



St John Boste Parish, West Durham

Esh, Esh Winning, Langley Park and Ushaw Moor

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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 fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 13 September 2020

Resentment, anger, forgiveness: The Hebrew bible is sometimes known as the Old Testament and this was the bible known to Jesus. Clearly, the New Testament with the gospels and the letters of St Paul and others had not yet been written. Yet even though the Hebrew bible was written before the time of Jesus it sometimes has an amazing clarity to it. Take today's first reading; it speaks of resentment and anger, and also forgiveness and compassion. Yet the way the passage is written is full of feeling. It suggests that our relationship with God cannot be separated from our relationship with the people around us. *'Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you and, when you pray, your sins will be forgiven'* and *'If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?'* Let's take a look at the full passage for today's mass:



'Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, he who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you and, when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.' (Ecclesiasticus 27: 30 - 28:7)

Psalm 102 then tells us that *'the Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.'* Today's gospel passage picks up this theme of forgiveness. Here is part of today's gospel:

70 times 7

'Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times! And so, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed 10, 000 talents. But he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And his master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. As this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him a few denarii. He seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, "Give me time and I will pay you". But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. The master sent for him: "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" The master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.' (Matthew 18: 21-35)

- Have you ever been forgiven by someone you upset, when you did not expect to be? How did it feel?
- Having been hurt by someone else, have you ever told them that you forgave them? How did you then feel?

Anniversaries:

St Joseph's: Tracy Revell, Angela Marsh, Malcolm Stoker, Martin Pickering, Margaret Davies, Arthur Stock, baby Stella Chapman, James Gillon, Wilfred Harrington.

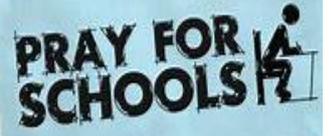
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: Margaret Turner, John Clark, John Lawlor, Albert Golightly, Doug Linsley, Pauline Collin, Mary Kervin.

St Michael's: Doreen Cummings, Mary Johnson, Ronald Lewin.

Church cleaning this week: Elsie Vasey, Esther Martin, Geraldine Barnes, Joe Cutmore.

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those involved in education: In the calendar for 2020 today was designated as a day of special prayer for all those involved in education. Now that our schools are back, let's pray today for all our teachers, teaching assistants, secretaries, caretakers, cleaners, governors and all who are involved in our children's education and well-being.



Gathering for mass: We are hoping to have mass at St Joseph's again next Sunday, 20 September at 10.00am. If you would like to come to our mass next Sunday morning please phone the **Parish Office** this coming **THURSDAY** on **373 0219** between **10.00am – 2.00pm**, or phone **Christine Brennan** on **3669465** between **5.00 – 6.00pm**. Please try to keep to these times if possible! If you have already been to one of our masses recently then perhaps you could phone a little later in the day so as to allow first chance to those who haven't yet been to mass. Let us know if you are coming as an individual, as a couple, or as a household group. Please don't come to church if you have a cold or symptoms of flu. As the weather gets cooler it could be an idea to wear warm clothing too since we need to leave doors open. When you arrive at church you will be met by someone who will check your name against the booking list and ensure we have your phone number in case of a further virus outbreak locally. 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. It is great that we can meet again at church but do, please, try not to congregate in the narthex or immediately outside the exit door. Remember too that since 8 August it is now obligatory to wear a face covering in all enclosed public spaces, including churches. As we move towards more masses, whether at St Joseph's or at our other churches, then we will certainly need more stewards who can welcome people. The role of a steward is easy enough but stewards need to be sufficiently comfortable in their role so as to allow others to feel more at ease in coming back for mass. Things inevitably are 'different'; this, plus the need to wear face coverings, may well put some people off coming to church for now 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. We are hoping to have the initial deep clean at *St Michael's church* at **11.00am next Saturday, 19 September**. If **you** would like to volunteer to help with this cleaning – or as stewards - please contact the Parish Office: you can phone 0191-373 0219 or you can email: stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com Then **please bring a bucket** with you for the clean! Everything else will be provided!



Parish Centre at Newhouse:

Now, with our schools back and with more people returning to their work place, things at least 'feel' a little more normal. So now may be a good time to mention again that since Mary Rochford retired as secretary of

our Parish Centre at Newhouse we are looking for someone who might take over from her. This is an administrative role which involves keeping up to date with contracts and servicing of heaters, fire alarms etc. and also ensuring steady supply of toilet rolls, towels etc. Some people are naturally organised and tidy and it would be good to have such a person to help with this. Mary's work has involved keeping the paperwork in order so that everything in the Parish Centre flows smoothly. Offers of help happily accepted at the Parish Office: stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com or phone 0191-373 0219.

'Northern Cross': September edition now available on-line. The main story mentions Pat Morton! You can subscribe to 'Northern Cross' by cheque for £14.40 payable to Northern Cross and post it to: 11 The Grove, Hartlepool TS26 9NB or pay £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)

Retiring collection at mass next Sunday:

It seems a little odd to be having special collections at present but we have been informed by the bishop's office that three are coming up. I can't really imagine the donations will be spectacularly high when so few people are able to come to mass. Anyway, there will be a collection basket at the exit door next Sunday if you would like to contribute to as collection for 'the Holy Places of Palestine'. This money goes to support fellow Christians in Palestine whose daily lives can be far from easy.

Columban Missionaries: online: The Columban Missionaries have contacted us about an online event which they are putting on, in lieu of being able to come to churches and make a mission appeal. It's a Zoom presentation by a lay missionary from the Philippines, now working in Fiji, and it's happening next Wednesday, 16 September at 7.00pm. The event is free and open to everyone. The full information is on our parish website (wdrcp.org) and on Facebook



Readings next week: 25th Sunday, Year A: Isaiah 55: 6-9; Psalm 144; Philippians 1: 2-24, 27; Matthew 20: 1-6