



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.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com)

Website: wdrcp.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.



Feast of the Holy Trinity : 7 June 2020

Trinity : Over the centuries, theologians have fallen over themselves trying to offer a helpful image or illustration of what it means to see God as 'trinity': three persons, yet only one God. Long ago, St Patrick pointed out a shamrock plant. The shamrock leaf has three lobes but, together, they form one individual leaf. In another example, you might look at water, steam and ice. They are three very different expressions of the same stuff. Then think about people: Julie might be a daughter, a wife and an auntie - three roles, but still just one 'Julie'. Dare I suggest that we don't fret too much about the detail of the doctrine. 'Trinity' is simply who God is! Quite often we can be surprised by an opinion expressed by a sibling, a wife, husband, partner that we have been with for years. If we can't fully understand one another, how might we ever expect fully to understand 'God'? 'Trinity' is just who God is though, in fact, we don't usually refer to 'trinity'; we tend to speak of 'the Father', 'the Son' and 'the Holy Spirit'. So, when we bless ourselves, we make the sign of the cross and imprint upon ourselves the mark of the Trinity; it's just that we don't often think of that as we are doing it. In revealing himself to be 'Father', 'Son' and 'Spirit', God is shown primarily to be *a God of relationship*. We are, each of us, created in the image and likeness of a God who is a God of relationships, so we can only relate to one another because we are in God's image. We laugh, we cry, we console one another We are only able to do these things and communicate and interact because we are each in the image of God, the God of relationships. This, of course, is one of the main reasons why the lockdown has been so difficult: social distancing, self-isolation, separation from family, grandchildren, friends. No kisses, no hugs, no handshakes. It is not a natural situation to be distanced from others. So, we have found it hard. We've been missing out on something that, essentially, helps to make us 'human' and, to make up for this, we have used the phone, emails, Facetime, Zoom, so as to bridge the gap. Yet none of these things beat a good old physical hug! Relating to others is something intrinsically human, but also something that is intrinsically Godly. Today is the feast of God as 'trinity'. Here is today's first reading from the Book of Exodus, and then part of today's gospel from John. Notice the very human sentiments and feeling in the readings:

- *'With the two tablets of stone in his hands, Moses went up the mountain of Sinai in the early morning, as the Lord had commanded him. And the Lord descended in the form of a cloud, and Moses stood there with him. Moses called on the name of the Lord. The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy and faithfulness." And Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshipped. "If I have indeed won your favour, Lord," he said, "let my Lord come with us, I beg. True, they are a headstrong people, but forgive us our faults and sins, and adopt us as your heritage.'* (Exodus 34: 4-6, 8-9)
- *'Jesus said to Nicodemus, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'* (John 3: 16-18)



Anniversaries: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: Richard Coad, Joseph Makepeace, William Curtis, John Traynor, John Shoulders, Isabella Hughes, Winnie Doyle, Isobel Elsdon.

St Joseph's: Mary Platten, Patrick Jennings, George Morris, Joseph Quigley, Kevin McMahon, Matthew Routledge, Teresa Bullen, Avril Finnegan.

St Michael's: Karl Stonebank, George Rowntree, John Traynor, Angela McNaughton, Thomas Hewitson, Thomas Towns.

Finchale Partnership newsletter: As you know, our parish of St John Boste belongs to a wider grouping of parishes that we call a 'partnership'. Ours is called 'Finchale partnership' and is named after the ancient monastic community that was based on the banks of the River Wear. Today there is a partnership newsletter available. Hopefully, this will also be on our own parish website.

FEAST OF HOLY TRINITY

Lockdown Regulations: At present, there is **no change** in the Government regulations which require the closure of all churches, and forbid public acts of worship. The Bishops of England & Wales are working with the Government to prepare for the reopening of church buildings for private prayer and, later, for public worship. Any change in the rules will be announced when it happens. Bishop Robert and the Diocesan Curia have begun planning for the reopening of some of our churches, when possible.

- The safety of parishioners, volunteers, staff and clergy will be the utmost priority.
- A small number of five churches will initially be opened as a pilot. These will be at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle; St Aidan's, Ashington; St Patrick's, Consett; St Mary's, Sunderland and St Joseph's, Hartlepool.
- A full risk assessment will be carried out on each church building by the diocesan Property Department, and procedures will be developed for safe opening.
- The Diocese will provide parishes with the necessary equipment for a deep cleaning of the church building, and for the regular cleaning that will be necessary.
- Volunteers will be needed for cleaning, and to act as stewards, ensuring that social distancing is maintained when the building is in use.
- Full compliance with these Diocesan protocols and procedures will be a requirement for clergy, employees and all volunteers so that the opening of our buildings is safe and shown to be safe.

The Bishop has asked us to take no action until we receive further guidance.

Newsletters!! Because there are no public masses anywhere at present the people 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!

Next Sunday will be the feast of Corpus Christi, 'the Body and Blood of Christ'. This is a day when we focus on the significance of the Eucharist, and usually a day when our Holy Communion ministers renew their commitment to be of service to the people of our parish. Ministers may wish to offer themselves afresh to the service of God next weekend; the rest of us might take the opportunity to give thanks for the sacrament that our ministers offer to us and to our household. Our inability to share in Holy Communion at this time may actually heighten our longing.



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/>

Northern Cross: "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)

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

Diocesan Day of Scripture : There is to be a Diocesan Day of Scripture on Friday, 19 June 2020. 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