



## St John Boste Parish, West Durham

Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor

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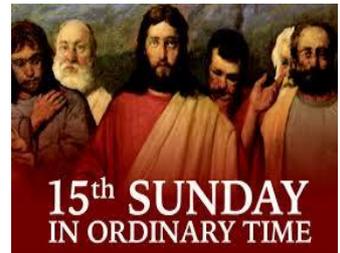
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Hospital

R C Chaplain Father Paul Tully Tel. (01388) 818544

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



## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 12 July 2020

**Talking about the weather:** The British have a worldwide reputation for always talking about the weather. In the early weeks of the lockdown we had sunshine day after day after day. Since then we have had days that have been more wet, windy and cool. But it's not just the British, you know, who talk about the weather. Country people across the world have always taken a close note of what the weather is doing. In today's first reading the man called Isaiah uses the example of the weather to say something about the importance of God's message, God's word. After a dry spell, the rain comes, and the rain has a transforming effect on the soil. In the same way, God's word is intended to have a very real effect upon us, on our attitudes and our way of living. God, through his word, seeks to transform us.

*"Thus says the Lord: 'Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do'." (Isaiah 55: 10-11)*

The Book of the Psalms is the Jewish prayer book and the psalms are often presented like poems. The psalms were usually chanted or sung rather than just spoken. In today's psalm, a prayer addressed to God, this image of the rain coming to refresh the earth follows on and develops that message from Isaiah:

*"[Lord,] you care for the earth, give it water; you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. And thus, you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps; in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. The hills are girded with joy; the meadows covered with flocks; the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing!" (Psalm 64)*

The weather, the rain, the effect on the crops..... Jesus also uses this familiar image to communicate how important it is to allow God's word to touch and to penetrate our lives and so change us and cause us to grow:

*"Jesus said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up, they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. So, when anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart; this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word of God and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him; he doesn't last; let some trial come or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He is the one who yields a harvest and produces ne a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty'." (Matthew 13: 1-23)*



- When you read or hear the words of Scripture, try not just to hear the words, but think about the message.
- Maybe try to read a bit of the gospel each day, and reflect on it. We are now following Matthew's gospel.

**Anniversaries: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:** Joseph Patterson, John McKenna, Mary Hogan, Bella Rowntree, Pat Shoulders, Olive McElwee, Margaret Halpin, Richard Moran, Andrew Chapman, James Daughtery.

**St Joseph's:** John Millmore, Peter Usher, Jerred Grimes, Olive Clarke, Mary A. Rowland. Robert Bullen, Theresa Bullen, Steven Griffin.

**St Michael's:** Anthony McNaughton, Catherine Lyons, Bernard Farnell, Isabella Rowntree, Joseph Tighe, James Hughes, Bridget Sherlock, Ellen Myers, Brian Carey.

## 15<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Re-opening our churches:** A group of ten or twelve people from across our churches came together at St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor last weekend and did an amazing job cleaning every possible surface so that the church can now be considered 'Covid safe'. We now hope to have St Joseph's open for individual prayer this coming week. However, do be prepared for changes. When you enter St Joseph's you will be met by a steward who will ask you to sanitise your hands and then lead you to a specific seat in the church since some benches are cordoned off. People of one household or 'bubble' can sit together but individuals need to stay two metres from others. Please don't touch statues, or anything else unnecessarily, and light candles only from ready lit candles. Don't share a box of matches or a taper. When you leave your seat follow the arrows to the front of the church, sanitise your hands and leave by the fire exit on the right. Also, please note that there will not be toilet facilities available. We hope to have St Joseph's open for quiet prayer next Saturday, 18 July from 11.00am – 2.00pm. This will help us to judge how best to progress. This will also help us to discover how best to move closer to celebrating mass together under these conditions. We need to remember too that each church will need to be cleaned thoroughly after every occasion that it has been open. This is why we will need a fair number of volunteers. Putting this very bluntly, the re-opening of any of our churches is absolutely dependent on our having people willing to help clean the church. It wouldn't be fair to expect the same group of people to have to clean each of our churches in advance of every service.



- If you are in the [clinically extremely vulnerable group](#), you must not volunteer at this time.
- If you are in the [clinically vulnerable group](#) you could be at a higher risk of severe illness from Covid-19.
- For more information please [read page 3 of our handbook for the reopening of churches](#) on the diocesan website [[rcdhn.org.uk](http://rcdhn.org.uk)] This includes links to HM Government guidance.

If **you** would like to volunteer to clean our churches, please contact the Parish Office: you can phone 0191-373 0219 or you can email: [stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com](mailto:stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com)

**Northern Cross:** The July edition is out now, but only as a digital version. However, we are told: "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](mailto: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](http://rcdhn.org)

**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/>

### Our schools:

This coming Friday is the end of the academic year in our schools. And what a year! Many of our children have not been in school since March. I just want to take this opportunity once again to thank our head teachers and all their staff, both teaching staff and all the ancillary staff, for 'making it happen' for four months. Our schools have been very different places but our staff have done an amazing job looking after some of our children in school, keeping in contact with children and families at home, sending out work for the children to do at home and, more recently, changing around furniture in classrooms to create more distance between everyone. Thanks too to our governors. And a big congratulations to all those parents who suddenly had to become part-time teachers in home-schooling their children. There must have been some moments of stress and impatience all round. Well done!



**Ushaw Moor Catholic Club:** We are told that the Ushaw Moor Catholic Club hopes to re-open on Friday, 17 July.

**Readings for next weekend (16<sup>th</sup> Sunday, A):** Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19; Romans 8: 26-27; Matthew 13: 24-43.