



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

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: ushawmoor.stjohnboste@rcd.org.uk
(stjosephs.usshawmoor@btopenworld.com)

Website: wdrpc.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. (01388) 818544

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



Fifth Sunday Of Easter : 10 May 2020

Today's passage from the gospel of John may sound quite familiar. This is because, very often, people choose the first part of this text for funerals: *'there are many rooms in my Father's house'*. Because we may hear this passage mainly at funerals then this can blind us to any further understanding. The fact is, that when Jesus said these words, he was not speaking at a funeral! These words of Jesus are simply what people frequently *choose* for a funeral. So, when you read these words today, try to listen to what Jesus is saying as if you were hearing the words for the very first time. As ever, read the passage slowly and reflectively, and take note of any word, phrase or image that might speak to your heart....

'Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me, so that where I am, you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied." Have I been with you all this time, Philip," said Jesus to him, and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Let us see the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself; it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself; he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

(John 14: 1-12)

- 'Do not let your hearts be troubled' Is there anything troubling you at this moment? What? Perhaps with pen and paper you might like to write down what is troubling you, and why.
- 'There are many rooms in my Father's house....' This is a terrific visual image, perhaps of a castle or a mansion with loads of rooms. But what do you think Jesus *means* by using this image?
- 'No one can come to the Father except through me' How do *you* understand 'God'? What, in an everyday kind of way, does it mean for you to get close to God through Jesus?
- 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father' and 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me' Jesus would appear to be of the very same essence of God, made of the same stuff, as it were. Jesus shows us precisely what God is like in a way that is human, visible, tangible.
- 'Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself' What do *you* think is the most striking thing about Jesus of Nazareth? What do *you* think is the essential core of Jesus' message? How might you seek to live this out, each day?

Now, read the gospel passage again, slowly!

Recently deceased: **Patrick Howell** (Esh Winning). Funeral at Durham crematorium on Saturday, 16th May.

Susan Layton (daughter of Monica Smith and sister of Catherine Rae). Her funeral will be on Monday in Malton.

Grieveson Ward (Bearpark) died on Tuesday morning. Funeral at crematorium on Tuesday, 19th May.

May they rest in peace.

Anniversaries: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: John Duffy, Thomas McKay, Patricia Hogarth, Margaret Pickersgill, John Suddes, Billy Nicholson, John Ryans, Ann Turner, Isabel Hamill, Brian Traynor.

St Joseph's: Joyce Moore, Joseph Martin, Ann Walsh, Thomas Hurst, Marie Powell, Billy Smith, Teresa Wells, Elizabeth McDonald, Teresa Richardson. Lily Charlton, Elizabeth Anne Lea.

St Michael's: Joe Donnelly, John and Olive Finley, Margaret Goundry, Philip Quigley, Lisa Richardson, Rita Smith

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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".

Hospital visits: The University Hospital of North Durham has suspended visiting of patients, with limited exceptions for children's wards, maternity wards and end-of-life patients. However, the Catholic Chaplain is still able to visit patients, and to bring them Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick. If you know of a patient who wishes for a visit from the Catholic Hospital Chaplain, please inform Fr Paul Tully on 01388 818544 or frpaultully@outlook.com



Looking for a project to be working on during this time?

A Care Home in Sunderland is no longer allowed to have a real fish tank, as the water is a safety hazard. So, the plan is to create a knitted aquarium! If anyone

would be willing to join in, there are a number of patterns available. Please let Karen Thompson know (or the Parish Office) and we'll get the patterns to you.

Daily readings and Morning and Evening Prayer:

<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

Mass and prayer available online: <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>

Masses for the sick and for carers: Our Bishops have agreed that every Thursday evening at 7pm a bishop will, in turn, celebrate a live streamed Mass in his Cathedral for all those frontline workers in the NHS and care homes, for the sick and their families and for the repose of the souls of the deceased. Next Thursday, 14th May, will be a special Day of Prayer for the Sick and for Carers and our own Bishop Robert Byrne will be celebrating the mass from St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle.



Gathering for prayer:

Each day quite a few of us are stopping to pray together at 12 noon. Not 'together' as in the same room, but 'together' insofar as we are linked together in spirit. Do feel free to join in each day

at 12, from your armchair or wherever you choose. Perhaps you pray for 3/4 different people each day, or perhaps one of the psalms, or perhaps just some time of quiet prayer. You choose! Also, I am again working my way through my parish address book, praying for each of you individually.

First Holy Communion:

Please pray for our children and their families who had hoped to be celebrating First Communion either last week (Newhouse) or next weekend (Ushaw Moor and Esh).



Thoughts... I have said that I'd be very happy to hear peoples' thoughts about the Scripture readings each week....! Anything you have found to be new, helpful, interesting? Two weeks ago, the gospel was about two disciples journeying to the village of Emmaus after the death of Jesus. Last week the gospel reading was about The Good Shepherd. I received very interesting comments about both of these passages. Thank you to those people who sent me their thoughts. Might anyone have any thoughts or reflections about today's gospel reading?

Pastoral Council: We are hoping to have a Pastoral Council meeting this Tuesday, 12 May, at 7.30pm. This will be via a telephone conference call. What are we looking at as an agenda?

1. The 'here and now' : can we better support the pastoral work currently being done by Fr David, and in a coordinated way?
2. Planning for when the churches reopen: could we revisit (from the minutes of our last meeting) what our perceived priorities were, and if these still 'ring true'? Also, do you think this time is leading people to seek God? Perhaps we ought to look deeper at the hospitality we offer...and do we provide enough opportunities for people to develop their relationship with God? To have a 'living faith'?
3. Communication
4. Finances/buildings/maintenance update.

Listeners: As part of the pastoral care of parishioners and others during this COVID-19 lockdown, a number of qualified counsellors and listeners have generously made themselves available to anyone who may be troubled by the negative effects of the situation. These counsellors and listeners can be contacted through the St Mary's Cathedral Listening Service on 0191 232 6953 and the Northumberland Listening Service on 07732 980740.

Northern Cross: "I hope you enjoyed the free access to our vibrant April edition. *Northern Cross* still needs many more digital subscribers during the present crisis. The closure of our churches results in income being drastically reduced as we are unable to provide printed newspapers. Your support at this time is absolutely vital and would be greatly appreciated. For practical information please look at the following suggestions, or email me, Tom Hoban, at tomhoban67@gmail.com

1. You can subscribe by cheque for £14.40 payable to Northern Cross and post it to: 11 The Grove, Hartlepool TS26 9NB (our office in Darlington is currently closed due to the present emergency)
2. £14.40 by bank transfer to account number **81602292**, sort code **40-43-11** using your surname & postcode as a reference (e.g. Smith TS26 9NB)

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 ..."