

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 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 27TH - 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025 Year C

Saturday 27th September	St Joseph	5pm	Peter Lavery RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Priest's Intention
Sunday 28th September	St John Boste	9:30am	Tina & Ted Dickinson
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	OLQP - SVP Centenary
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	People of the Parish

First Reading: Couch Potatoes

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts: 'Woe to those who are at ease in Sion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria. 'Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.'

Response to the Psalm: *My soul, give praise to the Lord.*

Second Reading: Sevenfold Praise

1 Timothy 6:11-16

O man of God, pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time — he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

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 Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, 'There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame." But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not do so, and none may cross from there to us." And he said, "Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house — for I have five brothers — so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment." But Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." And he said, "No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent." He said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead." '

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 29th September 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 29th September Ss Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael	St Bede	10am	Priest's Intention
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Holy Souls
Tuesday 30th September St Jerome	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Robert Holland Anniversary
	St Joseph	7pm	Holy Souls
Wednesday 1st October St Therese of the Child Jesus	St Bede	10am	Mary Dragone (RIP anniversary)
	St John Boste	7pm	Private Intention (AO)
Thursday 2nd October The Holy Guardian Angels	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Paula Cox (RIP)
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Peter Mulcahy
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11.45am	Requiem Mass Terrence Crilly (RIP)
Friday 3rd October	St John Boste	10am*	Holy Souls
	St Joseph (St. Benet's)	9.15am	Minnie & Frank Knott RIP
Saturday 4th October St Francis of Assisi	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Vocations to the Priesthood
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	People of the Parish
	St Bede	5pm	Eileen and William Harland and deceased family
Sunday 5th October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Muriel Simpson RIP
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Margaret Rolfe RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

For a few weeks now we have been hearing Jesus teaching about our relationship with money and what impact wealth can have on us. Today we hear of the rich man (he is not named) and Lazarus, the poor man, who sat at the rich man's gate every day. The rich man walked past him several times each day. Note that Jesus does not attack the rich man's riches, but the rich man does have a problem – it is not that he is rich; the problem is he doesn't care. The rich man doesn't kick or injure Lazarus. He doesn't notice him; he treats him as a non-person.

Like all the recent Gospels, there is something uncomfortable in this for us. Hopefully, it makes us look at ourselves. A common way of protecting ourselves may be to say, "I am not rich." But this story is about much more than money: Who is outside my gate or your gate, begging for recognition, friendship or help. Who seeks my precious time? Who needs to be listened to, a smiling face, a welcome, recognition, acknowledgement.

Recently I heard someone saying that when they saw someone begging, before they offered help, they asked the person their name. They were astounded and said that most people don't speak to them, and no one has ever asked their name. It is a sign that you care. Try it!

Remember Cain's question: am I my brother's (or sister's) keeper? ... We are!

Deacon Tony Joy

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - The Sacrament of Reconciliation is now available in all of our Churches:

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's - 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 charismas' 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. 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.

Special Collection Next Week – Family Fast Day - Just imagine living on £1.00 a day! Millions of our sisters and brothers have to survive on less than the cost of a couple of first-class stamps. A first-class stamp costs £1.70. So, if we send 1 Christmas card we will spend more than many families will have to live on. How scary is that? Please do what you can do...

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.

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.

A Liturgical Day of Reflection for Existing Ministers of Holy Communion - 25 October 2025. Called to the Supper of the Lamb is a day of reflection for existing Ministers of Holy Communion, giving an opportunity for those commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers to reflect on their role. This day of reflection will be led by Fr Mark Millward. **Date:** Saturday 25 October 2025. **Time:** 10.30am – 3.00pm (please arrive from 10am for registration and refreshments). **Venue:** St Augustine's Parish Hall, Larchfield Street, Darlington, DL3 7TG. **Cost:** £15.00 per participant. **Catering:** Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. This Day of Reflection may be self-funded or funded by your parish. You can indicate your payment preference on the online booking form. An invoice will be sent to the payee following the event. Confirmation of your booking, and a reminder of the key details for the event, will be sent to the email provided after the booking deadline. **Booking Deadline: Tuesday 14 October 2025.** For further information, please email: formation.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.

Visit of the Papal Nuncio.

On Tuesday 30 September we welcome the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía to our Diocese. On that day at 1.00pm he will celebrate Mass at St Mary's Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to this celebration of Mass. As Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Buendía is Pope Leo's Ambassador to our country and so a sign of our communion with the Church of Rome. As well as celebrating Mass he will visit several of our Diocesan institutions as he stays with us.

October devotions

October is traditionally the 'Month of the Holy Rosary.' There will be evening Prayer of the Church in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary followed by Benediction at St. Bede's on Sunday October 5th at 4pm. All welcome.

Other News

Appeal for Foundation Governors - Bishop Stephen is extremely grateful for the time and dedication that our school governors and Catholic Education Trust directors commit to our Diocese. We are constantly looking for new foundation governors to join local governing committees in our schools. The Diocese will be hosting two information sessions for those people who are interested in the role on **Thursday 7 October** at St Cuthbert's House at 1.30pm and **Monday 13 October** at The Durham Centre, Belmont, Durham at 4pm. For further information please contact Rebecca Daglish from the Diocesan Department for Education. 0191 2433313 or rebecca.daglish@diocesehn.org.uk.

"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](#)

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.)

Open Scroll (Book of Revelation) - Oct 2025 - Mar 2026 (Monday Evenings). A six-session study group on the Book of Revelation, titled OPEN SCROLL. The talks will take place once a month on the second Monday of each month, starting on 13th October and will be from 7.00pm to 8.30pm via Zoom. The Book of Revelation is a chunky book of the Bible and is quite involved. Please contact Mia Fox (mia.fox@diocesehn.org.uk) to join the WhatsApp group and get the link. We're looking forward to journeying with you through the Book of Revelation (or Apocalypse in Greek). You may wish to extend the invitation to your friends. The series is not being recorded. We recommend attending all sessions live to maximise the benefits of this course.

MINSTERACRES - The Medjugorje Centre (North East) has organised a retreat from Fri 10th - Sun 12th October. Fr. Shaun O'Neill from Our Lady and St Cuthbert Parish, Berwick-upon-Tweed will be leading the retreat. It is open to anyone from our diocese who supports or is interested in Medjugorje and is an opportunity for prayer and fellowship. The cost is £195 per person. Booking forms are available from Marian Fletcher - Telephone 0191 4174413. For information about Medjugorje see - <https://www.medjugorje.hr/en/>.

Fr. Dermott Donnelly founded the charity '**Significance**' to enable young people to become all that God has created them to be. Significance supports YMT and the ongoing development of the **Emmaus Village** and also provides grants for particular projects which provide opportunities to young people. To raise funds, Significance has launched a Grand Draw: First prize is 2 tickets for a 'Britain's Got Talent' live semi-final in 2026, first class LNER travel and overnight stay in a London hotel and there are other exciting prizes. Each ticket costs £5 and the aim is to raise £20,000 by selling 800 books x 5 tickets. The draw will take place on Youth Sunday 23rd November 2025. Please support by buying a ticket or taking a book to sell. Raffle tickets can be sent to you by contacting significance316@gmail.com

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow this link to go [Saturday Examen The 26th 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](#)
stjohn23bulletin@gmail.com