



St John Boste Parish, West Durham
Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor

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

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



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 2 August 2020

Crazy generosity: It can always be interesting for each of us to stand back on occasion to consider what image of God we have. What sort of a person do we think God is? This can be quite a deep and profound exercise. If, in growing up, for example, we had a comfortable and relaxed relationship with our parents then we may feel comfortable as adults with our sense of God. If, however, we didn't have an altogether happy childhood we may think that we have got to persuade God to love us, beg God even. If, when at school, we had a teacher who was a strict disciplinarian we might now perceive God in a similar light: someone who must be obeyed, or else! These more challenging images of God can certainly be found in the bible because, of course, the bible records something of those ancient peoples' own experience of life, and their lives too were not perfect. Their images of God could also be distorted. Yet look at today's scripture reading: they show a God who is ridiculously 'over the top' in his generosity. Here is a God who, when we are hungry, offers far more food that we could ever eat! Let's take a look...



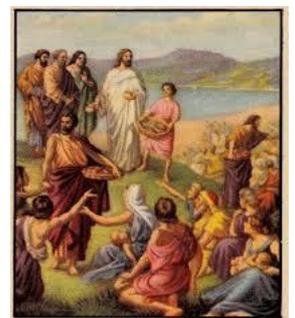
‘Thus, says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to [King] David’. (Isaiah 55: 1-3)

As ever, this theme of the first reading is followed through in its accompanying psalm. Having heard of God's desire to hand out food and drink freely to us, this idea of God's abundant kindness is picked up in today's psalm:

‘The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, and you grant the desires of all who live. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, those who call on him from their hearts.’ (Psalm 144)

The common theme that runs through today's first reading, its accompanying psalm and then the gospel seems to be about a God who is abundant in his generosity to us, totally 'over the top' in his care and kindness. Let's now take a look at how Jesus makes the presence of God ever more visible and tangible visible for us:

‘When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So, as he stepped ashore, he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to see him and said, “This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so, send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “Give them something to eat yourselves.” But they answered. “All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.” “Bring them here to me, “ he said. He gave orders that that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And, after breaking the loaves, he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted and they collected the scraps remaining: twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about 5000 men, to say nothing of women and children.’ (Matthew 14: 13-21)



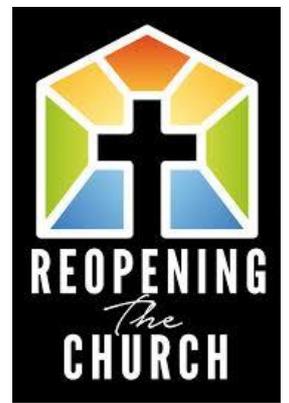
Recently deceased: Nicholas Moralee's funeral will be at Durham crematorium on Thursday, 6 August.

Anniversaries: Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: Edward Condron, Agnes Patterson, Peter Richardson, Terence McQuillan, Anthony Hogan, James Harrison, Andrew Brady, John Turnbull, Peter Doyle, Ella Hodgson.

St Joseph's: Arthur McLoughlin, George Blakey, Jane Chicken, Bob Middleton, Michael Murray, Minnie McLoughlin, Mary Keogan, Benjamin Coulter.

St Michael's: Tom Goundry. William Brennan, Charlotte Marley, Jacqueline May, Arthur Openshaw, Anthony Hogan, Margaret Welsh, Mary McKeown, Zara Marie Gilroy, Louisa Weighill, Fr. Peter Waring. CMF.

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Re-opening our churches: St Joseph's church in Ushaw Moor was open again on Saturday so that people had the opportunity to come along for individual prayer. We are hoping that, before too long, we will be able to celebrate mass at St Joseph's. However, do be prepared for things to be quite different from last time you came for mass. Social distancing means that there needs to be 2 metres from other people in every direction, meaning a maximum of 23 people in the church (though this can increase a little if people from one household/ 'bubble' arrive together and sit together). You will need to sanitise your hands on coming into the church and then be led to a specific seat by a steward. There will be no singing because, in singing with gusto, there can be more chance of spreading germs/ viruses. Holy Communion will be distributed at the very end of mass, and then communicants leave immediately by the side door without congregating outside. And, because of so few people able to attend mass at any one time, we will need to have a booking system. You see what I mean about mass being somewhat 'different'? Quite understandably, this may well put some people off coming. But please remember that, at present, the obligation to come to mass remains relaxed. You only need to come to church *if you feel comfortable in coming*. Since Friday, 24 July we are also strongly encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people we do not normally meet, such as a church. As I have mentioned a few times recently, the big concern is that before every opening of every church for prayer, masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals, that building needs to be cleaned with water and disinfectant. Once the initial deep clean has been done we follow a strict cleaning protocol which is quite straightforward and the cleaning can now be done in less than 30 minutes, but it wouldn't be fair to expect the same group of people to have to clean churches in advance of every service. Ideally, it would be helpful to have teams of cleaners to spread the load and we have now started to compile teams, with four cleaners in each, from across the whole of our new amalgamated parish and not just from Ushaw Moor. We hope to open St Joseph's again for prayer next **Saturday, 8 August, 11.00am – 12.30pm**. Cleaners will gather to clean the church during the course of this week; do please bring your buckets again! So, having said this, would **you** like to help with cleaning our church?

- 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

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.



Hospital visits: Throughout the Covid-10 pandemic our Catholic Chaplain has been into hospital almost every day and is still able to visit patients, and to bring them Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick. If you know

of a patient who wants a visit from the Catholic Hospital Chaplain, please inform Fr Paul Tully on 01388 818544 or frpaultully@outlook.com

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 For example, you can see a reflection for Extraordinary Ministers (ie Holy Communion ministers) by Fr Adrian Dixon.

Ushaw Moor Catholic Club: The Catholic Club is now open on Friday and Saturday evenings, from 7.00pm.

Parish Centre at Newhouse: Are you one of those people with a 'tidy mind' and a natural desire for 'order' in things? Then you may be able to use your 'tidy mind' to benefit our parish. For many years Mary Rochford has been secretary of our Parish Centre at Newhouse but now she would like to retire. Her work has involved sorting out the occasional contract and keeping the paperwork in order so that everything in the Parish Centre flows smoothly. If your natural desire for order attracts you to help out with our Parish Centre that would be terrific. Offers of help happily accepted at the Parish Office: email stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com or phone 0191-373 0219. In the meantime, very many thanks to Mary for her work over the years.

Any thoughts or discoveries from today's Scripture readings...?

Readings next week: 1 Kings 19: 9, 11-13; Psalm 84; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14: 22-33