



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.



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 21 June 2020

The Pattern: We are now well past the Easter season and, with the end of that, we have celebrated Pentecost, Trinity Sunday and Corpus Christi. Now we have moved into what we call 'ordinary time', that part of the Church's year which is not of any particular season, but rather that long period between Corpus Christi and Advent. Today is the 'twelfth Sunday in ordinary time'. It is now worth noting a pattern in how the Scripture readings are presented each week. There is a pattern which exists every Sunday of the year, both in season and in ordinary time. The pattern is this: there is always a link, a theme, a common thread which runs through the first reading, its accompanying psalm, and the gospel. Sometimes this theme is not always too obvious, but it is always there. And the second reading on a Sunday? Well, the message of the second reading *may* share that common theme, but it may not. The second reading on a Sunday is simply offered as an additional passage of the scriptures 'at no extra cost to you!' Unfortunately, we can't include all of the readings in full in this new-format newsletter, but the common theme in today's readings is essentially this: **when everyone and everything seem to be against me, do I still feel able to trust that God is with me?** So, today, we have the prophet Jeremiah [c 625BC] saying: 'I hear so many people disparaging me: "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall. But the Lord is at my side.' The psalms are ancient Jewish prayers and today's psalm says: 'This is my prayer to you, Lord, my prayer for your favour: in your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails'. This thread is picked up in the gospel: 'Jesus instructed his disciples: "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Fear him, rather, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your hair has been counted. So, there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows".' So, the question which merges from today's readings is this: **when everyone and everything seem to be against me, do I still feel able to trust that God is with me?** [For full text of readings see: Jeremiah 20: 10-13; Psalm 68; Matthew 10: 26-33]



- Is there anything you are struggling with in your life at present?
- Are there any *people* you are currently finding difficult?
- Is anything thwarting your hopes and your dreams?
- In all of this, how would you currently rate your trust in God?

Anniversaries:

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs: Annie Comerford, Tommy March, Peter Boyle, William Brown, John Rowntree, Henry Maitland.

St Joseph's: Frances Fletcher, Thomas Clough, Peter Boyle, Tom Stoddart, Hilda Stoddart, Kathleen McArthur.

St Michael's: Kathleen Douse, Robert Callan, Hilda Mary Brennan, Albert Quinn, Bill Smith, Frederick Seymour, Margaret Goundry.

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/>

Scripture readings: 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'. If you should have any thoughts about the readings, I would be very happy to hear them!

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



Prayer at 12: Quite a few people are taking time to pause for prayer at 12 noon each day. Even though we are in different places this is chance for togetherness and solidarity in prayer. In addition, some people are praying together at their usual mass time.

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Re-opening of churches: There may still be some confusion over recent news items about the re-opening of places of worship. Churches *have* re-opened since Monday, 15 June, but only a very few that are being used as pilots to see how things go with numbers, distancing and thorough cleaning between each session of opening for private prayer only. No churches are yet open for masses or services. How we open up for masses will have to be thought through very carefully. Here are some answers from the diocese to frequently asked questions:-

- **What does ‘individual prayer’ mean under the new restrictions?** Individuals are expected to be able to “reflect and pray” whilst adhering to physical social distancing rules. Votive candles may still be lit but shared matches, tapers or lighters must not be used. Candles must be lit from existing lit candles. Statues and relics must not be touched or kissed. This instruction will be displayed on posters in church. Mass, and all other public services, including praying together the Divine Office, the Rosary and other group devotional prayers, are still not presently permitted.
- **When will my local church reopen?** The Diocese will be undertaking a site-specific risk assessment before any church can reopen. Further information about the reopening of more churches will be made available on the Diocesan website at www.rcdhn.org.uk, and on Facebook and Twitter.

Feast days this week: On Monday we celebrate the feast of St John Fisher and St Thomas More and, on Wednesday, we will keep the feast of the Birth of John the Baptist.

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.

One hundred: Monica Smith lives in Bearpark and next Thursday, on 25 June, she will be celebrating her 100th birthday. Sadly, Monica’s daughter, Susan, died only a few weeks ago. Her other daughter, Catherine Rae, lives in Ushaw Moor. Many congratulations to Monica. Please keep her on your thoughts and prayers this Thursday.



Mothers and Fathers: The first Sunday we had no public mass, 22 March, was Mother’s Day. That was a strange day indeed. The following evening the Prime Minister announced the lock-down. This Sunday is Father’s Day and, while the lock-down is gradually easing, it is still not over. Today is a day when among other things, we might pray for all mothers and fathers during this trying time. And, of course, we might each pray for our own parents, living or dead.

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!

BISHOPS’ CONFERENCE STATEMENT ON RACIAL JUSTICE:

Bishop Robert Byrne writes:-

“I am sure you have all been appalled by the killing of George Floyd and the violence that has followed this terrible event, both in our own country and throughout the world. The Black Lives Matter protests within England and Wales highlighted important issues within our own region. The Bishops’ Conference has issued a statement on this, which I, would like to share with you. Within our own ministry, we should always endeavour to express the Church’s rejection of racism, as clean contrary to the values of the Gospel”:

We stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the USA as they challenge the evil of racism and the brutal killing of George Floyd. As the US Bishops made clear: ‘we cannot turn a blind eye to these atrocities and yet still try to profess to respect every human life. We serve a God of love, mercy, and justice.’

Systemic racism is embedded in our own society. The disproportionate harm suffered by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people throughout the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted profound inequalities, marginalisation and injustice here in the UK. The peaceful Black Lives Matter protests taking place in our towns and cities this week reflect the understandable anger that so many people feel about this.

As Catholics we recognise that racism is an evil which must be opposed; we all have a responsibility for actively promoting racial justice. Whenever we ignore racism or dismiss Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people’s experience of it, we are complicit in violations of human dignity. We pray for God’s help to overcome racism in all its forms and that we might protect everyone who suffers its consequences. We are all made in God’s image.

Bishop Declan Lang, Lead Bishop for International Affairs; Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice