



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

**St John Boste Pastoral Office, Durham Road, Ushaw Moor, Durham. DH7 7LF**

Priest: Father David Coxon Tel: (0191) 373 0219

Secretary: Lisa Hatton Tel: (0191) 373 0219

Office Hours: Tues – Thurs from 9.30am–2.30pm

E-mail: [stosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com](mailto:stosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com)

Website: [wdrcp.org](http://wdrcp.org)

Primary Schools: St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor: Tel. (0191) 373 0355

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning: Tel. (0191) 373 4343

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.*



	<b>St Joseph's Ushaw Moor</b>	<b>St Michael's Esh Laude</b>	<b>Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Newhouse</b>	<b>St Joseph's Langley Park</b>
<b>Saturday 16 December</b>	6.00 pm Mass John Halpin & People of the Parish			
<b>Sunday 17 December</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>		9.00 am Mass Tony Sands, Louisa and Clara Weighill, All members of the Davidson Family, Rita Hogan, Rose & Tom Grieve, Grieve & Donnelly Families, Maureen Rowntree & People of the Parish	10.30 am Mass Christine Potts & People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 18 December</b>				
<b>Tuesday 19 December</b>	6.15 – 6.55 pm Confessions 7.00 pm Mass N.B.F.			
<b>Wed 20 December</b>		9.15 am Mass (in School Chapel) Priest's Intention	9.15 am Mass Kevin & Roseanna Slevin and Frank & Nancy Hogan	
<b>Thursday 21 December</b>			9.15 am Mass Priest's Intention	
<b>Friday 22 December</b>				9.15 am Mass All members of the Goundry and Chapman Families
<b>Saturday 23 December</b>	6.00 pm Mass Mary Keelty & P of P			
<b>Sunday 24 December</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	6.00 pm Mass People of the Parish	5.00 pm Mass Martyn Anthony Hallam. All members of the Gowland and Quinn Families & P of P	-No Mass-	

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**The coming feast:** The ancient Roman feast of 'Saturnalia' was celebrated in mid-December and was a time of joy and merriment, for feasting and the giving of gifts. Early Christians 'stole' this pagan feast to commemorate the birth of Jesus so this, in turn, led to the way we now celebrate Christmas. Perhaps this non-Christian feast of Saturnalia is now being reclaimed because the less religious we become as a nation, the more hype we attach to the feast of Christmas. Western society spends increasing amounts of money on food, drink and gifts while Christians with faith feel increasingly overwhelmed by the sheer commercialism. In addition, we are being encouraged to 'treat ourselves' right through Advent with highly expensive Advent calendars. The gifts and the feasting are fun, except that this can marginalize the have-nots and the lonely still more. The Christian celebration of Christmas, on the other hand, seeks to *include* the have-nots, the lonely and the marginalized, and offer a deeper sense of life's meaning to all of us. D. Coxon

**Welcome!** Today we welcome Canon Robert Spence to St Michael's. Having been parish priest at Lanchester for several years he is now retired and living at Ushaw College.

**Advent:** Today we begin the second phase of Advent. We focus now on the coming of Jesus into our world and so are invited to take a closer look at our lives. If Jesus is to feel 'at home' within us then, this week, we consider whether our choices, priorities and decisions are aligned to the priorities of Jesus.

**Advent Crib:** Last week we gathered 70 bags of warm clothing which were passed on to 'Changing Lives', for which they were very grateful. Thank you.

**An Advent Service:** It's important that we try to do practical things to help create a sense of belonging to one another within our partnership of parishes. And so, we have planned an Advent service. Our service will be based on the theme of the Jesse tree, and every church in the partnership has prepared some of the leaves for the tree. We will bring all the leaves together at a service at St Cuthbert's, Durham today (Sunday), at 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome, and there will be refreshments after the service.

**Carol Services:** This year our Carol Service for Ushaw Moor will now be at St Joseph's on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm. For Esh it will be at St Michael's Anglican church at 7.00pm on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas masses:** 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be no masses on Sunday morning, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Drivers may like to offer lifts to next Saturday's vigil mass. If you usually attend a particular church and you are not part of the Planned Giving Envelope scheme you may wish to put your collection for December 23<sup>rd</sup>/ 24<sup>th</sup> into an ordinary envelope on which is written the name of your church. Your collection will then go to that church.

**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.

**Church cleaning:** at Ushaw Moor. Could you come and help at 7.00pm this Wednesday?

**'Northern Catholic Calendar 2018'** directory for addresses of churches, schools, clergy in our diocese. Available at church today: £3, or £3-50 for ring-bound version.

**Esh Christmas radio:** Tune in on-line to our own local radio during Advent: <http://eshradio.uk>

**'Lepra'** Ros Kerry thanks us for the £1074 our parishes gave for 'Lepra' last weekend. This will buy medication to cure 42 people from leprosy. Thank you!

**Schools' Admission Arrangements for 2019/20:** Where changes to admission arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published.

The policy for consultation for St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor is available on the school website at <http://www.ushawmoor-pri.durham.sch.uk/about-us/school-admissions/>

For OLQM, Esh Winning:

<http://www.olgom.durham.sch.uk/about-us/school-admissions/>

For St Michael's, Esh :

<http://www.stmichaelsesh.durham.sch.uk/about-us/school-policies/>

For St Leonard's: <http://www.st-leonards.durham.sch.uk/2017/12/consultation-on-admission-arrangements/>

Consultation will run from Monday 4 December 2017 – Monday 22 January 2018. A consultation response form is available by request from the relevant school. The governing body will consider all comments received before they determine the arrangements for 2019-20.

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**Samaritan Purse Shoe Box Appeal:** We are delighted to say that 245 shoes boxes were sent to Romania from our parishes. Thank you for your support and generosity. Special thanks to Judith Hemingfield and all those involved.

**Christmas lamps:** Envelopes are still available at the back of church. Please return all envelopes to the parish office by this Wednesday 20 December.

**Raffle tickets** ... on sale today at Ushaw Moor.

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.