



## 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.*



### Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 19 July 2020

**‘God’?** : There was a time when people believed in all sorts of different gods. By the time the Book of Wisdom came to be written around 50 BC, the Jewish people were well into accepting the existence of only one ‘God’. Today’s readings try to say something about what sort of a person God is. As you read this first passage from the book of Wisdom, make a mental note of which phrases jump out at you about what sort of a person God might be:-

‘There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength; your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience; for you only have to *will*, and your power is there. By acting thus, you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous one must be kindly to his fellow beings, and you have given your children the good hope that, after sin, you will grant repentance.’ (Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19)

Which words jumped out at you from that text? For me there were two or three phrases: ‘your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all’, ‘you are mild in judgement’, ‘by acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people’. So, for me, God is lenient, mild in judgement, and invites us to act similarly. As always, the psalm picks up the theme of the first reading so, bearing in mind which words have already come to us about the nature of God, let’s continue to ask “what sort of a person is God?”:-

‘O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer, and attend to the sound of my voice. All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord; for you alone are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me.’ (Psalm 85)

In chapter 13 of Matthew’s gospel, we hear various stories which seek to illustrate what ‘the kingdom of heaven’, the ‘domain of God’, is like. What sort of a character is God? Today’s story uses the image of seed that is sown in the field, but ends up with weeds mixed in and growing alongside the crop.

‘Jesus put a parable before the crowds, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep, his enemy came, sowed darnel weed all among his wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel weed appeared as well. The owner’s servant went to him and said: ‘Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?’ ‘Some enemy has done this’, he answered. And the servant said, ‘Do you want us to go and weed it out?’ But he said, ‘No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow until the harvest and, at harvest time, I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.’” (Matthew 13: 24-43)



So, within each one of us, there is the good and the not-so-good, our virtues and our vices, our qualities and our weaknesses. This gospel reading suggests that God is actually quite relaxed about this. Let’s focus upon the good within us, and try not to let vengeful side, the condemnatory side, the sarcastic and condescending side of ourselves take over our attitudes when we relate to others. Let the good and the not-so-good grow together - for now. And, as a practical illustration, it’s not too late in the summer to plant some seeds. Use good compost, leave your pot outside - then see how long it takes for the weeds to show!

**Anniversaries: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:** Millie McDermott, Veronica Williams, John Newton, Margaret Kirkpatrick, James Nicholson, Billy Murphy, Julie Anne Brennan, John Hayton, Malcolm Turner, Christopher Close, Thomas Brady, Michael Cantwell, Annie Carr, John McQuillan, Maurice Joyce-Gibbons, Harry McCallum.

**St Joseph’s:** Gertrude Ward, James Rae, Billy Gilfoyle, John Howarth, John McQuillan, Tony Outterside.

**St Michael’s:** Catherine Reed, Edward Mullaney, James Forster, Margaret Tighe, Tony Gibbons, Lily Goundry, Ella Burns, Ruby Maria Welsh, Tom Goundry.

**Recently deceased:** Veronica Mountain, from Langley Park, died at home on Friday, 10 July after being ill only a couple of weeks. Veronica’s burial will be at Ushaw Moor on Thursday, 23 July. Kim Jennings’ dad, David Jones, died at Waterhouses, also on Friday 10 July. His funeral will be at Durham crematorium on Thursday, 23 July.

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

**Re-opening our churches:** On Saturday, St Joseph's church in Ushaw Moor was open for the first time for individual prayer. Those who came along would be aware of considerable differences since their last visit in March. Benches are now cordoned off to allow two metres distancing; we have a one-way system, and a variety of things that once we could do, and now can't. I am hoping that with this newsletter, you will have a copy of the Handbook for the Re-opening of Churches. This is worth reading because it will bring you up to date and, hopefully, answer many of your questions. With distancing, St Joseph's can accommodate a maximum number of 23 people, though this can increase slightly if a household or people within a 'bubble' come together; they can sit together without the two metres to separate them. As I mentioned last week, the big concern is that before every opening of every church for prayer, masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals, that building needs to be cleaned thoroughly with water and disinfectant. We follow a cleaning protocol for this which is quite straightforward. But the really big issue is that we will need quite a lot of volunteers to help with the cleaning. The re-opening of any of our churches or church halls is absolutely dependent on our having people willing to help clean the buildings. It clearly wouldn't be fair to expect the same group of people to have to clean each of our churches in advance of every service. We hope to open St Joseph's again for prayer next Saturday, 25 July, 11.00am – 2.00pm. We will gather to clean the church during the course of this week; do please bring your buckets again!

- 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] 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)

**Newsletters!!** Just a further reminder that, at present, we are using up old stocks of newsletters in the printed copies. Because there are no public masses at present 'Redemptorist Publications', who send the printed side of our newsletters, have temporarily stopped sending them and, because we have a backlog of unused newsletters from the past few weeks our newsletters are being printed *on old sheets*. Don't get confused when, on the front of the newsletter, you see an old date. It is not a mistake!



**Feasts:** *Wednesday: St Mary Magdalen.* She has the reputation of being a 'sinner turned good' because of her encounter with Jesus. Whether or not this 'sinner' reputation is actually true isn't known, but she did become a fervent follower of Jesus and, on the day of his resurrection, Mary was the first to go to the tomb to discover the stone rolled away. Mary Magdalen always seems to be a saint with whom we can identify.

*Friday: St John Boste and all the martyrs of our diocese.* Of the 315 people who sacrificed their lives for the Catholic faith in England and Wales during the religious persecution of the 1500 and 1600's, 28 of them were born or laboured or suffered within the confines of Northumberland and Durham. One of these was John Boste who was eventually arrested near here at Waterhouses. After being taken to the Tower of London John was brought back to be executed in Durham, possibly in what are now the grounds of St Leonard's school. John Boste! This is now our parish feast day!



### 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)

For example, on Friday, 19 June there was a diocesan Day of Scripture with talks and resources all day. These talks are still available to see on the diocesan website. There are also Reflections for Readers and for Holy Communion ministers, and a short safety video on 'Reopening of Churches'.

### The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

- **Property Surveyor** based in Newcastle with extensive travel throughout the Diocese. Full-time. Two year fixed term contract.
- **Justice and Peace Refugee Project Co-ordinator** based in Newcastle. 18 hours per week. 12 month fixed term contract.
- **Department for Education, Administrator** (maternity cover) – full-time

For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk) or contact us on 0191 243 3301

**Readings for next weekend (17<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Year A):** 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 13: 44-52.