

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
 Email: StJohn23rd@diocesehn.org.uk
 Parish Website: <https://www.washingtoncatholic.org.uk>
 Parish Secretary: Anne Ridley 0191 4163583
 Office Hours: Tuesday 9am - 2:30pm (Penshaw),
 Wednesday & Thursday 9am - 2:30pm (Washington Village)



In the Partnership of Benedict

Birtley, Chester-le-Street, Penshaw, Sacriston, Washington

THE TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 17TH – 18TH OCTOBER 2026 Year A

Saturday 17th Oct	St Joseph	5pm	Maurice Mulchay (RIP)
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	Clare Bottoms and son Stephen (RIP)
Sunday 18th Oct	St John Boste	9:30am	Joyce Joan O'Brien
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Ann Widdecombe (RIP)

First reading: Cyrus, King of Persia, Chosen by God

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: 'For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.'

Response to the Psalm: : *Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.*

Second Reading: Paul Greet's the Church in Thessalonica

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.

Gospel Acclamation: : Alleluia, alleluia. Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Giving God His Due

Matthew 22:15-21

At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, 'Whose likeness and inscription is this?' They said, 'Caesar's.' Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'

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 Andrew Shaw	0191 649 8257		

Mass Times & Intentions - Week Beginning Monday 19th October 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 19th October Ss John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues & Paul of the Cross	St Bede	10am	Mary Dragone (RIP) & deceased of Dragone and Gabriele Families
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	1.30pm	June Ford Requiem mass
Tuesday 20th October	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	John & Alan Callaghan. & Dec. mem. Lawless & Callaghan Fams.
	St Joseph	7pm	John Doran (RIP)
Wednesday 21st October	St Bede	9.45am	Kevin Taylor Requiem mass
	St John Boste	7pm	Fr. John Coyle
Thursday 22nd October St John Paul II	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Eddie Ashburner (RIP)
	St Joseph	Noon	Sick of the Parish
Friday 23rd October St John of Capistrano	St Joseph	10am	Work of the S.V.P.
	St John Boste	10am*	Saad Lakehall (RIP)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	David Michael Howe Funeral service
Saturday 24th October	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Tony Cosgrove (RIP)
Vigil St Anthony Mary Claret	St Joseph	5pm	Pat Stobbart (RIP)
	St Bede	5pm	Joy Wood (RIP) - Family Home Anniversary
Sunday 25th October 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Margaret Hodgson & Hodgson & Stephenson Families
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	Andrew Bell (RIP)
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	People of the Parish

Recently Deceased Fr. John Coyle, June Ford, David Michael Howe. Kevin Taylor, Margaret Powell, Lucy Merrington.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God"

There are certain themes that run throughout Jesus' teaching. In this week's Gospel (Matthew 22:15-21) he uses the question of taxation to highlight one such theme. That is, the tension between our spiritual being and our worldly existence. Many of the faithful come across this tension most acutely on a Sunday. Specifically as they are going into church for Sunday Mass. They experience the shocking difference between what is going to take place in church and the world they experience in their 'ordinary' every day lives. The pageantry and ancient ritual that takes place in church could not be more different to the fast paced, modern, computerised world of their everyday lives. It is as if two different and competing worlds are clashing together at that moment, leaving them a little disoriented. For many faithful this leads to a question, which experience is the real one, the church or the world? Today's Gospel points to the answer.

In using taxation and a coin to show where true loyalty lies Jesus is showing us that we are in the world but not of the world. We live in this fast paced, computerised, AI world. And we use everything in the world. We even take part in political debate and work for the good of our country. But this is not who we are. We are first and foremost the Children of God.

In giving the coin metaphorically back to Caesar, Jesus is showing us we are in the world but living for something very different. As Christians this means we pay our dues to the world and the culture we find ourselves living in. We do indeed work, pay taxes, and take part in all the events of the world around us, from politics to entertainment. It would be the same if we were living in rural South America or New York city. However, these things are merely a means to an end.

We live in the world, but our real home, our real reality, is found in Jesus and the world to come. The Mass is a glimpse of this, a glimpse of heaven. Everything else is a stage on which we perform our love of the Lord and the sincerity of our faith.

Fr Martin Wheaton

We aim to live-stream Mass daily at 10am every day, except Monday, streamed at 7pm, and alternate Sundays when Mass is live-streamed at either 10am or 11am. Please refer to the * on the Mass table which 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 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.

OLOF (Our Lady's Over 50's club), Please note, the club meets on Tuesday at 1pm in [the Lindisfarne Room at St Bede's](#). All most welcome!

Parish 'LIFE' Group. - We are hoping to begin a 'LIFE' Group in the parish soon. The group will work closely with the project of The Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel network, in supporting Mothers and Expectant Mothers with housing, feeding, and other practical difficulties. They will also promote the Annual day for Life, and the January 'white flower appeal'. All welcome.

Special Collection This Week: World Mission Sunday

Special Collection Next Week: Clergy Training Fund

Thank you for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day! - Thank you for putting your faith into action this Family Fast Day. Your generous donations will help more children stay in school. Children like Tayla in Zimbabwe, where CAFOD's local partners worked with her community to install a solar-powered water supply. Now Tayla has access to safe water and nutritious food at school, helping her to keep learning and develop her God-given talents. To find out more about the work that your generosity at Fast Day makes possible visit: cafod.org.uk/parish. Thankyou.

100th Anniversary of World Mission Sunday – 18 October – World Mission Sunday is the one Sunday in the year when the Mass is celebrated exclusively for Missionary activity. Donations are collected at these worldwide Masses and they go, in their entirety, to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. Envelopes will be available for donations at our churches on 18th October to support this work or you can make your donation online at the Missio website (<https://missio.org.uk>).

Annual Mass for the faithful departed .

Our Mass for the Holy Souls will take place on Saturday 7th November at 10am at **Our Blessed Lady Immaculate**. In this Mass we remember and pray for all our departed loved ones, during which the names of all those who have died in our parish this last year will be read out. All present will be invited to come forward to the altar and light a candle in their memory. All welcome.

CONFESSIONS	
Church	Time
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Thursday after 10am Mass
St Joseph	Thursday after Noon Mass
St John Boste	Friday after 10am Mass
Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	Saturday after 10am Mass
St Bede	Saturday after 5pm Mass

St. John Boste Cleaning

The cleaning of the church will take place on Monday 19th October at 10am, new members welcome.

Other News

Fr. John Coyle

Fr. John died peacefully , 21st September , 2026. We thank the Lord for the many years of service he gave to our Parish, and the many lives he touched with his kindness and generosity. Fr. John's body will be received into St. Charles Church , Gosforth, on Thursday, 22nd October, with Mass at 6.30pm.
A Requiem Mass will be offered at 12 Noon at St. Mary's Cathedral on Friday 23rd October. All Welcome.

Remembrance Mass – Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

A Remembrance Mass has been organised by the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage for Friday 20th November 7.00pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington.

This is open to everyone, not just those who have been to Lourdes. There are special candles that can be purchased to be burned at the Mass in memory of loved ones. These are £3.00 each and available by contacting the Lourdes office –

lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk

Congratulations to Elliott Dickman who will be received into full Communion with the Church today during the 10am Mass. We wish Elliott every blessing for the future as he receives the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Italian Medical Charity

We have inherited the work of the former Italian Hospital in London. After it was sold to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, the proceeds are being used to help those of Italian origin who are in need of funds for medical treatment that the NHS has difficulty in providing or for their carers. If you would like to receive information about this please visit our website at italianmedicalcharity.co.uk or write to us at IMC, Kings Lodge, Kingsway, N12 0EW.

Diocesan Vacancy:

Role: Finance Assistant

Contract: Permanent

Salary: £3,653 pro rata per annum

Hours: Part-time 5 hours per week

Working Pattern: Able to be negotiated at interview.

Location: St Paul, Dewley, Cramlington, NE23 6EF and St John the Baptist, Annitsford, Cramlington, NE23 7QR

How to Apply: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/finance-assistant-2/>

Closing Date: 12:00 pm, 22/10/2026

Grow as One Diocesan Family - Across the Diocese, we want to encourage a greater understanding of **Gift Aid** and increase the number of eligible parishioners who choose to Gift Aid their donations. **Every Gift Aid Declaration** generates *additional income for our parishes* at no extra cost to the donor, helping to support mission, ministry and pastoral life within our communities. You can sign up to Gift Aid online via our [website](#), read about the difference the additional funding has made to a number of our churches and view our frequently asked questions. *Every tick makes a difference!*

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](#).



The Parish of St John XXIII has a dedicated YouTube channel. Here you can watch live streams of Masses. These are indicated by an asterisk next to the Mass times on pages one and two. You can also see recordings of past Masses and Gospel Homilies. The channel can be accessed [here](#).

SCHOOL APPEAL PANEL MEMBER RECRUITMENT

The Diocesan Department for Education are seeking volunteers to become School Appeal Panel Members.

School appeal panel members play an important role in ensuring appeals are considered fairly, independently, and objectively. This rewarding opportunity allows you to support children, young people, and families within our local community. Full training will be provided. As a school appeal panel member, you will:

Listen carefully to information presented

Consider cases fairly and impartially

Contribute to independent decision-making

Help ensure a fair and credible process for all

If you have good listening skills, sound judgement, and a commitment to fairness, we would love to hear from you.

For more information, please contact: education@diocesehn.org.uk

Other News

Church Action on Poverty - 18 October 2026 - This year's Church Action on Poverty Sunday will take place on Sunday 18th October, with a theme of "Food, faith and fellowship". A record number of churches took part last year, and interested churches are encouraged to register now. Resource packs will be sent out over the summer, containing bring & share lunch ideas, worship materials, prayer cards, Scriptural reflections, activity sheets, and inspirational stories of churches already doing great work through food. To sign up, visit church-poverty.org.uk/sunday

Life in the Spirit Seminar Series: Harlow Green - 24th September 2026—12th November 2026. Join us for this opportunity to experience the new life we are promised through baptism in the Holy Spirit. Life in the Spirit seminars are being run by the Diocesan CHARIS group and you will be very welcome to attend. Many who have attended previous seminars have spoken of how it has given their faith a real boost and helped them experience God's love in tangible ways. Venue: St Anne, Rokeby View, Harlow Green, Gateshead, NE9 7UD. Cost: Free. Time: 7pm to 8.30pm. Dates and Titles of Sessions: Fr Anthony Ohaekwusi, 22nd October 2026: The New Life – Christine Dixon, 29th October 2026: Receiving God's Gifts – Fr Chris Warren, 5th November 2026: Baptism in the Holy Spirit – Fr Shaun O'Neill, 12th November 2026: Growth – Nikki Dickenson, 19th November 2026: Transformation in Christ – John Wheeler. Please book your place [here](#).

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi - Bishop Stephen will lead a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and the centre of the Eternal City before then moving onto Assisi in Umbria, the 'green heart' of Italy, and the centre of St Francis and St Clare's ministry. The Pilgrimage will take place **22nd – 29th October 2027** at a cost of £1,725 per person. Places are limited to 50 pilgrims and places are allocated on a first come first served basis with payment of the deposit securing your place. For information and how to book please [click here](#) or type in the link. <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/diocesan-pilgrimage-to-rome-assisi/>

Bereavement Support - Whilst bereavement is extremely hard at any time, the time spent in lockdown when funerals had to take place in very restricted circumstances have taken their toll on so many. Whilst family and friends can be immensely supportive, sometimes a bereaved person wants to talk to someone outside of their immediate circle. The Emmaus Bereavement Support Team, trained in the Ministry of Consolation, is available to support those who wish to talk about their loss. Due to current restrictions, such conversations will most likely take place on the phone, but we hope as restrictions ease, it may be possible for people to meet face-to-face again. Since the launch of this service, there have been a number of requests for support, and several of our listeners have been able to accompany others on their journey of loss and bereavement. The **Emmaus Bereavement Support Service** number is **07732 980740** a member of the team will contact you promptly. [Read More](#) Quick Link: [Accompaniment in Difficult Times](#).

Reflections

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

Examen - Please follow the links to go to Pray as You Go [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.

Baptism - To request a Baptism, you can download the form by [clicking here](#) or ring 07552 733540.

Parish Newsletter If you wish to request an electronic version of 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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