



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

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

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

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

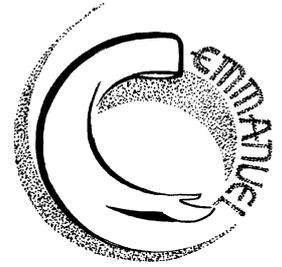
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning: Tel. (0191) 373 4343

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 23 December</b>	6.00 pm Mass Mary Keelty & People of the Parish			
<b>Sunday 24 December</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>7.00 pm Carols</b> <b>7.30pm Mass</b> People of the Parish	<b>4.30 pm Carols</b> <b>5.00 pm Mass</b> Martyn Anthony Hallam. All members of the Gowland and Quinn Families, Paul Boddice (sick) & People of the Parish		
<b>Monday 25 December</b> <i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>			<b>10.00 am Mass</b> People of the Parish	
<b>Tuesday 26 December</b> <i>St Stephen, First Martyr</i>				10.30 am Mass Priest's Intention
<b>Wed 27 December</b> <i>St John, Apostle &amp; Evangelist</i>			9.15 am Mass Priest's Intention	
<b>Thursday 28 December</b>				
<b>Friday 29 December</b>				
<b>Saturday 30 December</b>	6.00 pm Mass Clifton Ward People of the Parish			
<b>Sunday 31 December</b> <i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</i>		9.00 am Mass Mary and Joseph Tobin Louisa and Clara Weighill, Members of the Davidson Family	10.30 am Mass Rita Hogan, June and John Bell and Peg and Gerald Hannant and People of the Parish	

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Mary:** In the Scripture readings during Advent John the Baptist always plays a prominent role. Until today.... On this fourth Sunday we focus very much on the role of Mary. First, though, we look at our Old Testament reading from the Book of Samuel. Here we have King David acknowledging that, as king, he lives in a splendid house and now he wants to create a place for God to reside. But in our gospel, we have God choosing where God is to reside - within the womb of Mary of Nazareth. God cannot be confined to a building. We can, though, sense the presence of God in other people. This is part of what we mean by 'God becoming human'. In any one we know to be very approachable and human, in that person we can discern the presence of God. Jesus became human inside the womb of young Mary. Then, in the adult Jesus, people detected someone very approachable, understanding, supportive and very human and, in Jesus, they experienced the presence of God.

D. Coxon

**Raffle:** After mass at Ushaw Moor this Saturday we will draw out the numbers to discover the winners in the raffle. Thanks to all who have supported this.



**Advent Alms:** The 'Advent Alms' box will be at the back of the church until the feast of the Epiphany. Any money put into this box will help the work of 'St Cuthbert's Care' in its support of families in difficulty or hardship, whether financial or emotional. Thank you for your help.



**Christmas masses:** We have mass at Ushaw Moor this Saturday evening to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent, but there will not be mass at Esh or at Newhouse this Sunday morning. Sunday is Christmas Eve so these are our Christmas mass times: 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. If you usually attend a particular church and you are not part of the Planned Giving Envelope scheme you may wish to put your Sunday collection this weekend, and then your Christmas collection into an ordinary envelope on which is written the name of your church. Your collection will then go to that church.

**Next weekend:** Over the Christmas season Christians celebrate several feasts which emphasize different aspects of the Christmas story. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, for example, we honour the role of Mary as mother of the Lord; she was the one who brought Jesus into our world. On January 6/7<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, with those wise men from the east who represent all of us who are not Jewish. Next weekend, though, we will celebrate the feast of the holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. This gives us an opportunity to pray for everyone in our own families.

**'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.

**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.olqom.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.

**Tuesday mass:** Tuesday is a Bank Holiday. It is also the feast of St Stephen, the first person to be martyred because of his faith in Jesus. On Tuesday our mass will be at 10.30am at St Joseph's, Langley Park. Everyone welcome.

**Parish Office:** Lisa will not be in the Parish Office this week or next week.

**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.



**The Advent crib:** Very many thanks to all who have supported our Advent crib. During Advent we have focused on aspects of the crib and tried to respond to that, to benefit people in need. The shepherds, for example, were sleeping rough at night, out in the fields, without roof or shelter. So,

thank you for the tins of food and then the good quality warm clothing you have brought in to the crib. Then, last weekend, the figure of Mary was in the crib to accept baby clothes. Because of your generosity we were able to take almost 30 bags of baby clothes and knitted cardigans to asylum seekers, refugees and poorer families. A marvelous response throughout Advent! Thank you.



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.