Barrett & Hattam Families
	St Bede	5pm	Frank Barrett RIP
Sunday 7th September	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Private Intention (MP)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	George Fawcett RIP

Newsletter Reflection for 22nd Sunday of the Year 2025

"My latest book on humility is the best one yet!"

Okay, I heard this said in jest, but it does seem to illustrate the point that genuine humility seems to be in short supply these days. What a powerful and counter-cultural message we are given in today's readings!

We are living in a world in which many of our most powerful leaders seem to be driven more by ego and self-importance than by a desire to serve the people they are supposed to represent. Often political discussion ends up as a 'blame-game' in which members of all political parties seek to blame the other side for issues facing society rather than working together to find just and lasting solutions which will benefit those most in need.

Globally, the rise in right-wing populism is evidence of a perceived need in many countries to defend a national culture, identity and economy against alleged outsiders. In the UK, recent anti-immigration protests outside so-called asylum hotels are just one example of this attitude.

Contrast all of this with the message of today's readings:

'The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself.' (Sirach 3:18)

'God gives the desolate a home to dwell in.' (Psalm 68)

'Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.' (Luke 14: 11)

'When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind and you will be blessed because they cannot repay you - for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.' (Luke 14:14)

How far away we are from the values of the Kingdom! Let us pray for peace and justice in our world and in our neighbourhoods. And let us commit ourselves to work for the values of the Kingdom in whatever ways we can.

Frank O'Neill

Masses are generally live-streamed daily at 10am every day, except Monday, streamed at 7pm, and alternate Sundays when Mass is live-streamed at either 10am or 11am. An * on the Mass table indicates streamed Masses.

Please [click here](#) to view from one of our Churches.
(or <https://www.youtube.com/@parishofstjohnxxiii>)

What's On in the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2pm - 3pm.
St Joseph's 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.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Our Lady Queen of Peace - Thursday morning after Mass.
St Joseph - Thursday after Mass.
St John Boste - Friday morning after Mass.
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate - Saturday morning after Mass.
St Bede - Saturday after Vigil Mass.

Devotion to our Blessed Lady at St Bede's - The Holy Rosary will be recited every Monday morning after 10am Mass. If anyone would like to remember a loved one by bringing fresh flowers they would be very welcome and they will be displayed by the flower ladies, all welcome

Please note Our Priests are currently covering the Parishes of St Cuthbert's, Chester-le-Street and St Bede's, Sacriston in addition to their normal duties. We are therefore unable to offer the extra First Friday Masses as previously advertised. Thank you.

OLOF (Our Lady's over 50's club) meet in the Lindisfarne Room at St Bede's Church on Tuesdays at 1pm. All welcome.

Life in the Spirit Seminars. - An opportunity to renew our lives of Faith, with a new outpouring of God's Holy Spirit. For seven week's, beginning Thursday 25 September - Thursday 6 November. Members of the Diocesan CHARIS team will help us reflect on 'The Gift of the Holy Spirit' and the personal renewal of our Faith. Through reflection on Holy Scripture, a short talk, and testimonies, the 'Life in the Spirit' seminars aim to offer a renewed Faith in Jesus Christ, and in his gift of Salvation. The seminars take place in the Emmaus room at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate. All welcome. Why not come along to one or more of the seminars? Details below, See poster at back of Church for more details.

Date	Title	Speaker
25 September 2025	God's Love	Andy Drozdziak
2 October 2025	Salvation	Fr Anthony Ohaekwusi
9 October 2025	The New Life	Christine Dixon
16 October 2025	Receiving God's Gifts	John Wheeler
23 October 2025	Baptised in the Holy	Fr Shaun O'Neill
30 October 2025	Growth	Deacon Alison Rebello
6 November 2025	Transformation in Christ	Fr Shaun O'Neill

St Bede's Toddler Group will reopen on 8 September. There are places available. The group meets on a Monday morning from 9.30am - 11am at St Bede's Parish Hall, Coach Road Estate. We welcome babies once they have had their first injections and until they go to nursery or school. The children can play, do creative activities, have refreshments and enjoy singing. The cost per session is £2. All parents, carers and children will receive a warm welcome.

Appeal for new volunteers – Thank you to all those parishioners who responded to the appeal for new volunteers. I am very grateful to all those who came forward with the offer of help and assistance in the varied areas of Parish life where more support is needed. **Fr Martin Morris.**

Sacrament of Matrimony. Let us pray for Stephen Martin Dawes and Colleen Kay Wyness and James Anthony Harle and Katie Hannah Wilson who celebrate their forthcoming Marriages in coming weeks.

Streaming Mass from our Churches. Please note we no longer use Church Services TV as our Churches now stream on our YouTube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/@parishofstjohnxxiii>. At present, for technical reasons, we are only able to stream Mass from St John Boste and Our Blessed Lady Immaculate.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate will be one of the locations hosting an exciting new initiative coming to the UK, that seeks to form lay people for mission. The 'Dominican Lay Mission' project brings people to discover their individual charisms and gifts and discern practical ways to put these to use in the service of the Gospel, in their secular contexts and so sanctify the world. The course takes place over three years, for 26 weeks of each year, and comprises a weekly one hour video to watch at home in your own time; a fellowship meeting twice per month at Our Lady's on a Friday at 7.30pm; an annual retreat and a day workshop. The course starts in September. There will be an information evening at Our Lady's at 7.30pm on Monday 8 September. For more information or to register your interest, email lay.mission@english.op.org or speak to Fr Luke.

Our Lady of Sorrows – Blessing of the Pieta and Devotions - Someone has very kindly donated a Pieta Statue to St Bede's. On the **Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, 15 September**, after the morning Mass there will be a Blessing of the Statue and Marian Devotions with the opportunity to be inducted into the Brown Scapular.

Recently Deceased

Anne Fearon

For Next Week's Funeral details, please see Mass table

Training for Readers - On the 20 and 27 September following the morning Mass at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate there will be training sessions for readings, if you read currently in any of the Churches or would like to begin to do so. Please come to one of the sessions (it is not necessary to attend both). Email Fr Luke if you have any questions luke.wilkinson@diocesehn.org.uk

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Gardens - We would welcome donations of any unwanted gardening tools such as forks, spades, trowels, secateurs etc. for volunteers keeping the borders tidy. Please bring them to church or ring Chris O'Neill on 07815162153 if you need them collected. Thank you.

Holy Communion for the Sick and Housebound: If you know of any parishioners who are unable to get to Mass and would like Holy Communion brought to them at home, please give their name, address and telephone number to any of our Priests.

Medjugorje North East 2026 Pilgrimage. Newcastle 7 June - 14 June 2026. A few remaining places still available on this pilgrimage. Contact Northern Star Travel Ltd, on 0161 7732115 or their website [here](#).

Pilgrimage to Holy Island – Saturday 13 September 2025 -An update regarding the above event. Coaches will be leaving from St Joseph's Birtley and Our Lady Queen of Peace at 8.30am. We currently have over 80 people coming along but there are still a few seats remaining if you wish to come. A donation of £10 per person to cover the cost of the coaches would be very much appreciated. If you would like to come along please contact Malcolm Bengston on 07746 973132.

If you are walking across the sands (the walk lasts about 90 minutes) we recommend that you bring a towel to dry your feet at the end of the walk. For those who do not want to walk across the sands there will be a liturgy held in St Aidan's on the island at 12 noon. Mass will be held in St Mary's church at 3pm for those who wish to go. Coaches will be leaving Holy Island at 5pm.

Other News

Ukrainian Appeal - An Appeal is being made on behalf of the Ukrainian Forces. Outdoor Commodities - Camping Equipment, Hiking boots, Clothing. Physical Aids - Walking Sticks, Crutches, Zimmer Frames. Medical Products - Bandages, Plasters. Donations of any of the above will be gratefully appreciated If you can help, Please contact 07469651180.

Evangelisation for the Terrified - '*Evangelising for the Terrified*', written and produced within the Diocese, is a practical, light-hearted resource for anyone wondering how to get started in sharing their faith. Download a copy [here](#).

MARY'S PLACE - St Mary's Cathedral - opposite Central Station

Every Monday morning between 10am and 1pm Mary's Place Community cafe opens its doors and offers a warm, welcoming smile that extends dignity, companionship and hope to anyone who is in need - they may be homeless, poor or feeling alone. It's a place where everyone is known by name, where they can share their stories or simply sit in silence as they share a hot meal together. It's more than a refuge it's a community - a reminder that no one walks alone. We have a team of volunteers who do various roles from preparing food, serving our guests as well as washing dishes and, of course, making our guests welcome. We work on a rota basis, usually once a month. To find out more and how to join our team please contact marys.place@outlook.com.

Alive in HOPE: A Church for MISSION. Bishop Stephen invites you to a Jubilee Day on Saturday 27 September, from 10 am to 3pm at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Everyone is welcome! There'll be guest speakers from the Prisons' Chaplaincy and the Justice & Peace Refugee Project, and a choice of seminars/forums to reawaken and empower us for mission. This is an opportunity to connect with old friends and new, and to celebrate our diocesan family as we explore what a Church in Mission invites us to be and do! There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a prayer space in the chapel, and praise and worship led by Durham musicians 'Set A Fire'. Take a look around the marketplace where there'll be stands and gifts from some of our Catholic partners and groups. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but please bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available and entry is FREE but please register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25> where you'll also find more information about the seminars you'll be able to join during the day. For enquiries and parish/group bookings telephone Amy on 0191 2433316. Search on Facebook, X and Bluesky using the hashtag #DHNAlive25 for the latest information and updates.

One Hope Project (Music) Academy - 1 September 2025 - 31 March 2026 - Do you want to see music leaders in the parishes in your diocese lead the worship on Sunday prayerful and beautifully helping all that attend Mass enter more profoundly into the beauty of the liturgy? The OHP Academy is a six-month online worship school for aspiring musicians and songwriters who want to grow in their relationship with Jesus and their practical gifting in order to serve in their context. One Hope Project has over a decade's experience in leading worship, writing songs, equipping others and a much longer journey of following Jesus and we see the real need to invest in this area of the Church. If you are interested and for more information please [click here](#).

Reflections

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

Examen -Please follow this link to go to [Pray as You Go](#)

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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