

**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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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. (01388) 818544

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

Masses and services this week:

Saturday 11 May 6.00pm : St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor : In Thanksgiving; Hope and Vasey families;
People of the Parish

Sunday 12 May 9.00am : St Michael's, Esh : Jim, Philomena and Ossie Outterside;
All deceased members of the Foy family; People of the Parish.

10.30am: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Newhouse: First Communion mass;
John and Julia Suddes; Paul Boddice (sick); People of the Parish

Monday 13 May 11.00am: Funeral mass for Joseph McGinn at Newhouse

- **No masses from Tuesday - Friday**

Saturday 18 May 11.00am: Wedding service for Melanie Farrier and David Jordan

Saturday 18 May 6.00pm: St Joseph's Ushaw Moor: First Communion mass

Sunday 19 May 9.00am: St Michael's, Esh: First Communion mass; Frank and Lizzie Armstrong

10.30am: Jim Sedgewick and Rachel & Matty Suddes

Recently dead: Ron Jackson (Ushaw Moor): Funeral mass, Ushaw Moor: Wednesday 22 May, 9.45am
Anne Smart (Langley Park): Funeral service at crematorium Tuesday 21 May, 10.00am

Evangelisation: 'Evangelisation' is one of those churchy words which put people off. But what does it mean? It means 'sharing good news'. Most people don't like receiving bad news, but love to hear good news. That's what the word 'gospel' means: 'good news'. The gospel is something which makes us feel better about ourselves and prompts us to encourage and affirm others. But 'evangelisation' doesn't mean bible-bashing or standing in the middle of Durham shouting about Jesus. It just means that when people ask us about our faith, or ask us about what motivates us in our lives, then we answer honestly. We will feel better about being upfront about sharing our faith, and they will appreciate an honest response. If, in addition, they come to feel something of God's love for them then that is good news indeed. That really is 'gospel'. And that is what Paul and Barnabas were trying to share in today's first reading.

– David Coxon

Parish Communion Days: Congratulations to our children from Our Lady Queen of Martyrs parish who are sharing in Holy Communion for the first time this weekend. Through this 'communion' we welcome them and their families more deeply into our community of faith. Our First Communion masses at Ushaw Moor will be next Saturday, May 18th, 6.00pm and, at Esh, next Sunday, May 19th, 9.00am. The children will be presented with certificates on the feast of Pentecost (June 8/9th).

Little Sisters of the Poor: Retiring collection today to support their invaluable work in caring for the elderly.

Parish Office: Lisa may not be in the Parish Office this week.

Need a priest? I will be joining the clergy retreat during the week. If you need a priest urgently this week, from Tuesday, please contact Fr Robert Riedling at St Patrick's, Langley Moor (Tel. 378 4486). - David Coxon

Celebration of Marriage: All married and engaged couples are welcome to a special service with Bishop Robert Byrne at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle next Saturday (May 18th) at 11.00am.

'Serve the Lord with Gladness': A Day of Reflection for people in any ministry... If you weren't able to attend the day at Ushaw College last weekend then there is to be another on Saturday, June 15th, 10.30am – 3.30pm at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Gateshead.. See the poster at the back of church, then contact our Parish Office (373 0219). The parish will pay the cost for the day.

Mission Appeal: In two weeks time we will have someone coming to make an appeal on behalf of the missions.

Food bank: The Food Bank total last weekend came to **126.36 kg**. Thank you very much.

Becoming One Parish: We are now well on the way to forming our three parishes into one united parish. Each of our churches will keep its name but what do we want to call our joint parish? At an open meeting for all parishioners in January we had three suggestions:

- *'St John Boste'* : he is our local saint, arrested at Waterhouses and martyred in Durham in 1594. The joint-parish bank account for our three parishes is called the 'John Boste' account.
- *'Holy Trinity'* : because we are three parishes joining together as one.
- *'All Saints'* : this name would accommodate all the saints who currently are our parish patrons, without highlighting any one of them.

You might like to give this some thought. We will soon have a vote on the name of our new joint-parish.

Scripture study: A while ago some people expressed interest in some bible study. Our Journey in Faith group has spent time following the story of the bible but some people may want more which will help them appreciate the readings at weekend mass. We have an ecumenical group which meets once a month to look at the Scripture readings for the next month. The next meeting will be at St Andrew's church, Brandon on Monday May 13th, 3.30 – 4.30pm. All welcome

Renewal of ministries: Each year people are invited to renew their service to their parish through being re-commissioned in their ministries. There are a couple of things which concern me in this, though. One is that people exercising any ministry in the parish should themselves be sharing in our weekend mass on a regular basis, and not coming only when they are 'on duty'. The second is that sometimes people might have exercised their ministry during mass, whether as Reader, Holy Communion minister, children's liturgist or whatever, and then they leave before the end of that mass. That having been said then this year, Readers wanting to be re-commissioned will have that opportunity on June 15/ 16th. Holy Communion ministers will have a chance the following weekend, June 22/ 23rd.

Finchale Partnership Open Afternoons: Thank you to Fr Shaun Swales and the parishioners of Blessed Edmund Duke for your hospitality at last Sunday's Open Afternoon at St Joseph's, Coxhoe. It was a joy to meet the members of the parish community, and fascinating to learn about the history of the church - and of course, the cakes were very welcome! Our next Open Afternoon is scheduled for Sunday 2nd June at St Patrick's, Langley Moor.

Risen Christ,
from your abundant grace,
pour out afresh your Holy Spirit upon our Diocese.
As we build on the deep foundations of faith
laid by the countless saints of these Northern lands,
by Aidan and Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede ,
may our Partnerships continue the mission
of building your Kingdom on the earth:
to give living witness to your love,
and to your compassion and hope for our world.
We pray in trustful confidence
that your power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Through the same Christ our Lord,

Amen

