

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 FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 20TH - 21ST SEPTEMBER 2025 Year C

Saturday 20th September	St Joseph	5pm	People of the Parish
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Fr John Francis Brady RIP
Sunday 21st September	St John Boste	9:30am	Keith Shannon
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Bernard & Clare Simons

First Reading: Racketeering. Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, 'When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the chaff of the wheat?' The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: 'Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.'

Response to the Psalm: Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

Second Reading: Universal Salvation. 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Beloved: First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an Apostle — I am telling the truth, I am not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarrelling.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia Jesus Christ, though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Dishonest Steward. Luke 16:1-13

At that time: Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager." And the manager said to himself, "What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He said, "A hundred measures of oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty." Then he said to another, "And how much do you owe?" He said, "A hundred measures of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and write eighty." The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light.' And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. 'One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful with the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.'

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 22nd September 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 22nd September	St Bede	10am	Paula Robertson RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Carl Poulter
Tuesday 23rd September St Pio of Pietrelcina	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	World Peace
	St Joseph	7pm	Peace in the World
Wednesday 24th September Our Lady of Walsingham	St Bede	10am	Angela Reid RIP
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intention
Thursday 25th September	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Grace Hill RIP
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Brian Lee & Isabella Bryden RIP
Friday 26th September Ss Cosmas & Damian	St John Boste	10am*	Holy Souls
	St Joseph	10am	Priest's Intention
Saturday 27th September St Vincent de Paul Vigil	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Lynn Scully - Ill Health
	St Joseph	5pm	Peter Lavery RIP
	St Bede	5pm	Priest's Intention
Sunday 28th September 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Tina & Ted Dickinson
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	OLQP - SVP Centenary
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

GOSPEL REFLECTION 21 SEP 2025

A difficult parable is put before us by Luke today. The shrewdness on display is not to be admired. The audience for the parable is significant – the Pharisees and tax collectors are listening intently in addition to the disciples, who, let's face it, weren't too familiar with wealth management. The rich man and his steward are as bad as each other; the rich man cannot but admire the stealth of the steward in creating friendships through fraud, to sustain him once he is out of his job. In contrast, Jesus is trying to underline the qualities of the "sons of the light" for whom faithfulness to his Father's redemptive love is paramount. Material possessions must never compete. This is a strong theme in Luke's Gospel; the prism of God's love reflected on the poor and the dispossessed rather than the rich, the propertied.

In Luke 16;17 the verse which follows today's Gospel we see how the Pharisees react: "The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and laughed at him. He said to them, "You are the very ones who pass yourselves off as virtuous in people's sight, but God knows your hearts. For what is thought highly of by men is loathsome in the sight of God."

We need somehow to get the balance right in our lives. It's a big challenge but it's one that is demanded of us as Children of God. In a very troubled world, our faith demands us to see the God given humanity not just in those who are friends and family but in the uncomfortable places of the poor, the refugee. We must not laugh with the Pharisees.

Angela Nichols

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

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. Fr Martin Morris.

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.

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 weeks from 7pm - 8.30pm, 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 the 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 Spirit	Fr Shaun O'Neill
30 October 2025	Growth	Deacon Alison Rebello
6 November 2025	Transformation in Christ	Fr Shaun O'Neill

Lay Mission Course – Thank you to those who have already signed up for the Washington Discipleship Circle, as part of this exciting new course which brings people to discover their individual charisms and gifts and discern practical ways to put these to use in the service of the Gospel. We now have a healthy group size. If you haven't yet signed up, but are interested, please contact Paul at paul@hammond.me or Catherine at lay.mission@english.op.org. There will be an information evening on Friday 19 September at 7.30pm at Our Lady's. Once the course starts in October, the meetings will be fortnightly during term-time at Our Lady's, on either a Wednesday evening or Friday evening – to be agreed.

Churches Together in Washington. Our new community support group will offer a space for individuals to connect with others facing similar challenges or interests, providing emotional support, practical advice, and a sense of belonging. We are hoping to bring together people who are going through or have gone through similar experiences. All are welcome to come and have 'cake and coffee' to find out more or just to have a chat in a relaxed atmosphere. Our new group starts on 29 October at 6pm until 7pm, Holy Trinity Church, Washington Village, NE38 7LE, 0191 4187911 or email office.htcw@gmail.com

Special Collection This Week - Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

(formerly Mission Sunday) - Pope Francis often uses the phrase 'missionary disciples' to describe those who are baptised. He wants to see every Catholic become more aware of their responsibility to spread the Joy of the Gospel in their own area. This collection helps the Bishops' Conference prepare resources to help parishes become involved in welcoming people back into active worship; to encourage 'Journeys in Faith', Alpha and RCIA and to explore ways in which local parishes can make a difference in the world they live in.

Thank You Margaret Logan RIP 09/09/1942 to 05/08/2025. The Family would like to thank everyone for their cards, messages of sympathy and attendance at Margaret's Funeral Service on 27 August. Many old friends and colleagues from that great school St Robert of Newminster were present on her special day. It really was "her life". God Bless you all as we will be eternally grateful. Special mentions to Father Martin Morris and Deacon Frank for a fitting service in her honour. A special collection raised £502 for the Bradley Lowery Foundation.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Our Lady's this Sunday from 4pm - 5pm followed by Rosary and Benediction. All welcome.

The Children's Liturgy will restart in Our Blessed Lady Immaculate church during 11am mass from Sunday 5 October.

Our Lady's Macmillan Annual Coffee Mornings will take place after mass on Saturday and Sunday 11 and 12 October. All donations of cakes for the event will be welcome.

Requests to remove someone from the Sick List can be made [here](#).

Our Lady Queen of Peace, SVP Conference. We are celebrating our centenary on Sunday 28 September at our usual 10am Mass. Refreshments will be served in the coffee room after that Mass. All parishioners, including current and past members of the SVP, are warmly invited to share in our celebrations. It also gives an opportunity to meet current members of the SVP who will be able to discuss the work they do within our conference. Anyone who may want to join the SVP, please speak to Tony Smare on 07516 888326 or any SVP member.

Training for Readers - On the 20 and 27 September following the morning Mass at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate there will be training sessions for readers, if you read currently in any of the Churches or would like to begin to do so. Please come to one of the sessions. Email Fr Luke if you have any questions luke.wilkinson@diocesehn.org.uk

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.

Other News

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor”. Do you listen to the voice of truth, the voice of Jesus Christ? Maybe he is inviting you to discern a vocation to the Priesthood. For more information, speak to your Parish Priest or contact the Vocations Promoter: 01207 299 012 or click [here](#).

Sunday 21 September 2025 – Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Home Mission Sunday)

Message from Abbot Hugh Allan, Director of Mission at CBCEW: Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. ‘Evangelii Gaudium’ is Latin for ‘Joy of the Gospel’. It is a Sunday more commonly known as Home Mission Sunday, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate the beauty of our faith, and our shared commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ. Celebrating 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the theme for this year is “I believe...” as the heart of mission. More details about this can be found on the Bishops’ Conference website - <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>

Churches Together in England invites you to support the call to prayer for peace in the Middle East on Sunday 21 September. A coalition of Christian agencies is coordinating an act of Christian witness that speaks to a shared commitment to peace, reconciliation, and the dignity of all people. The call to churches across Britain to pray for peace coincides with UN World Peace Day and the global call to prayer from the World Council of Churches.

JUBILEE DAY is fast approaching and we hope you have seen the line-up of guest speakers invited along to share their stories about being Alive in Hope: A Church for Mission. Ordinary people doing extraordinary work in our parish communities, diocese and beyond, share the joys and struggles of doing mission for the Church. Perhaps something will resonate with you? Bishop Stephen invites all of us to come to this day as a diocesan family in this Holy Year of Jubilee. Full details of the day’s programme are online and in the Northern Cross, or please ring Amy to find out more. Haven’t booked yet? There’s still time to register at <https://bit.ly/DHNAlive25>, where you’ll also find all the information about the Jubilee Day. For enquiries and parish/group bookings, telephone 0191 2433316 or email Amy at formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk. Saturday 27 September, 10am - 3pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School in Gateshead. Registration and refreshments from 9.15am, but bring a packed lunch. Ample parking is available, entry is FREE but register by Sunday 21 September.

Parish Vacancy. Parish Secretary, Parish of All Saints, Lanchester and St Teresa, Annfield Plain @ £ 6,322.68 per annum (£13.51 per hour), part-time, 9 hours per week; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am -12noon. Location: All Saints Parish Office, Kitswell Road, Lanchester DH7 0JH. Additional status: N/A. Deadline: Thursday 25 September 2025 at 12noon. Further information available from humanresources@diocesehn.org.uk.

Helping Hands Needed for Care Home Garden. Do you enjoy being outdoors and lending a helping hand? St Joseph’s Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) are looking for volunteers to help tend their extensive garden. The garden is a special place for the residents, a space for peace, fresh air, and community. We are looking for volunteers to assist with weeding, clearing undergrowth and general upkeep. No special skills or experience are needed, just a willing spirit, kind heart and a bit of time to share. Just bring yourself and we’ll provide the tools. If you would like to be part of this rewarding work and share joy with the residents, please contact Sr Brigitte or Anne Whale (Tel: 0191 2731279) to get involved. Let’s join together to make the garden flourish for the residents to enjoy!

To mark the 60th Anniversary of ‘Nostra Aetate’, the Diocesan Interreligious Relations team warmly invites you to ‘Meeting God in Faith and Fellowship’, an interfaith event celebrating dialogue, understanding and unity among faith communities. This special gathering will bring people of faith together and how they view the catholic faith. With contributions from a diverse panel of speakers, the event offers a unique opportunity to deepen mutual respect, foster spiritual friendship, and reflect on the shared values that connect us all. Join us on Wednesday 8 October, 7pm at St Mary’s Parish Hall, Bridge Street, Sunderland, and refreshments will also be served. For more information, and to reserve your place, please contact interreligious.relations@diocesehn.org.uk.

Marriage Preparation Days - Engaged couples can find more information [here](#). To find and book on a course, please visit our [website](#) or call the phone booking service on 0800 389 3801. (In person and online courses are available.)

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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