

St John Boste Parish, West Durham

Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor

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

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 Secretary: Lisa Hatton Tel: (0191) 373 0219
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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.



	St Joseph's Ushaw Moor	St Michael's Esh Laude	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Newhouse	St Joseph's Langley Park
Saturday 21 December	6.00 pm Mass Ron Jackson & People of the Parish			
Sunday 22 December <i>4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT</i>		9.00 am Mass Marion Redmond, James & Anne Redmond, Maggie Rowntree, Frank Coates & People of the Parish	10.30 am Mass Christine Potts, John & Julia Suddes & People of the Parish	
Monday 23 December				
Tuesday 24 December	4.30 pm Christmas Carols 5.00 pm Mass For everyone in our area		7.00 pm Christmas Carols 7.30 pm Mass For everyone in our area	
Wed 25 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD		10.00 am Mass Martyn Anthony Hallam, All members of the Gowland and Quinn Families, Joan & Oswin Towns Snr. For everyone in our area		
Thursday 26 December <i>St Stephen, First Martyr</i>				
Friday 27 December <i>St John Apostle & Evangelist</i>				
Saturday 28 December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	6.00 pm Mass Veda, Irene & Jonathan Ramm, Marie Smith & People of the Parish			
Sunday 29 December <i>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY AND JOSEPH</i>		9.00 am Mass Mary and Joseph Tobin & People of the Parish	10.30 am Mass Nancy & Harry Adams & People of the Parish	

Recently Dead: Eileen Watson, Ann McElrue (Clare Taylor's mam).

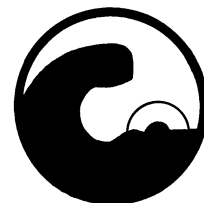
Anniversaries: Ushaw Moor: Kate O'Neill, Colin Henessey, Jane Finnigan, Renee Connolly, Jean Parry, Catherine Murray, Susan Thornton, Catherine Wilson, Clare Marsh, Mary Jane Gallagher, James Keely.

Esh Winning: Julia Suddes, John Rowntree, Nancy Fairless, Margaret Bradley, Thomas Daly, John Patterson, Rose Ellen Moran, Mary Hannah Curtis, John Rochford, Monica Kitching, Doris Sarah Wilson, Mary Quigley, James Roche, Patrick Dockery, Thomas Carr, Peggy Owen, Joseph McDermott, Joseph McKie.

Esh & Langley Park: William Lyons, Peggy and Bob Demmery, Margaret Tomaney, Mary Bygroves, Mary Bella Tonner, Jim Roche, Denis Mullaney, Veronica Donnelly, Maria Smith, Catherine Davidson, Brian Suddes, John Lyons, Norah Lyons.

Collection Details: Ushaw Moor: £ 128.15 Esh: £105.00 Esh Winning: Attendance: 60 Collection: £134.12

	Ushaw Moor	Esh/Langley Park	Esh Winning
Holy Communion Ministers	Lisa Cummings <u>Lauren Blakey</u> Christina Parker	<u>Susan Clark</u> Margaret Hallam Shelagh Robinson	Colin Davies & Kenneth Kitching
Readers	Peter Murray	Geraldine Granath Denise Kendall	Lynda Elliott & Ann Lawlor
Prayers of Intercession			
Welcomer		Eileen Tallentire	
Children's Liturgy		Christmas Holidays	
Counting Team	John & Lesley Thornton		Angela White & Susan Carmedy



The maiden is with child. We can sometimes think that the ancient prophets 'foretold the future' in an almost magical way. An example of this is today's first reading where Isaiah speaks of the maiden with child who will soon give birth to a son. We can be tempted to say "Amazing! Isaiah is foretelling the birth of Jesus!" Except, of course, that Jesus wasn't born until 700 years after the time of Isaiah. This isn't exactly 'soon', as mentioned in the reading! This is a bit like someone in the 1300's making a prophecy which won't be fulfilled until 2020. No, the prophets are not *foretelling the future*. What is happening is that, in the early years of Christian history, Christians were drawing on the hopes of people in the Hebrew scriptures (ie 'the Old Testament') to proclaim what they now believed about Jesus. The Christians were declaring what they had come to believe about Jesus *in the context* of the Hebrew bible. Yet, in our liturgy today, when the gospel quotes this passage from the prophet Isaiah, this doesn't stop us acknowledging and celebrating the role of Mary in bringing Jesus in to our world.

David Coxon

Gift Aid: Gift Aid declaration forms need to be changed because of our becoming one parish, the parish of 'St John Boste'. There are 'standing order forms' and 'declaration forms' available in envelopes today for you to complete and return to church ASAP. The changes will be effective from 4 January 2020.

Parish Office: Lisa will not be in the Parish Office from now until January 2nd.

DIOCESAN ACADEMY POLICY FOR OUR SCHOOLS: Please see important notice on Church notice board about academies.

Advent Alms: 'St Cuthbert's Care' offers an incredible service in our diocese. It offers care for the elderly (including some of our priests), residential care for children, fostering services and specialist provision for people with profound disabilities. The 'Advent Alms' box at the back of church invites donations to support the great work of St Cuthbert's Care.

'Northern Catholic Calendar' 2020: This is the directory for our diocese for 2020. It offers information about parishes, schools, convents, mass times, address of clergy etc. The book is available at church for £3-00.

St Joseph's Christmas raffle: Last chance to buy tickets! The draw will be after 6.00 pm Mass.

'The God who Speaks' Some of us may know the bible quite well. Many of us possibly don't. But don't worry. It's good for all of us to deepen our understanding a little more. During the course of the coming year we are invited to get to know the bible better. At the back of the church there are again some leaflets with reflections of this week's Scripture readings. They seem to be very popular. Please feel free to take a copy. In the meantime, here are the answers to last week's little quiz about the bible. The question was: *'Can you put the following people/events into the correct chronological order?'* 1. Abraham (about 1800 BC); 2. Moses (c. 1250 BC) 3. The Exodus (ie 'the escape from Egypt', about 1240 BC); 4. King David (c. 1000 BC); 5. Jesus (c. 6 BC – c. 30 AD); 6. St Paul's letters (c. 50- 67AD); 7. Gospel of Matthew (c. 75 AD).

New Year's Day: On New Year's Day, we will celebrate the feast of 'Mary, the Mother of God'. In terms of our hopes and intentions for the coming year it can be helpful and uplifting for us to come together that day to celebrate our mass. This might be especially true now that we are one parish, under our patron, the local martyr St John Boste. Our mass will be at St Joseph's, Langley Park at 10am.

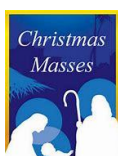
'White Flower Appeal' Human life is precious. People who believe in God would go so far as to say that human life is 'sacred'. It is for this reason that we seek to protect all human life, from conception until death. Yet, for all that, women can sometimes feel trapped when they discover they are pregnant. It might be their health which causes them to be anxious about pregnancy. It may be their financial situation. It may be because of their age, whether very young or not so young. Whatever the situation, pregnancy can sometimes bring anxiety and fear rather than joy. People can feel trapped and so turn to an abortion. The 'White Flower' appeal seek to offer some support at various levels so as to protect children, and parents too. On January 4/ 5th we will have a retiring collection to support the work of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

Looking ahead a bit Staff at Ushaw College are wondering if we might like to have our Holy Week services at the college again next year. They are also trying to organize some choirs to sing some 'sacred music' that week. Some of this could be incorporated into our services though, of course, we wouldn't want our liturgies to become a mere 'add-on' to what is essentially a choral concert. This needs to be thought through. The question to consider, though: what are your thoughts about services at the college next Holy Week? Or would you prefer to have them in our parish?

Partnership Prayer:

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



Christmas masses

Christmas Eve 5.00pm : St Joseph's, UM
Christmas Eve 7.30pm : OLQM, Newhouse
Christmas Day 10.00am : St Michael's, Esh