

**West Durham Catholic Parishes:
Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor**

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St Michael's Esh Laude: Tel. (0191) 373 1205

Hospital

R C Chaplain Father Paul Tully Tel. (0191) 5265131

Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit.



Happy 1st week of Advent!



	St Joseph's Ushaw Moor	St Michael's Esh Laude	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Newhouse	St Joseph's Langley Park
Saturday 2 December	6.00 pm Mass Clifton Ward and Michael Radstock, John Cantwell & P of P			
Sunday 3 December <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>		9.00 am Mass Joseph & Mary Tobin, Hilda & James Brennan & People of the Parish	10.30 am Mass Teresa, Tommy & Terry Duffy, Harry Adams, The Kenny Family & People of the Parish	
Monday 4 December				
Tuesday 5 December	6.15 – 6.55 pm Confessions 7.00 pm Mass NBF			
Wed 6 December		9.15 am Mass (in School Chapel) Priest's Intention	9.15 am Mass Priest's Intention	
Thursday 7 December		11.00 am Funeral Service Paul Hassan	9.15 am Mass Priest's Intention	
Friday 8 December <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>				9.15 am Mass Priest's Intention
Saturday 9 December	6.00 pm Mass Jackson & Bullen Family & People of the Parish			
Sunday 10 December <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>		9.00 am Mass Frank and Lizzie Armstrong, Evelyn & Thomas Seymour & People of the Parish	10.30 am Mass Paul Boddice (sick), Thomas & Mary Johnson & Esme, Mary Agnes Golightly & People of the Parish	

Recently dead: Paul Hassan, funeral service at St Michael's on Thursday at 11.00 am, Ken Johnson (Quebec).

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent: Today we begin the season of Advent and the word 'advent' means 'a coming'. But Advent falls into two parts. The *second* part, from December 17th – 24th, invites us to think about the forthcoming story of Jesus. The *first* phase of Advent, from today until December 16th, is not specifically about 'Christmas' at all. This first phase invites us to look into our hearts to discern what we are most searching for in our lives and then, in our searching, to open our lives to God, to allow God to come in. We can, each of us, start that today. What are you most yearning for in your life?

– David Coxon

Preparing for sacraments: Recently children and parents have been thinking about their baptism, and the significance for every day of our 'being baptised'. Today, at mass, we will have short liturgy with our children. Let's pray for our families these next few months.

Raffle tickets ... available today at Ushaw Moor. Would you like to donate a raffle prize?



The Advent crib:

Today Advent we have an empty crib in our churches. Each weekend we can focus on an aspect of the crib and respond to that for people in need. The shepherds, for example, were sleeping out at night in the fields, short of food. So, today, we have brought tins of food to put inside the crib. This food will then be given to the Food Bank. These same shepherds must have been fairly cold, sleeping rough so, next week, we can bring good quality unwanted clothes which can be offered to 'Changing Lives' (previously 'The Cyrenians'). They provide specialist services to vulnerable people and their families, including those experiencing homelessness. They would be grateful for donations of **good quality men's and women's winter clothing**. These will be taken to their accommodation services at Plawsworth near Chester Le Street. The third week we can focus on Mary and Joseph awaiting the birth of their child. Maybe bring to the crib some new baby clothes. Please bring your offerings into the crib itself, though, rather than leave them at the back of church or at school, or else the symbolism will be lost. Next week: good quality men's and women's unwanted winter clothes.

Catholic schools: Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it. Now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

Congratulations... to Kirstie Davidson and Melanie Lee who were welcomed into the Catholic Church at Ushaw Moor last weekend, and to Bev Rochester who was welcomed at St Michael's, Esh. All three were confirmed and now share in Holy Communion with us.

Food bank items welcome into the crib today.

Newhouse fayre: Thank you for the £1,133-45 that was raised at the Fayre at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs last Sunday. And thank you to all who organized and helped.

Carol Services: This year our Carol Service for Ushaw Moor will be at the Baptist Church on Monday, December 18th at 6.30pm. For Esh it will be at St Michael's Anglican church at 7.00pm on Tuesday, December 19th.

Rosary: All welcome from all of our parishes to come and pray the rosary at our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish Centre at 7.00pm THIS Thursday, December 7th.



Christmas masses: This year Christmas Day falls on a Monday. Our Christmas masses will be:- Christmas Eve (Sunday), 5.00pm at St Michael's, Esh then 7.30pm at St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor. On Christmas morning our 10.00am mass will be at Newhouse. **But, please note:** because Sunday is also Christmas Eve we will have only one mass for the fourth Sunday of Advent. The mass for Sunday will be the vigil mass at Ushaw Moor at 6.00pm on Saturday, December 23rd. There will be no masses on Sunday morning, December 24th.

Esh Christmas radio: Tune in on-line during Advent: <http://eshradio.uk>

'Lepra' Ros Kerry has been here two or three times to speak about leprosy and the work of 'Lepra'. She is a great speaker and always has people captivated. Ros will be here again next Saturday/ Sunday, December 9th/ 10th and will make an appeal on behalf of 'Lepra'.

Memory Cafe: on Tuesday 12 December 1-3 pm for those affected by dementia, and their carers at St Joseph's RC Church, Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham. DH1 2JG.

CAFOD: Help others... Christmas gifts ideas... Pick up a green brochure from the back of church.

Ushaw College:

- Thursday, December 7th 7.30pm: Royal Northern Sinfonia Baroque Christmas by candlelight. £15. Under 18's: £5.
- Friday, December 8th, 7.00pm: 'The Snowman' with Durham Youth Orchestra. £5 (concessions £3).
- Saturday, December 9th, 1.30pm and 3.00pm: 'The Snowman' (as above)
- Sunday, December 10th, 3.00pm: Handel's 'Messiah'. £12.



Advent Alms: St Cuthbert's Care works all the year round helping to improve the lives of the most vulnerable members of our communities. When you contribute to the 'Advent Alms' box you are supporting this work in a very practical way.

Christmas lamps: Envelopes are now available at the back of church for you to fill in. If you are able you might like to offer a donation of, perhaps, £5 to cover the cost. If you cannot afford the £5 please take a lamp anyway. The lamps will be lit at Christmas.

God of all creation,
you have constantly poured out your Spirit
upon our diocese and kindled here a light
which has spread throughout the world. Lord Jesus,
you gathered disciples to yourself to learn from you
and to model their lives on you.
Your Holy Spirit empowered them
to continue your work in the world.
Come upon us, Holy Spirit,
deepen the faith you invite us to share
and inspire us to become faithful witnesses.
As we begin to develop our partnerships,
help each one of us to use the gifts you give us
to nurture one another, to serve the world,
and to live in harmony with the whole of creation.
All of this we ask in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

