

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

THE 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 15TH - 16TH NOVEMBER 2025 Year C

Saturday 15th November	St Joseph	5pm	Nancy & Martin Loughlin RIP
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Kathleen Nattress (RIP 1st anniversary)
Sunday 16th November	St John Boste	9:30am	Burdis & Bengston Families RIP
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Repose of the Soul of Maurice Lumley
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

First Reading: Burning Like an Oven

Malachi 4:1-2a

Behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.

Response to the Psalm: *The Lord comes to judge the peoples with fairness.*

Second Reading: Keep Busy

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Brothers and Sisters: You know how you ought to imitate us, because we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labour we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you. It was not because we do not have that right, but to give you in ourselves an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat. For we hear that some among you walk in idleness, not busy at work, but busybodies. Now such persons we command and encourage in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Perseverance

Luke 21:5-19

At that time: While some were speaking of the Temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.' And they asked him, 'Teacher, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when these things are about to take place?' And he said, 'See that you are not led astray. For many will come in my name, saying, "I am he!" and, "The time is at hand!" Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once.'

Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and pestilences. And there will be terrors and great signs from heaven. But before all this they will lay their hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors for my name's sake. This will be your opportunity to bear witness. Settle it, therefore in your minds, not to meditate beforehand how to answer, for I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be delivered up even by parents and brothers and sisters, and relatives and friends, and some of you they will put to death. You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.'

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 17th November 2025 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 17th November Ss Elizabeth of Hungary, Hilda & Hugh of Lincoln	St Bede	10am	Brian Ebbblewhite - 90th Birthday
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm*	Elizabeth & George Faghy
Tuesday 18th November	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Anna Rose Bradley RIP
	St Joseph	7pm	Lawrence & Margaret Reed RIP
Wednesday 19th November	St Bede	10am	Louis & Catherine Connolly (RIP anniversary)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	11.15am	Requiem Mass: Tony Cosgrove
	St John Boste	7pm	Frank Barrett RIP
Thursday 20th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Paula Cox (Robertson) RIP June & John Cox & Families
	St Joseph	12 Noon	Enid Cutter RIP
Friday 21st November The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St John Boste	10am*	Eleanor & Maldwyn Roberts RIP
	St Joseph @ St Benet's	9.15am	Sr. Margaret McMahon RIP
Saturday 22nd November St Cecilia	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	David & Elizabeth McCourt & Deceased family members
Vigil	St Joseph	5pm	Young People of the Parish
	St Bede	5pm	Anne Harrison (RIP anniversary)
Sunday 23rd November Christ the King	St John Boste	9:30am	People of the Parish
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Margaret Rolfe RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	James Arthur & Elizabeth Mary Beadle & George Leslie & Theresa Dawson RIP

As we approach the end of the church's year, we will hear readings about the 'end of days', the day of judgement. We hear in the reading from the first book of Malachi of the burning of stubble in the flames, the destruction of evildoers, when the end of days comes. For those who fear the Lord, 'the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings'. The response to the psalm today is 'The Lord comes to judge the peoples with fairness.' And in the Gospel Jesus also talks about a time of turmoil. He speaks of the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem – or is he speaking of his forthcoming passion, death and resurrection?

The Temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70AD, after which, 'not one stone would be left upon another.' If you are fortunate enough to have visited Jerusalem and been to the Wailing Wall (also known as the Western Wall), which is the last remaining part of the temple Jesus was speaking of, you will see that it seems to be made of a hotchpotch of different sized stone blocks with many gaps showing its age and its war-torn history. People place prayers written on paper into the gaps between the stones. It is a very sacred site for the Jewish people and it is an impressive site to see the people bowing constantly as they pray facing this very special wall. When it is safe to visit Jerusalem as a tourist, the Western Wall is an essential place to visit.

A couple of weeks ago I was in Rome on holiday, and I was privileged to go to the four great Basilicas of Rome: St Peter's, St John Lateran, Mary Major and St Paul's outside the walls. Although I had been to them all in the past, I was still awestruck by them all. I found myself marvelling at the workmanship of the statues, the size of the basilicas and reading about their history. I was in St Peter's square for Sunday Mass said by Pope Leo and there was 100,000 people there. An amazing, peaceful, joyous crowd from all over the world. On occasions like this you realise the magnitude and reach of our Catholic faith. But Jesus reminds us that the buildings, the artwork and the size of the cathedrals are not what is important. The faith, love and the good works of the 100,000 people are what is important. Being in those places recharges our faith batteries so we can return home, across the world, and spread the Faith and do good works for others back in our local communities.

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 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.

Eucharistic Adoration this Sunday afternoon 16th November. at Our Lady's 4-5pm. Followed by Rosary and Benediction. Why not come along and spend some time with the Lord in prayer and reflection? All welcome.

St John Boste, Evening Prayers - Evening prayers will be prayed at 6.45pm every Wednesday before 7pm Mass. All welcome to join in.

Penshaw Catholic Woman's Guild - Our annual toy collection is on Sunday 7th December after 10 o'clock Mass. These gifts are distributed to the poor in the area. Please label the gift boy or girl or family. Thank you for your donation, we greatly appreciate it.

SVP Sing and Chat at the Black Bush - Everyone is welcome at this event which will take place at the Black Bush Washington Village from 12:15 until 3 pm on Friday 21st November.

Special Collection Next Week - Catholic Youth - 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.

Sunday 23rd November is the Feast of Christ the King. It is also a special day of prayer for Youth. To mark 'Youth Sunday' Bishop Stephen has written a letter, which he asks to be made available at each church. You can collect a copy from the back of Church, or view on the Diocesan website. A retiring collection will be taken next Weekend for our Diocesan Youth Ministry Team. Thankyou for your generosity, and in helping our young people in their Faith Journey. Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of church - please consider taking one home this week and bringing it back for next Sunday's collection. Your generosity helps young people encounter Christ and grow in faith.

St John Boste Christmas Memorial Candles - Envelopes are available for your request for Christmas memorial candles. They need to be returned by Sunday 7th December.

St John Boste - Red Mission Boxes - The Red Boxes are due for collection in the next four weeks. Agents can collect their envelopes and 2026 Callender from Sunday 16th November. Please return monies collected by 14th December.

Songs of Peace and Praise - A date for next year's diary, **July 9th 2026**. The Parish is planning to hold an evening of **Songs of Peace and Praise**, starting at 7.00pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. More information will be given nearer the date.

To plan for the Songs of Peace and Praise there will be a **short meeting at 11.00 am Sunday 23rd November at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church**. Anyone interested in helping to plan the event will be most welcome. It will be great if all Churches in the Parish are represented. If you are unable to attend but wish to be involved with the planning please email me, Jane Everett ejeverettlane@gmail.com Many thanks.

Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Cemetery - I would like to thank all those who keep our cemetery and grounds looking clean and tidy. Thank you to all who take the time in caring for graves and plots. This is very much appreciated. The on-going costs for ground maintenance, i.e. grass cutting, tree pruning and path clearance continue to be a significant cost for the Parish, approx. £1,000 Per Month. Considering the extensive site of our Cemetery, these costs are understandable. However, following discussion at the recent Parish finance committee we now need to introduce some further means in funding the upkeep of our Cemetery grounds. I would like families to consider making a 'suggested donation' of one hundred pounds to the Parish, whenever a grave is reopened. (Council/state Cemetery charges are much higher). If anyone would like to make a personal donation for the general upkeep of our Cemetery here at Our Lady's, that would be greatly appreciated. Or why not consider leaving a donation as part of your Will for our Cemetery upkeep? All donations can be made by cheque/bank transfer via the Parish office. Thank you, Fr. Martin Morris. Parish Priest.

Other News

Concert Tickets on sale NOW - A fabulous fundraising concert will take place in Holy Rosary Church in Sunderland on Friday 21st November at 7.00pm. The amazing Fortissimo Choir will be joined by The Whole Shebang to provide an evening of song covering all genres from musicals to classics to folk and back. Tickets are £10 and every penny raised will go to the upkeep of our churches. The bar will be available in the hall after the concert and if anyone would like to bring food for a shared table that would be fabulous. Tickets can be ordered by ringing Mary Winetroube on 07734849410.

What is your Jubilee Story? As the Year of Jubilee draws to a close in January 2026, the Diocese is preparing to celebrate the journey we have all walked together united as Pilgrims of Hope. Across the Diocese, communities have embraced the Jubilee in beautiful and creative ways and we are now collecting photographs, short stories and messages to form a Jubilee Legacy Collection. *"Let's close this Holy Year not with a full stop, but with a radiant exclamation of hope."* Please [click here](#) for further details and the closing date for us to use your submissions is 15th December.

"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](#)

CAFOD Cop 30 prayer - Cafod are asking everyone to pray for the success of COP 30 by saying the following prayer, daily if possible, from 10-21 November.

God of blessings, the universe sings of your glory.
Deepen our gratitude for all you have made
and awaken in us a renewed commitment
to care for the earth and each other.

Inspire world leaders at COP30,
with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change
and with courage to act urgently and wisely,
so that our common home may be healed and restored
and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it. Amen.

Scriptures of Hope: In response to this Jubilee Year theme of hope, our Diocesan Writing Team were invited to share a short reflection on a scripture passage which speaks to them of hope throughout the challenges and the joys of life. What followed was a beautiful collection of reflections demonstrating how the Word of God has been a powerful source of strength, peace and hope to each writer in many ways. We share four reflections each week. We hope you enjoy. Please [click here](#) to read the collection.

Advent - "Worthy of the Promise"! Led by Pat Kennedy - Friday 28th November from 6.30pm to Sunday 30th November at 2pm - Time and space to find God's personal message for me. Our Advent Retreat invites you to explore the concept of waiting on the Lord. As we prepare for Christmas, this retreat offers a chance to reflect on your spiritual readiness for the season. Through guided reflections, prayer sessions, and communal discussions, we will explore themes of hope, peace, joy and love—the four traditional themes of Advent. The serene environment of the retreat centre offers a perfect setting for personal contemplation and spiritual renewal. Join us in this journey of waiting and preparation, embracing the Advent season with intentionality and grace. Suggested Donation £190. To book please [click here](#).

Catholics Connect - Thursday 11 December at 6.30pm. Are you a "young adult" in Church terms — somewhere in your mid-20s to 40s? We'd love to hear from you. We want to listen to your experiences of living as a Catholic today—your joys, your challenges, and everything in between. Your voice matters, your insights will help us understand how we can further walk alongside and support one another. Let's get together! We are pleased to welcome back Michael Thompson from Tyne & Wear Citizens, who will lead and facilitate this session. The CONNECT meeting will take place on Thursday 11th December from 6.30pm at the Tyneside Irish Centre, Newcastle City Centre. Complementary tea and coffee will be served, and you can purchase drinks from the bar. This event is free. [Email Enquiries](#)

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 closes on Friday 14th November and will take place on Youth Sunday 23rd November 2025.

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.)

Minsteracres Retreats - We offer a varied programme of day, weekend and week-long events throughout the year. Please see the programme details by [clicking 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. We are looking for volunteers to assist with weeding, clearing undergrowth and general upkeep. 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.

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow the links 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

To view the sick and recently deceased list [please click here](#). To amend the information on the list [click here](#).

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.

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](#)

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