

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 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 10TH – 11TH OCTOBER 2026 Year A

Saturday 10th Oct	St Joseph	5pm	Proctor, Bonar & Fitzgerald Family
Vigil	St Bede	5pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 11th Oct	St John Boste	9:30am	Peggy & Charlie Purvis RIP
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Dennis Wilson RIP
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am*	Jim Walker

First reading: The Lord's Banquet
Isaiah 25:6-10a

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, 'Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.' For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

Response to the Psalm: : In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

Second Reading: Ready for Anything with the Help of God
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and Sisters: I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: : Alleluia, alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia..

The Gospel: An Invitation to the Wedding Feast
Matthew 22:1-14

At that time: Jesus again spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast." ' " But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. 'But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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 12th October 2026 (Streamed Mass *)

Day	Church	Time	
Monday 12th October St Wilfred	St Bede	10am	Jean Whelan (RIP)
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	7pm	For a successful operation (CW)
Tuesday 13th October St Edward the Confessor	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Margaret Powell Requiem Mass
	St Joseph	7pm	Joseph Smith (RIP)
Wednesday 14th October St Callistus I	St Bede	10am	Margaret Hodgson & Hodgson & Stephenson Families
	St John Boste	7pm	Priest's Intention
Thursday 15th October St Teresa of Jesus	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am	Living & Deceased Of Ford & McDevitte Family
	St Joseph	Noon	Peter Mulcahy (RIP)
Friday 16th October Ss Hedwig and Margaret Mary Alacoque	St Joseph @ St. Benet's	9.15am	Priest's Intention
	St John Boste	10am*	Priest's Intention
Saturday 17th October	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	10am*	Tom Davidson (RIP)
Vigil St Ignatius of Antioch	St Joseph	5pm	Maurice Mulchay (RIP)
	St Bede	5pm	Clare Bottoms and son Stephen (RIP)
Sunday 18th October 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time	St John Boste	9:30am	Joyce Joan O'Brien
	Our Lady Queen of Peace	10am*	People of the Parish
	Our Blessed Lady Immaculate	11am	Ann Widdecombe (RIP)

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

An invitation from God ... RSVP. But as we listen many people then turn it down. Imagine that today in our sophisticated world! However, for a moment imagine the queues and the inevitable scramble if FREE tickets were available to a royal wedding, a cup final, a long anticipated boxing match or even concert tickets to go and see Oasis.

People at the time of Jesus had excuses. Think of the excuses we hear today. An excuse can be justified but is only part of the real story. What is the full truth. That is something we all have to answer honestly for ourselves. There is a half-story to cover up every time we do wrong or give to God less than we ought.

In our lives of faith what do we look for? The most convenient time of mass, the fast food outlet such as the 'fast Mass priest'

Fr. Andrew Shaw

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! There will be no meeting on Tuesday the 13th out of respect for Margaret Powell's requiem mass.

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 Next Week: World Mission Sunday

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

SVP Sing And Chat.

Everyone is welcome to join us at The Black Bush, Washington Village, from 12:15 until 3 pm on Friday 16th October 'NEW SONG'!

Come and join us for October New Song to give thanks for all that God is doing in our lives. All are welcome!

Where: Our Blessed Lady Immaculate Emmaus Room. NE38 7HS

When: 11 October 2026 @ 4.00 pm.

Email: newsongne@gmail.com

Instagram: @newsongne

Next Choir Practice at OBLI will be on Tuesday 13th October at 7pm . **The choir needs you**, even if you're not great at singing but would like to participate, come along and join us. All are 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

Children and the Word- 17 October 2026 - Each Sunday, God's people gather together to celebrate in Word and Sacrament the mystery of Our Lord's death and resurrection. The celebration of the Mass includes everyone, both young and old. The key aim of Liturgy of the Word with Children is to proclaim a Gospel translation and facilitate interactive discussion appropriate to children.

"Children and the Word" is a diocesan day of Refreshment and Reflection on Sunday Children's Liturgy and Godly Play and is prepared and led by the Liturgical Team. Date: Saturday, October 17th, Time: 10.00am-3.00pm. Cost: £15 (payable by parish or attendee as appropriate) Venue: St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7NL. Teas and coffees provided but participants will need to bring a packed lunch. Booking is essential – please register [here](#)

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

SVP SUMMER RAFFLE RESULTS

Thank you to everyone that contributed to this year's Summer Raffle by purchasing tickets. We can now announce the winning numbers.

1st Prize £5,000 - [601018](#)

2nd Prize £1,000 - [453036](#)

£100 (x15) - 458960, 450007, 457117, 540090, 510788, 535111, 539265, 582943, 520472, 509133, 580493, 609979, 478543, 595895, 504031

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.



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/>

As part of the **National Week of Prayer (10th-18th October)**, we would love to invite you and members of your congregation to join us for a time of community prayer.

Thursday 15th October

12:00pm - 4:00pm

Main church/Upper Hall

Chowdene Church at the Strongpoint Centre

[660 Durham Road, Low Fell, Gateshead NE9 6JA](#)

"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.

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.



[To post a notice on this Newsletter, please click stjohn23bulletin@gmail.com](#)