



St John Boste Parish, West Durham
Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor

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



Seventh Sunday of Easter : 24 May 2020

Praying: From our earliest days we were taught that 'praying' is something that is important for people who believe in God. The trouble is, many of us are not too sure how best to do this 'praying'. Is it a question of saying particular words? But that gets boring and, anyway, using somebody else's words can feel like cheating since they are not *my* words and sentiments. Surely, 'praying' is meant to be personal, things that *I* want to communicate to God. Then too, praying can feel like shouting into the wind; is there anyone actually hearing what I am saying? And what is the purpose of praying? Is it about me suggesting something to God that God hadn't thought of? Surely not. What praying does is to allow us to tune in to who God is, and to what God is thinking. It's not about us *persuading God to do something* such as ending the pandemic by tomorrow night, or healing someone who is ill. 'Praying' seeks to open our minds and our hearts so that we can begin to see the hand of God in every situation; even in the midst of a pandemic there can be times when we sense the presence of God. Even in the illness of a friend, there can be moments when we can detect the closeness of God. So, praying can be a bit like listening to those old wireless sets. At first, you get all sorts of whistling and screeching sounds until you manage to tune in to the correct station. Praying is about tuning in to which ever radio station God is communicating on today. This may not be the same

radio station as yesterday, so it takes patience! And if, on occasion, you simply can't manage to tune in to the correct channel, then don't worry. It seems that from God's point of view we 'get points' even for *trying* to tune in. It counts as 'praying' even by just making the effort. And it can then take a bit of time to become still and to be attentive and then, gradually, our hearts may become open to 'the God who Speaks'. Today's reading from John's gospel is a bit disconcerting because, at the beginning, Jesus is speaking to the Father in the third person; in other words, at first Jesus refers to himself as 'him', rather than 'me'. But the reading is also interesting because we are like a fly on the wall, we are silent observers, listening in and eavesdropping while Jesus is praying:

‘Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you; and, through the power over all mankind that you have given him, let him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him. And eternal life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I have glorified you on earth, and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, it is time for you to glorify me with that glory I had with you before ever the world was. I have made your name known to the ones you took from the world to give me. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now, at last, they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; for I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and they have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them; I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine, and in them I shall be glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.”’

(Gospel of John 17: 1-11)

- We can sometimes think of 'eternal life' to be all the things that we do on this world, but to be doing those things for ever. This reading suggests that 'eternal life' is not about *doing*; it is more about a *relationship*. 'Eternal life' is about knowing God and being close to Jesus. How do *you* try to be close to God?
- Jesus tells God the Father that he is praying for us. For *us*. For me and for *you*! What do you think Jesus might be asking from the Father for *you*? What do you pray for, for yourself?
- Jesus is not 'in the world' any longer. But *we* are in the world. How can we carry on the task that Jesus began?

Anniversaries:

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: Mary Ellen Woodmass, Doris Finnigan, Austin Jones, John Richardson, Charles Cran, William Brennan, Isabella Moran, Nancy Brennan, Rose Webster.

St Joseph's: Vera Donaldson, John Keelty, Arthur Gilfoyle, Teresa Kennick, Mary Casey, William Pattinson.

St Michael's: Eileen Coates, Vera Rowntree, Mary Brown, Frank Goundry, Aloysius Goundry, Thomas Tighe, Sarah Smith.

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Masses for the sick and for carers: The Bishops of England and Wales have agreed that every Thursday evening at 7pm a bishop in turn, will 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. This coming Thursday Bishop Terence Draney will be celebrating mass in Middlesbrough Cathedral. You can find the links for the live-streaming of these masses by visiting the Bishops' Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk).

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/>

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



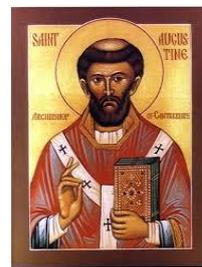
Food bank: Our food bank reserves are disappearing because of our being unable to go out. So how can we continue to help? We are asking people who normally donate food to donate money instead using our website durham.foodbank.org.uk and clicking on the Donate Now button. Alternatively, for those without 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.

Contact: Some parishioners have said they are very happy to keep in touch with others by phone or email, or shop for you. If you would like someone from church to phone you, or email, please let me know at the Parish Office.

News from the diocese: Remember, you can keep up with all sorts of news about support and resources in our diocese by looking at the diocesan website: rcdhn.org

Monday: Monday sees the feast of one of our great local saints, St Bede. He was born in Wearmouth (Sunderland) in 673 and he spent his entire life in the twin-site monastery of Jarrow and Monkwearmouth.

He was the very first historian of the English Church and people and was also a great Scripture scholar. He was known for his delight in learning, teaching and writing, and was keen to allow the Scriptures to speak to people's everyday lives. He played a hugely important role in developing the faith of people here in the North East, bringing the faith of many to greater maturity. Bede died in Jarrow on 25 May, 735.



Wednesday: St Augustine was born in Italy in the sixth century and, as prior of a monastic community in Rome, he was called by Pope Gregory to lead a group of 30 monks to preach the message of Jesus to the people of England. He wasn't the first to bring the gospel to these shores

but he is the best remembered. He arrived in Kent in 597 and, under Pope Gregory's guidance, he adapted rites and practices to local conditions. He established bishoprics in Canterbury, Rochester and London and is now revered as 'Augustine of Canterbury'.

Newsletters: Each week our parish newsletter is available on our website (wdrcp.org). Perhaps some people might like to print off a few copies to distribute to parishioners in their area who don't have access to the internet. I can provide names for you. Other people might be willing to deliver an ordinary paper copy of the newsletter to parishioners who live close to you. Again, I can give you names. Anyone happy to help with distribution?

Pentecost Novena: Phil Mackie and others have prepared a 'Pentecost novena' to help us prepare spiritually for the great feast of Pentecost next weekend. You can see this on our parish Facebook page. The nine-day novena began on Friday, the day after Ascension Day.

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.