



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 seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 4 October 2020



Gardens and allotments: Okay, all you gardeners! Today's Scripture readings speak about vineyards and the growing of vines and grapes. The prophet Isaiah tells us how his friend prepared the ground for the vines, but then we realise that this is a parable story because as today's psalm tells us, the vineyard represents the House of Israel, and 'the friend' is God who does his utmost to allow the people of Israel to flourish and 'to produce fruit'.

'My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones, and planted choice vines in it. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave. And now, I ask you to judge: what could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay

it waste, unpruned, undug, overgrown by briar and thorn. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel and the men of Judah that chosen plant.' (Isaiah 5: 1-7)

Today's psalm follows the same theme as we speak to God, recognising that 'the vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel'. Think too of how God prompted Moses to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt: 'You, Lord, brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations. It stretched out its branches to the sea. Then why have you broken down its walls? It is plucked by all who pass by. God of hosts, turn again, we implore; look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. And then we shall never forsake you again! Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.'

And Jesus follows through with this theme: 'There was a man who planted a vineyard. He fenced it in, dug a wine press in it and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one and killed another. Next, he sent his son saying 'They will respect my son!' But they seized the son, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.'

Here we have a story with a meaning. The story is told by Matthew when he writes his gospel 40/50 years after the death of Jesus. The 'tenants' are the Jewish leaders who wanted rid of 'the son', Jesus. So, the Father (God) leases his vineyard to other tenants (Christians?) to enable his fruit to flourish and grow. What is our 'mission'?

Recently deceased: Margaret Coates (Langley Park). Funeral at Durham crematorium on Tuesday, 13 October.

Anniversaries:

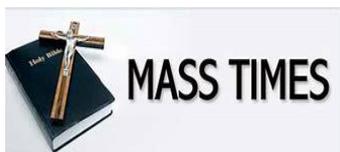
St Joseph's: Luke Dodds, Bernard Martin, Mary Keelty, Fred Witty, Ian Brown, Joe Halliday, Gertrude McQuillan, Brian Sowerby.

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs: Margaret Kervin, James Hughes, Patrick Mullen, Doris Wilson, Isabella Young, Robert Collinson, Dick Wilson, Douglas McElwee, Elizabeth Cole, John Peel, Bill Sands.

St Michael's: Jack Hayton, Frank Coates, Minnie Heels, June Calvert, Mary O'Connor, Bro. Denis Casey CMF, Kenneth Robinson.

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

Newhouse: Cecilia Wharton, Angela McKenna, Noreen Gardner, Christine Thompson.



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.

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 a few are coming up. Anyway, there will be a collection basket at the exit door next weekend after mass if you would like to contribute to as collection for 'Peter's Pence'. Just as we have our own diocesan offices, this money helps to fund the offices in Rome.

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Re-opening for mass: Next weekend, we hope to have mass at **Ushaw Moor at 6.00pm on Saturday** (10 October) and then a further mass at **Newhouse at 10.30am on Sunday** (11 October). We are hoping that mass at St Michael's will follow shortly. Then we might 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. 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'. 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 at all 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. And, as the weather gets cooler it could be an idea to wear warm clothing too since we need to leave doors open.

Again, 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.



Every
Donation
Makes A
Difference

Food Bank: In the absence of being able to collect tins etc, cash donations are still much appreciated. This allows the team to fill gaps in current

supply, targeting shortages effectively. Please go to the website (durham.foodbank.org.uk) and click on the 'Donate Now' button, or you can send a cheque (made out to Durham Foodbank) to their Head Office: Mile House, Bridge End, Chester Le Street DH3 3RA.

'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 recently was incorrect unfortunately but, if you want more information, please phone **01429-274408** or email editor.norcross@btconnect.com

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.

The Spirituality of the Franciscans: Earlier in the year, the Finchale Partnership and the University Chaplaincy planned a series of events on the Spirituality of the religious orders. The events had to be postponed because of lockdown, but we have now arranged to hold the series on Zoom. The first event is: 'The Spirituality of the Franciscans'. Speaker: Fr. Liam Kelly OFM. Fr. Liam was in Durham, based at St. Cuthbert's, during 2019/20. Date: Thursday 8th October at 7.00pm Details of how to join the session will be available in the parish Facebook group or by contacting margaretdoyle1066@sky.com



Fast, pray and give

Family Fast: On Friday we are 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 receiving a paper copy of this newsletter will receive an envelope. Those

reading on-line might put donations into an ordinary envelope marked 'Family Fast'.

Readings next week: 28th Sunday, Year A: Isaiah 25: 6-10; Psalm 22; Philippians 4: 12-20; Matthew 22; 1-14.