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

Christ the King, 21st – 22nd November 2026 Year A

Saturday 21st November **Vigil**	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	**Xavier Inyang RIP** **Fr John Coyle RIP**
Sunday 22nd November **Christ the King**	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am 10am **11am***	**Hugh McHugh** **June Ford RIP** **People of the Parish**

First reading: The Loving Shepherd. Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats.

Response to the Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: King Jesus Presents the Kingdom. 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia.

The Gospel: The Last Judgement. Matthew 25:31-46
At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." 'Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?" Then he will answer them, saying, "Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Fr Martin Morris	0191 416 3583	Fr Andrew Shaw	0739 983 6695
Fr Martin Morris	0754 470 9356	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 23rd November 2026 (Streamed Mass *)			
Day	**Church**	**Time**	**Intention**
Monday 23rd November **Ss Clement I & Columban**	St Bede Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am **7pm***	**Lawrence & Cecilia Holland & Deceased Family** **Adam Robertson RIP**
Tuesday 24th November **St Andrew Dũng-Lạc**	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate St Joseph	**10am*** 7pm	**Fr John Coyle** **Smith & Longstaff Family**
Wednesday 25th November **St Catherine of Alexandria**	St Bede St. John Boste	10am 7pm	**Margaret Hodgson & Hodgson & Stephenson Families** **Thanksgiving for JI & AD**
Thursday 26th November	Our Lady Queen of Peace St Joseph	10am Noon	**Intentions of SVP Conference** **Thanksgiving 60 Years of Marriage (Rutherford)**
Friday 27th November	St Joseph St John Boste	10am **10am***	**Holy Souls** **Norman Smithson RIP**
Saturday 28th November	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am	**Fr John Coyle**
Vigil	St Joseph St Bede	5pm 5pm	**Mary Sheilds RIP** **Ann Howarth**
Sunday 29th November **First Sunday of Advent**	St John Boste Our Lady Queen of Peace Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	9:30am **10am*** 11am	**People of the Parish** **Lucy Merrington RIP** **Gerard McCabe & Deceased Relatives**

Recently Deceased: Stuart Clark, Joe Lourie.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Feast of Christ the King

I suggest this weekend that the focus at the end of the Liturgical Year is on the ultimate victory of Christ and upon our invitation to share in such glory.

Students (regardless of age) would give anything to know the questions in advance of an examination and through our baptism we are a kingly people who share our inheritance equally with all regardless of who we are. The message of The Good News over these months has hopefully provided insight, meaning and direction to our earthly pilgrimage.

For life's final examination, as people of faith (students) who are discovering more about the gift of faith we received - we already know the final question. It will focus upon practical, everyday charity to all without condition.

In one of Charlie Browns' cartoons the punch line reads: I love humanity: it's people I can't stick.

So hopefully our learning has helped us to see that the Presence of Jesus is seen not so much with the eye but by the heart. However, a hardened heart is closed to service and to most people. Yet a heart that is open and responsive serves without counting the cost and so is vulnerable to being hurt. How are our wounds of service being healed after a productive and perhaps challenging year?

Fr Andrew Shaw

We aim to live-stream Mass daily at 10am, 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

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady Queen of Peace each Friday 2pm - 3pm
St Joseph each Thursday evening 6.30pm - 7.30pm in Presbytery.
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!

St Robert's Year 8 Mass
On Tuesday 1st December, we would like to invite parishioners to join us for our Year 8 Mass at the school which will begin at 9am. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Marc Lyden-Smith. Light refreshments will be provided after Mass. We are limited to 30 places so prior booking is essential. Please email amckenna@str.bwcet.com if you would like to attend with your name(s) and a contact number.

Climate and Nature Crisis
Everyone is invited to attend a Coffee Morning with a showing of the People's Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis at Minsteracres Retreat Centre, Nr Consett DH8 9RT. Saturday 28th November from 10am to 11:45am. The film is suitable for ages 16 and over and everyone is welcome. It is free although donations will be welcome on the day to help cover the cost of room hire and refreshments. Please book your place here
https://buytickets.at/minnie/2500540

World Youth Sunday
Today we celebrate World Youth Sunday, giving thanks for the young people of our Diocese and praying for their continued growth in faith. The retiring collection today supports the Youth Ministry Trust (YMT), helping young people encounter Christ through retreats, events and outreach across our Diocese. Gift Aid envelopes are available, or you can scan the QR code on the poster to donate. Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

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

This Sunday as we celebrate the Feast of Christ The King, there will be Eucharistic Adoration at Our Blessed Lady's at 4pm concluding with Evening Prayer of The Church at 4.45pm. All welcome.

Next Sunday we mark the beginning of the Season of Advent. Advent is a special time of Grace when we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Birthday of Our Saviour. Let us all try and do something a little bit extra during the Advent Season. Whether it's attending an extra weekday Mass, one of the Holy Hours of Prayer, or some spiritual reading, let's try and keep Advent special by spending some extra time with the Lord.

Life Group
Katie Lewins will speak at the end of Mass the weekend of 29th November and 6th December about the Parish Life group. In a short talk Katie will explain the nature of the group and how you may be able to help in some small way.

"**From Chore to Christ**" is the title of a new book written by Parishioner Christopher Sloanes. In the book Christopher tells of his Journey from seeing the Rosary as a Chore, to becoming a real encounter with Jesus and Mary. The book is a thirty day guide to help anyone looking to deepen their prayer life, particularly through the Rosary. If you are looking for something special to do during Advent, and something different, why not consider taking part in this thirty day guide to renewing your spiritual life through the prayer of The Rosary (a few minutes each day). Come along to St Bede's Hall this Thursday at 6.30pm and hear more about this guide to prayer. Receive a free copy too!

Penshaw Catholic Woman's Guild
Our annual Christmas toy collection is on Sunday 6th December at 10am Mass. Gifts can be given to a boy/girl or a family. All gifts gratefully appreciated and can be left in the Church porch. Thank you.

Special Collection This Week – Catholic Youth

Special Collection Next Week – Advent Alms

Christmas Memorial Candles at St John Boste. Envelopes are available in the porch and they need to be returned by 6th December.

St John Boste Missio red boxes are due to be emptied by 13th December. Promoters please collect their pouches from the porch.

Christmas Raffle and Tombola
A Christmas Raffle and Tombola will be held after 9.30am Mass at St John Boste on Sunday 6th December. Lots of prizes and a bit of fun. Funds raised will be donated to parish funds. Your support will be gratefully appreciated.

Choir practice at OBLI will take place on Tuesday 24th November at 7pm in the church. New members welcome.

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.

Other News

CAFOD Advent Reflections - Do you ever long for a daily moment of quiet reflection in our busy world? Advent is drawing near and we'd like to invite you to join us in reflection and prayer, delivered straight to your inbox, during this season of anticipation and expectation. Starting on 29th November, the first Sunday of Advent, we will be sharing daily scripture reflections, stories of our global family, prayers and practical ideas for action, as we create a space to prepare for the coming of Christ. Sign up now by clicking **here.**

Mass of Thanksgiving for Justice & Peace Refugee Project – 2pm 25th November 2026 – St Dominic's Church, New Bridge Street. Over the last 25 years, through the generosity of volunteers and parish supporters, thousands of people going through the process of seeking asylum have been welcomed and supported. The venue has changed and the project has developed but the ethos remains the same: to welcome those seeking asylum in our communities and to support them in the best way we can. Thank you for all you have done. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving for those who have supported the refugee project and to offer prayers for those using it and supporting it now. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr Adrian Tuckwell the Episcopal Vicar for Caritas. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits served after the Mass where we hope we can meet up with friends and supporters both new and old. All are warmly welcomed to come along and celebrate this milestone.

Advent Service - 5th December 2026, 6pm at Ushaw Historic House, Chapels & Gardens - Advent is a wonderful season, in which we look forward to the joys of Christmas. Ushaw's Advent Service, on Sunday 5th December at 6pm, is an ideal opportunity to pause before the preparations for Christmas begin, and to enjoy readings and music on an Advent theme. Our service blends scripture readings, prayers and beautiful choral music with well-known Advent hymns, and takes us through the themes of watching, witnessing, and announcing the Good News of Christ's coming. The music for the Advent Service is provided by the Hexham & Newcastle Diocesan Choir, with special contributions from the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle Children's Choir, which brings together children from ten different primary schools. This promises to be an evening to remember, and a welcome addition to Ushaw's calendar for December. The service is free to attend, but must be pre-booked. Register for your ticket on Ushaw's website at https://ushaw.org/christmas-2026/

City of Newcastle Male Voice Choir and The Gibside Singers Present Christmas in Harmony - On Saturday 5th December 2026 at 7pm at St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Rd, Newcastle, NE4 7QA. Tickets £8 (including interval drink) in aid of Little Sisters of the Poor. Please purchase via tickets via St Joseph's Home (Tel 0191 2731279).

"**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**

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.

The Parish Newsletter is unavailable via email at present. An electronic copy can be found on the parish website 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