



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

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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.



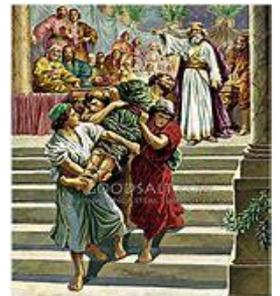
Twenty eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 11 October 2020

Sharing people's company is heaven! : Meals are about more than pushing food into our mouths. They are about tastes, smells, and also about company. It's an opportunity to chat, to share, to catch up, to laugh. The very word 'company' comes from two Latin words 'cum', 'panis' which means 'with bread': people with whom you share your bread, your food. This is at the heart of what the eucharist, the mass, is all about. The bible is full of examples of shared meals. In today's first reading we have the man called Isaiah describing closeness to God in these terms: sharing a meal, prepared by God, with a whole crowd of people you didn't necessarily know. A lovely image!

'On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations; he will destroy death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame.' (Isaiah 25: 6-10)

In the gospel, Jesus tells a story to indicate what the kingdom of heaven, the reign of God, is like. It's about people who have been specially invited to a wedding reception, a celebration, but they are not sufficiently interested to go along. Eventually, anybody and everybody - good and bad alike - are invited to join in the feast. But, it is not just a story that Jesus tells, it is *why* he told it. Notice the first line today; Jesus is speaking to the chief priests and elders, the religious leaders who represent the establishment. They are the ones originally invited to the wedding meal but were too busy with their own affairs to take part. Religious leaders (in any generation!) who are too distracted to take part in what God is offering. Because the religious leaders, ministers and those deeply involved in the life of the temple or parish are caught up in other things, the king in Jesus' story throws open his party to the non-church people. Yet, even here, those invited need to prepare for what is being asked of them. So, if we are invited to share in the plans and the priorities of God, we may need to take a look at our lives and reflect on what needs to be 'tidied up' by way of our preparing to work with others to help unfold God's plan in our world. Think again of 'eucharist'.

'Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He called those who had been invited, but they wouldn't come. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready but as those who had been invited proved to be unworthy go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find. And the wedding hall was filled with guests, bad and good alike. But one guest was not wearing a wedding garment. And the king said to his attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark for many are called but few are chosen"' (Matthew 22: 1-14)



Recently deceased: Neville Harrington (Ushaw Moor). Neville's funeral will be Friday, 16 October at crematorium.

Anniversaries:

St Joseph's: Cuthbert Dixon, Maureen Whitfield, Eleanor Howard, Anne Flatley, James Laidman, James McQuillan, Kathleen Purvis, Walter Carter, Michael Howarth, Edwin Smith.

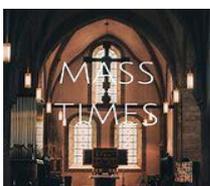
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs: Mary Quigley, Sheila McElween, Mary Agnes Golightly, Joseph Starr, Michael Brennan, Peter Rochford, Elizabeth Hession, Annie Hughes.

St Michael's: Catherine Sherlock, Mary Ellen Dixon, Elizabeth Fawcett, Eva Gray, Dennis Welsh, Monica Farrell, Mary Coates.

Church cleaning: [NOTE CHANGES!](#)

St Joseph's: Elsie Vasey, Melanie Lee, Christine Brennan, Margaret Coonan.

OLQM (Saturday 11.00am?): Cecilia Wharton, Catherine McKeown, Angela McKenna, Bill Donnelly.



Mass times: please note our mass times from next weekend (17/18 October):

6.00pm at Ushaw Moor; 9.30am at Esh; 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– 6pm.

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Re-opening for mass: Next weekend, we will celebrate mass at **Ushaw Moor at 6.00pm on Saturday** (17 October) and then a further mass at **Newhouse at 10.30am on Sunday** (18 October). In addition, we will have our first mass at **St Michael's church next Sunday** (18 October). This mass will be a little later than usual, **at 9.30am**. Very soon we hope to have the deep clean and re-opening of St Joseph's, Langley Park for mass. However, the re-opening of our churches really does hinge upon our having plenty of people to assist with stewarding and cleaning. This matters now more than ever. Over the weeks we have had a number of people volunteer, which is terrific. However, opening up other churches means that our volunteer stewards and cleaners will now need to be split several 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'. Do please phone/ email the Parish Office to offer help. If you would like to come to any of our three 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 at all possible since it can become difficult if people are still phoning on Friday or even Saturday. 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. And, as the weather gets cooler it could be an idea to wear warm clothing too since we need to leave doors open.

Now, some practical information for those planning to come to mass at **St Michael's**: When you arrive at church you will be met by someone who will check your name against the booking list to ensure we have your phone number in case of a further virus outbreak locally. You can then leave your collection donation and *then* sanitise your hands before picking up a mass sheet. You will be led to a specific seat by a steward (not necessarily your *favourite* seat, I'm afraid). Benches on the left can be used by individuals; benches on the far right by individuals or couples; benches in the centre of the church by households/ bubbles or by couples. It is great that we can meet again at church but please try not to congregate inside or outside. 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 Esh and then you can leave immediately by going up the aisle on the sacristy side of the church to the exit. Please try not to bring too many things to mass with you since you will need to carry all of these to Holy Communion before leaving. Remember though 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 really 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.



Are you willing to listen? Our diocese is sponsoring a six-week, on-line training course in Listening Skills.

Some parishioners may be experiencing mental health issues such as anxiety; low mood; loss and bereavement; family concerns etc. You will learn effective listening skills to offer support and if necessary "sign post" people to other sources of help. The course begins on Tuesday 10 November. Ask at Parish Office for detailed poster. Those participating are to be referred by their priest. For further details on the course contact: Oonagh Atkinson on 0191 3891188. The cost of the course will be paid by our parish.

Planned Giving Envelopes: Many thanks to all who contribute to donate to the parish. A huge help! Remember, though, that old £10 notes are not accepted at the Post Office where we often bank. Remember too that to gain tax refund on your donations you need to use an 'official' yellow Planned Giving Envelope with printed parish name.

Retiring collection at mass today:

It seems a little odd to be having special collections at present but we have been informed by the bishop's office that a few are coming up. Anyway, there will be a collection basket at the exit door after mass today if you would like to contribute to a collection for 'Peter's Pence'. Just as we have our own diocesan offices, this money helps to fund the offices in Rome. And next week, a retiring collection for World Mission Day.



Family Fast: Last Friday we were invited to go without a meal and then donate the money from that to those in the world currently suffering from coronavirus as well as hunger. People who receive a paper copy of this newsletter received an envelope. Those reading on-line might put donations into an ordinary envelope marked 'Family Fast' and return to Parish Office

Readings for next week (29th Sunday, Year A): Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5; Matthew 22: 15-21