



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.usshawmoor@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

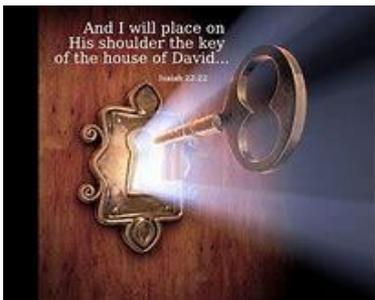
Hospital
 R C Chaplain Father Paul Tully Tel. (01388) 818544

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



Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 23 August 2020

Keys: Stop to think.... How many keys do you have in your pocket or bag? And what are they all for? House keys? Car keys? Keys to the house of your son or daughter? Does anyone else have a key to *your* house? To whom have you entrusted a key? To everyone, or just to one or two specific people? Usually, we give a spare key only to someone we trust and, similarly, any key given to us generally implies that we too are now in a position of trust. If someone goes on holiday and leaves their key with you then it's usually not a good idea to lend out that key to other people in the street! Being a key holder is to be entrusted with responsibility. You may hold a key for a neighbour's house, or for your place of work, or for the church but, in each case, you have been considered to be a 'responsible' person, someone who is trusted, someone trusted not to abuse your position as a key holder. Okay, with this in mind, let's now take a look at today's first reading from the prophet Isaiah. The background here is that the man called Shebna has been 'master of the palace'. This means that he carries all the important keys for the palace on a sash, and part of his job is to allow access to the king to those who merit it. Shebna has been in a position of trust for the king and for everyone in the palace. However, Shebna has abused his position. He has been letting his mates in to meet with the king and he has kept others out, all on his own whim. So, here he is being sacked.....



“Thus, says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace: “I dismiss you from your office; I remove you from your post, and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah. I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash, entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah. I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close; should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.”
 (Isaiah 22: 19-23)

That was a simple but powerful story about the significance of 'keys' and the role of a key holder as someone in a position of trust. With the same idea in mind let's now look at today's gospel:

*‘When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he put this question to his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But *you*,” he said, “who do *you* say I am?” The Simon Peter spoke up, “You are the Christ,” he said, “the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Simon, son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So, I now say to you: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.” Then Jesus gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.’* (Matthew 16: 13-20)



The disciple's name *had* been 'Simon', which means a reed or a length of straw - something fragile. With his new role in Jesus' community as the keyholder, Jesus changes his name as well as his role: Simon is now to be known as 'Petros', which means 'a rock'. From this word for 'rock' we get the name 'Peter'. He is no longer to be someone weak and fragile, but a leader, someone solid, on whom others can lean. He is now to be called 'Peter', the rock. Peter is now well and truly a key worker in the community of faith.

Anniversaries: St Joseph's: Timothy Joyce, Helen Kirkup, Emily Middleton, Bozena Polakova, Donna Rose, Mary Oliver, James McQuillan, Tom Nicholson, Anne Cutmore, James Hughes, Pauline Stone, Iris Coxon.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: John Hepper, Billy Rippon, Eileen Gannon, Michael Mallen, Frankie Francis, Mary Crosby, John Sands, Peter Corrigan, Tom Lawlor, Tom, Nicholson, Henry Turner, Michael Brennan, Jimmy Hughes.

St Michael's: John Young, Alice Burke, Mary Clinton, Neil Hill, Edie Eltringham, Elizabeth Thompson.

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Re-opening our churches: Well, St Joseph's church was packed for mass last Sunday morning! Mind you, 'packed' is a relative term nowadays; we had 23 people for mass, and that is the maximum number at present. Had there been more people eager to come along then we could have arranged a second mass. At the time of printing we have about 12 people wanting to come for mass this Sunday. *We are planning to have mass at St Joseph's again next Sunday, 30 August at 10.00am.* **If you would like to come to our mass next Sunday please phone Christine Brennan on 0191- 366 9465 between 2.00 – 6.00pm this coming Wednesday.** Let Christine know if you are coming as an individual, as a couple, or as a household group. You will need to sanitise your hands on coming into the church and then be led to a specific seat by a steward (not necessarily your *favourite* seat, I'm afraid). Since some people have specifically asked, you may wish to leave your collection envelope/cash donation in a basket *before* sanitising your hands. There will be no singing at mass because, in projecting the voice, there can be more chance of spreading germs. Remember too that since 8 August it is now obligatory to wear a face covering in all enclosed public spaces, including churches. In the early days we had a number of people volunteer to be stewards and cleaners. Over recent weeks we have had fewer extra volunteers but, remember, you don't need to be from Ushaw Moor to volunteer for things. As we move towards more masses, whether at St Joseph's or our other churches, then we will need more stewards who can welcome people and explain the procedure which is simple enough, but different to what we are used to. Quite understandably, the different 'system', and our need to wear face coverings, may well put some people off coming to church 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*. As I have mentioned a few times recently, each building needs a thorough deep clean before its *first* opening but then needs a simpler cleaning of benches and surfaces before every further opening for prayer, masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Once the initial deep clean has been done we follow a strict cleaning protocol which is straightforward and the cleaning can now be done in less than 30 minutes. However, the re-opening of our churches does hinge upon our having plenty of people to assist with stewarding and cleaning. It wouldn't be fair to expect the same group of people to have to clean churches in advance of every service so 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 currently have three groups of four. I do invite you, then, to offer your services. So, would **you** like to lighten the load by helping with cleaning or stewarding?

- 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 help, please contact the Parish Office: you can phone 0191-373 0219 or you can email: stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com

Contributions: Because we don't have the same opportunity to put money into the collection baskets at mass just now then a number of people have recently been seeking information about direct debits, standing orders and on-line contributions. This is certainly an easier system to use in our present situation. If you are interested in doing this then let us know at the Parish Office and someone will be in touch with how best to do it. We will have a note in next week's newsletter about Gift Aid statements.



Ushaw Moor Catholic Club now open from 7.00pm Friday, Saturday and on Sunday (bingo night).

Bishop Owen Swindlehurst: Next Friday (28 August) will see the 25th anniversary of the death of Bishop Owen Swindlehurst. He was an auxiliary bishop in our diocese.

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

Parish Centre at Newhouse:

Since Mary Rochford retired as secretary of our Parish Centre at Newhouse we are looking for someone who might take over from her. Some people are naturally organised and tidy and it would be good to have such a person to help with this. Her work has involved sorting out the occasional contract and keeping the paperwork in order so that everything in the Parish Centre flows smoothly. Offers of help happily accepted at the Parish Office: email stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com or phone 0191-373 0219.



Hospital visits: Fr Paul Tully, our hospital chaplain, continues to visit the hospitals regularly. 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

Readings next week: (22nd Sunday, Year A): Jeremiah 20: 7-9; Ps 62; Romans 12: 1-2; Matthew 16: 21-27.