



St John Boste Parish, West Durham

Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor

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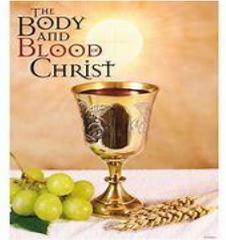
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning: Tel. (0191) 373 4343

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.



Corpus Christi : 14 June 2020 'The Body and Blood of Christ'

Corpus Christi: Today's feast is 'The Body and Blood of Christ', yet the feast is almost always known by its old Latin name, 'Corpus Christi'. It is a day when we focus on the significance of Christ's presence in the eucharist. Clearly, the feast this year is somewhat different insofar as we are unable to gather for the eucharist. Yet, the very fact that we can't come together gives us an opportunity to think afresh about what 'the eucharist' means. Over the years it is easy for us to have come to think of the Eucharist, Holy Communion as 'something we get'; we attend mass so as to 'get communion'. Yet this can reduce Holy Communion to simply a commodity. 'Eucharist' is something which, as the People of God, we **do** together. We are called to be a 'eucharistic people', a people whose natural response is 'to give thanks'. Think of how many times in a day, in a week, you say 'thank you' to someone. It is this which creates an everyday habit of 'being grateful', being grateful for unexpected and possibly undeserved kindness. It is then that as a grateful people, as a thankful people, as a 'eucharistic people', we gather to celebrate our Eucharist together, to give thanks to God. But, without those building blocks of an underlying gratitude, the Eucharist will be increasingly irrelevant. This period of lockdown gives us the chance to think about our role together as the people of the Church and it is surely more than simply attending mass and 'getting communion'. Pope Francis calls on us to take the Good News of Jesus to the 'peripheries', to the places where the most vulnerable, the poorest and the forgotten tend to be found. When our churches re-open for mass there may well be fewer of us, partly because some people may still be vulnerable and shielded and partly because some may by then have got out of the habit of sharing in a weekend mass. There may be more people unemployed too so our role as Church will need to be focused on serving those in need. We may also need liturgical and pastoral creativity in which, together, we look for new ways to bring the sacraments and the Gospel message to people in the context of public health restrictions. So, in a post-coronavirus world, Christians will be called upon to move more towards an active discipleship rather than being just passive attenders at mass. We will be called upon to *create* communion, that is, 'togetherness' and 'belonging', rather than just come to mass to *get* communion. So now, let's look at today's short second reading from Paul to the community of Christians in Corinth:



'The blessing cup that we bless is a communion with the blood of Christ, and the bread that we break is a communion with the body of Christ. The fact that there is only one loaf means that, though there are many of us, we form a single body because we all have a share in this one loaf.' (1 Corinthians 10: 16-17)

Then we have a section from St John's gospel: *'Jesus said to the Jews: "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world." Then the Jews starting arguing with one another: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" they said. Jesus replied: "If you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me, and I live in him.'*' (John 6: 51-58)

Does anyone have any thoughts on these readings??

Recently deceased: Frederick Thornton (Langley Park). His funeral will be on Thursday at 12.30pm.

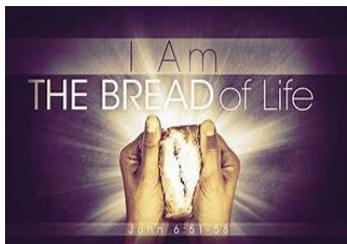
Anniversaries: Bishop Ambrose Griffiths (2011)

St Joseph's: Judith Richardson, Teresa Richardson, Robert Dawson, Ryan Marshall, Anne Burke, Thomas Geddis, Geoff Edean, John Rowan, Frank Witty, Bobby Craggs, John Gardiner.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: Syd Duggan, Susan Sands, John Crosby, Nancy Pickersgill, Gerard Slevin, John Hogan, Evelyn Argent, Patrick Fehiely.

St Michael's: Mary Magdalene Stones, Mary Jane Lowden, Arthur Stockdale, Sylvester Forster, Michael Quinn. Joan Hutchinson, Doris Bernie.

THE FEAST OF 'THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST'



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".

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/>

Experiments in praying: Recently I have been looking at a little book with a long title: '*Using Christian Contemplative Practice with Children: A Guide to Helping Children Explore Stillness and Meditation in Worship*'. It offers all sorts of different ways of praying for children (& adults!). Sometimes in the garden, sometimes holding things, sometimes using photos, sometimes sensory praying by walking barefoot, or smelling flowers ...It's a fascinating and very practical book by Sonia Mainstone-Cotton. It cost me £14.99, but you can possibly get it cheaper.

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.

Prayer for schools: The staff in our schools have been doing an amazing job these past three months. Throughout lock-down, our staff have been in school looking after children of key workers, providing school work for children at home and also trying to deal with everyday concerns within their own families. Recently, they have been rearranging furniture in classrooms so that our schools can re-open for *some* children on Monday (15 June). This may be a time of increased anxiety for some. Let's support with our prayer all those in our schools.



An interesting comment: Some people in our country would like to venture into a church to see what goes on but feel nervous, not sure of what to expect or what to do in a church. Recently, they have sometimes watched church services on television and they feel more comfortable being able to see what happens, without being seen. This can overcome any anxiety they may have felt about entering a church in the future. Interesting...

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

Thoughts... Each week I am trying to offer a bit more background to our Scripture readings and to invite everyone to interact with the word of God. This is what we mean by listening to 'the God who Speaks'. I would also be very happy to hear peoples' thoughts about the Scripture readings. Is there anything you have discovered as if for the first time? Anything that made you think? Might *you* have any thoughts or reflections about today's readings?

Newsletters!! Because there are no public masses at present 'Redemptorist Publications', who send the printed side of our newsletters, have temporarily stopped sending them. We also have a backlog of unused newsletters from the past few weeks so, for the moment, our newsletter will be printed *on old sheets*. It is not a mistake!

Diocesan Day of Scripture: There is to be a Diocesan Day of Scripture this Friday, 19 June. All of the aspects of the day can be accessed via our diocesan website and social media account. It is a great opportunity for people to increase their knowledge, understanding and experience of Scripture in this 'Year of the Word'. It begins at 10.00am and continues with various themes and topics until 7.00pm. Topics such as Lectio Divina, Scripture for children, the Lindisfarne Gospels, unlocking the mystery of the bible. There may be an advert on our parish website: wdrcp.org

Sundays: Different people are telling me about how they are having little liturgies at home with the family during lockdown. Parents are looking at the Scripture readings and then creating something 'hands on' that their children can identify with. Here's a simple one: get some soapy water and also something with a ring at the end. Think of various people for whom you wish to pray - the sick, the lonely, your friends - and for each person you pray for, blow 'their bubble' to God.

The Sacred Heart: This Friday, 19 June, will be the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The heart symbolises 'love', so we ponder the deep, profound, sacred love that God has for each of us, and for our world.

Re-opening of churches: There may be some confusion over recent news items about the re-opening of places of worship. Churches *can* re-open from Monday, 15 June, but only a very few. In the whole of our diocese we have five churches which are piloting a scheme of being open for private prayer only. In these churches there needs to be clear signage, stewards to ensure safe distancing and, after each opening, a thorough cleaning of that church. Other churches may open later following the same procedures. How we eventually gather for mass will need to be thought through very carefully. Safety is the main concern, so I ask everyone to be patient.