



## St John Boste Parish, West Durham

Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor

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



## Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord: 12 April 2020

Once upon a time, many families kept a tortoise as a pet. This is not true any longer but ..... imagine a family buying a young tortoise. Tortoises live a very long time but this one was still young. Our little tortoise is put into the garden and then a low wooden fence is built around the borders of the garden so that it can't wander off and get lost. The tortoise ventures slowly all around the garden munching the grass and, sometimes, the flowers and it gradually becomes accustomed to its territory. After a while the wooden fence is lifted and removed. But our tortoise now knows its territory well and never thinks to explore beyond where that fence used to be. The garden is its territory, its world. There it is happy, enjoying its life, one day to the next. It cannot conceive that there exists a whole new life outside its own garden. And maybe we are not unlike that tortoise in that we live our lives, one day to the next, through all of life's ups and downs, unaware that there exists a life beyond 'our own garden', beyond our own experience of 'life'. Perhaps that is part of what 'resurrection' is all about: a discovery, a realisation that there is a whole lot more to living than we had been aware of. And for 'resurrection' we need not wait until after we have died. In 'resurrection' we can start to live in a new way, for the boundaries and the frontiers we used to have are now lifted and removed. So, perhaps you would now like to read slowly our Easter Sunday passage from John's gospel:



*'It was very early on the first day of the week, and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb, and she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb," she said, "and we don't know where they have put him." So, Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first. He bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over Jesus' head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw, and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.'* (John 20: 1-9)

- If you had been Mary of Magdala, how might you have reacted when you saw that the stone blocking the tomb entrance had been moved away?
- Why do you think Peter might have hesitated before stepping into the cave that was Jesus' tomb?
- The other disciple 'saw', and he 'believed'. He needed to *interpret* what he was seeing. How might you explain to someone else what 'resurrection' means for you.

**Recently deceased:** Billy Donnelly (Langley Park), may he rest in peace.

**Anniversaries this week: St Michael's church:** John Burns, John Robinson, Kenneth Manghan, Patrick Mullaney.

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:** Agnes Collins, Thomas Hansom, William, Elsdon, Colin McPhail, Rose Anne Coad, Ann Cutmore, Kevin Boyle, Winifred McDermott, Jack Gannon, James Lowergan, Joan Peart.

**St Joseph's church:** Anne Skelton, Veronica James, Dennis Sunter, Deacon Meah, Roy Hall, Lawrence Murray, Ray Dawson, Gertrude Towns, William Payne, Ronald Cassidy, Richard Purdom, John Robinson.

**The Northern Cross:** There is no printed issue out in April. BUT there is an electronic version which is FREE for everyone this month. Just go to the website where it can be found as a pdf. However, there are two points: first, the 'Northern Cross' is struggling right now. It is self-funded and, in our present situation, it has lost its advertising revenue. To help its chances of staying alive, might we try to pay the £1 monthly subscription in the next months? Secondly, and really important, the editor is asking for written contributions from parishioners on how they're worshipping, general contributions about living through the pandemic. All as a support for others. The normal contributions won't be happening so it's vital the pages are filled. And it'll lift the spirits of readers.

# EASTER SUNDAY

**Celebrating 'eucharist':** The Eucharist lies at the heart of who we are as Christians and this Easter, sadly, we are unable to gather to celebrate the Eucharist. Yet, this does give us the opportunity to think about what 'eucharist' means. We can talk about trying to 'get a mass' or 'not getting communion' in these difficult days. But the Eucharist is not something that we 'get', or a holy ritual that we 'watch'. It is not something that the priest makes for us. The Eucharist is something that we, the whole People of God, *do*. 'Eucharist' is the activity of thanking God the Father, something we do as a gathered faith-community. Our focus, therefore, is on thanking the Father. This is our basic activity as Christians: to thank the Father. Perhaps, then, it is important for us to seek to be thankful for *all* that we receive: for our meals, for the groceries we manage to buy, for the people who bring in our shopping. If we forget to be thankful for the everyday things, then our thanksgiving in the Eucharist may not come so readily. Our churches are buildings in which we gather for the Eucharist, but *we* are the Church and we are called to be 'eucharistic' (ie. full of gratitude and thankfulness) every day, and not just in church. Whenever we express our thanks to anyone, we are being part of a 'eucharistic' community. And let us remember that God's presence is everywhere, including with you, now, in your self-isolation. Let's remember too that Jesus said "*where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them*" (Matthew 18: 20). Perhaps two or three (or more) of you are in your house together at this moment. Then the Lord is with you. Two or three people on Facetime or Skype: the Lord is with you, present to you. Locked together in our houses, we recall that our room is our basic place of prayer (see Matthew 6: 5-6). Go to your room not just to escape the rest of the family! Go to your room to have deliberate quiet time. Don't be afraid to be still. Don't be afraid of the silence. And may 'the resurrection' be for you a time to be raised up. Happy Easter!

David Coxon (based on an article written by Thomas O'Loughlin)



## Mass and prayer available online:

- <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>
- Live Masses throughout the day from around the world
- <https://us.magnificat.net/free>
- Daily readings and Morning and Evening Prayer
  - Vatican Media Live
  - Our diocesan website: rcdhn

**Thank you:** One or two people have dropped envelopes with money through the letter box of the Parish Office or have said they are putting money into their envelopes each week. Thank you! This is much appreciated since, with no masses at present, the parish has very little income for the foreseeable future.



**Your memories:** Having mentioned how, when I lived in the west end of Newcastle, 'Age Concern' invited older people to write down their memories from childhood, I suggested that while we are spending rather more time in our houses, we might like to write down our memories from childhood and, maybe, share these later. Some people have already told me of some of their memories. Fascinating! Maybe you too would like to write down some memories and we can share them later.

**A thought:** "in the rush to return to normal, it's worth using this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to ..."

**Smile:** New Zealand's Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, has said that the Easter bunny and the Tooth Fairy are both able to operate this weekend because they are 'essential workers'.



**Food bank:** Our food bank reserves are disappearing because of our being unable to go out. So how can we continue to help? We are asking people who normally donate food to donate money instead using our website [durham.foodbank.org.uk](http://durham.foodbank.org.uk) and clicking on the Donate Now button. Alternatively, for those without internet access, you can send a cheque made out to **Durham Foodbank** and sending to our head office at: Mile House, Bridge End, Chester le Street, Durham, DH3 3RA. Thank you.

**Facebook page:** We have set up a Parish Facebook page. If you are interested in being part of this then the name of the Facebook Group is "St. John Boste Parish Community".

## Maundy Thursday liturgy:

our usual Maundy Thursday liturgy includes the washing of feet to show the importance of our mission to be of service to others. On Maundy Thursday this year we have shown our support in another way for those who are of service to others. At 8.00pm we joined the people of our land to clap our gratitude for all who serve us in the NHS and as carers. This handclapping was an important liturgy this Holy Week.



**200 Club:** £50 No.155 Jonathan Kitchen. £30 No.33 N.A.Rippon £10 No.160 M.Lee  
£5 No.104 H.Halpin £5 No.129 C.Rae. Payment will be made when we are once again allowed to go out!