



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

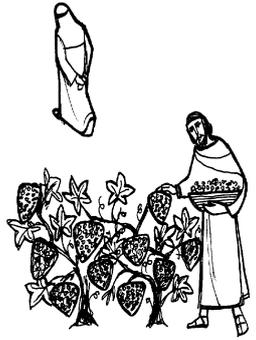
Priest: Father David Coxon Tel: (0191) 373 0219
Secretary: Lisa Hatton Tel: (0191) 373 0219
Office Hours: Tues – Thurs from 9.30am–2.30pm
E-mail: ushawmoor.stjohnboste@rcd.org.uk
(stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com)

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.



Twenty sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 27 September 2020

Talking the talk: What the Lord does is unjust.... God allows earthquakes and famines; he allows viruses to affect our region, our country, our world and innocent people die as a result. What the Lord does is unjust! I suppose there are always examples of people blaming God - either for incompetence or for sheer nastiness. This was the situation in today's first reading too. The Lord says, "Is it what *I do* that is unjust? Is it not what *you do* that is unjust?" If an upright man abandons his better nature to do what is wrong, and that then gets him into bother, isn't it him who is in the wrong, suggests God. And so, today. If the seas are being polluted and animal life is becoming extinct, is this God's doing or ours? In all sorts of situations, we can be full of good intentions, make all sorts of pledges and promises, but unless we actually follow through in what we have promised, then nothing happens. And this is what we see in today's gospel reading too: one lad couldn't be bothered and didn't see it as his responsibility to help in his dad's vineyard, but then thought better of it and went to do what was required. The other lad was full of good intentions and promised to go and work in his father's vineyard, but then didn't go. He just talked the talk. Let's take a closer look at today's readings:

'The word of the Lord was addressed to me, Ezekiel, as follows: "You object, 'What the Lord does is unjust.' Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what *you do* that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin, and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins. He shall certainly live; he shall not die.'" (Ezekiel 18: 25-28)

This reading's accompanying psalm suggests that, in prayer, we might ask the Lord to enlighten us with *his* ways:

'Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me, for you are God, my saviour. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the mercy you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. The Lord is good and upright. He shows his way to those who stray; he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.' (Psalm 24)

And next, in the gospel passage, Jesus tells one of his stories, 'parable stories', to illustrate his point:



'Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to his second son who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two sons did the father's will?" "The first," they said. Jesus said to them, "I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John the Baptist came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'" (Matthew 21: 28-32)

So, it is one thing to make pledges and promises about the priorities and approach we are going to take in the future, but unless we follow this up with commitment then it is all bluster.

Anniversaries:

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs: Charlie Pickersgill, Rose Ann Morris, Terence Sullivan, John Wood, Elizabeth Makepeace, Katy Mullen, Honor Rowan, Terence Brown, Tommy Flatley, Teresa Newton.

St Joseph's: Gladys Lowery, Tom Nicholson, Hugh Keenan, Norah Scales, Barbara Pattinson, Martin Gallagher, Eleanor Howard, Arthur Counter.

St Michael's: Anne Redmond, Michael Hennessy, Michael Mullaney, Jack Bolam, Maggie Rowntree, Michael Seymour, Austin Sands, John Rowntree.

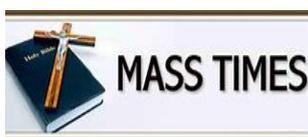
26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Re-opening for mass: We have now completed the 'deep clean' at our churches at Ushaw Moor, Newhouse and Esh and, government regulations permitting, we are ready to start opening up for masses. Next weekend, we hope to have mass at **Ushaw Moor at 6.00pm on Saturday** (3 October) and then a further mass at **Newhouse at 10.30am on Sunday** (4 October). We are hoping that mass at St Michael's will follow before too long. However, the re-opening of our churches really does hinge upon our having plenty of people to assist with stewarding and cleaning. Opening up other churches means that our volunteer stewards and cleaners will now need to be split three ways so, to avoid having to ask the same people to serve each week, it would still be good to have more people volunteer their services. It is not hard work; it's just a question of 'sharing the load'. If you would like to come to either of our masses next weekend please phone the **Parish Office** this coming **THURSDAY** on **373 0219 between 10.00am – 2.00pm, or phone Christine Brennan on 366 9465 between 5.00 – 6.00pm**. Please try to keep to these times if possible! Let us know if you are coming to mass 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.

Okay, some practical information for those planning to come to mass at **Newhouse**: please enter the church only through the main door; we will keep the side door at the front of the church as an 'exit only'. 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 please try not to congregate. Remember too that it is now obligatory to wear a face covering in all enclosed public spaces, including churches. We will have Holy Communion at the very end of mass at Newhouse and then you can leave immediately by the side door. Please try not to bring too many things to mass with you since you will need to carry all of these to Holy Communion and then out of church from there. With infections rising again, and any individual's personal sense of vulnerability, and also the need to wear face coverings.... all of these things 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 simple cleaning of benches and surfaces before every further opening for prayer, masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals. Since the initial deep clean has now been done we follow a strict cleaning protocol which is straightforward, and the cleaning can now be done in less than 30 minutes. But we do need more stewards and cleaners! If **you** would like to volunteer to help with cleaning or with stewarding, please contact the Parish Office: you can you can email: stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com or phone the office on 0191-373 0219.

Church cleaning this week (UM): Lyn Dumighan, Shelagh Robinson, John Flynn, Angela McKenna, Jill Cox.

'Northern Cross': This is the newspaper which gives news, comment and chat from parishes, partnerships and schools all over our diocese. 'Northern Cross' is hoping to attract more people to subscribe to this monthly newspaper, either for an online edition or for a real paper copy. The annual cost is £36 for a paper edition through the post or £20 for an online version. The phone number given in their letter last week was incorrect unfortunately but, if you want more information, please phone **01429-274408** or email editor.norcross@btconnect.com



Mass times: please note our new weekend mass times: 6.00pm at Ushaw Moor; 10.30am at Newhouse.

Parents thinking about baptism or First Communion for their children might like to think about booking in for a weekend mass. On Thursdays phone 373 0219 between 10.00am – 2.00pm, or 366 9465 between 5.00 – 6.00pm.

Hospital visits: 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



Feast days: *Tuesday:* Saints Michael, Raphael and Gabriel. St Michael is patron of our own church at Esh. *Wednesday:* St Jerome, Scripture scholar and translator of the bible from Greek into Latin. *Thursday:* St Therese of Lisieux. *Friday:* the Guardian Angels.

Keeping in touch: Many of us are using computers much more now so as to keep in touch with others. At a Pastoral Council meeting on Wednesday (by conference phone call) we wondered about setting up a virtual coffee morning to create an opportunity for people to chat, and also some meeting for people to pray. Watch this space!

Readings next week: 27th Sunday, Year A: Isaiah 5: 1-7; Psalm 79; Philippians 4: 6-9; Matthew 21: 33-43.