



**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**

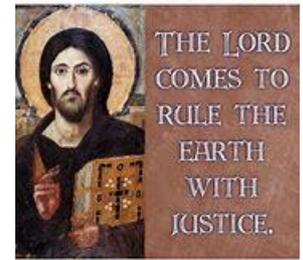
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Primary Schools: St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor: Tel. (0191) 373 0355  
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning: Tel. (0191) 373 4343  
St Michael's Esh Laude: Tel. (0191) 373 1205

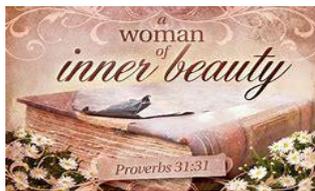
Hospital R C Chaplain Father Paul Tully Tel. (01388) 818544

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



**Thirty third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) : 15 November 2020**

**Our gifts:** Today's first reading is about a man's deep appreciation of his wife. It is an idealistic passage, yes, and even a bit patronising to the modern ear but it rejoices in the fact that she has terrific gifts which she is delighted to use to benefit others and she also has a profound beauty which is more than just skin deep. It is this idea of 'using our gifts and talents well' that flows through today's readings. Let's take a look at part of the first reading:



'A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax; she does her work with eager hands. She holds her hands out to the poor; she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise.' (Proverbs 31: 10- )

'She does her work with eager hands and she opens her arms to the needy'. It is this idea of *using our talents* that is pursued in Jesus' gospel story too (*see Matthew 25: 14-30*). There's a bit of a play on words here because a 'talent' is also an amount of money, but the message is the same. In Jesus's story one servant is given five talents, another is given two talents and a third servant is given one. The implication is that they should each use to good effect the 'talent' they have been given. The message is probably clear enough for us too. What would you say are *your* talents, your own God-given gifts? Do you try to use *your* talents to benefit others?



- David Coxon

**Recently deceased:** Joe McNay. Joe lived at Pity Me, but always attended mass at St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor. Fr Stephen Johnson (retired, Hartlepool). May they rest in peace.

**Anniversaries: St Michael's:** Sarah Forbester, Margaret Fryer, Cath Armstrong, Sarah Jane Kelly, Mary Pickersgill, Bessie Goundry, Kathleen Glennon, Hannah Foy, Agnes Cook, Alice Glennon, Veronica Collinson.

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:** James Coates, John Canavan, Winifred Ryans, John Brennan, Billy Rutter, Joseph Elrington, Lily Dunighan, John Bone, Georgina Foot, Nancy Maitland, Joseph McGinn, Mary Hansom, Rita Hogan, John Cantwell.

**St Joseph's:** Thomas Gallagher, Agnes Howarth, William Isles, Bridget Joyce, Christopher Storey, Mary Keenan, Maureen Jefferson, Derek Ritchie, Ronald Richardson, Agnes Boyle, Alice Glennon, William Davies, Veronica Collinson.

**Church cleaners during this week (Team 1)**

St Joseph's:	St Michael's:	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:
Elsie Vasey, Margaret Coonan, Claire Oman, Janet Dawson.	Jill Cox, Stuart Cox, Eileen Tallentire, Shelagh Robinson.	A McKenna, Catherine McKeown, Cecilia Wharton, Kevin Quigley.

**Stewards next weekend (Team 4)**

St Joseph's:	St Michael's:	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:
Esther Martin, Lynn Dumighan,	Anne McMahan, Karen Thompson.	Kevin Quigley, Bill Donnelly.

**Apart from entering a further lockdown,** we are also moving towards the season of Advent (29 November). This is a time for new beginnings. It will also mark the first anniversary of our becoming the parish of St John Boste. Since again we cannot gather for mass this could be a time for trying out new ways of praying and reflecting. Some of our Pastoral Council have suggested a creative pattern of praying that we could all share in while staying in our own homes. Also suggested was the way of praying called 'Lectio Divina'; this Latin term means 'divine reading' or 'reading spiritually'. We will say more about this over the next couple of weeks and, if anyone should want to participate, we will send you more information.



**Is there anything which has 'kept you going' these past few months?** Maybe a particular book, a poem, a memory, a person, a piece of music, a view.... What?

## 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Our churches:** Having just recently managed to re-open all four of our churches, they are now closed again 'for public worship' until at least 2 December, according to government regulations. **However, our churches can open for 'individual prayer'.** This means that we can call into our churches for informal private prayer during specific times. Perhaps we would like to use our regular mass times as times when we can drop in for prayer. So: opportunities for 'individual prayer' at St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor on Saturdays, 6.00 – 6.45pm; at St Michael's on Sundays, 9.30 – 10.15am; at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs on Sundays, 10.30 – 11.15am. You do not need to book a place for this individual prayer but we do ask that you offer your name and contact details to a steward at the church. This is purely to enable 'Test and Trace' to help if there should be an outbreak of the virus in our area. Please don't come to church if you have a cold or symptoms of flu but do remember to wear a face-covering inside the church. And, as the weather gets cooler, it could be an idea to wear warm clothing too since we need to leave doors open to allow air flow. We will still need to clean our churches between uses so, as ever, if you feel able to help with this it would be good to have the extra pairs of hands. It just takes about 30 minutes for church cleaning now. If **you** would like to volunteer to help with cleaning or with stewarding, please contact the Parish Office: you can email: [stjosephs.ushawmoor@btpopenworld.com](mailto:stjosephs.ushawmoor@btpopenworld.com) or phone the office on 0191-373 0219.

**'Test and Trace':** If you have a smart phone with the NHS app you can now click on to the NHS icon as you enter any of our churches. If there should be a local outbreak of covid-19 this can help with the 'Track and Trace'.

**During this second lock-down ....** Church leaders invite us all to take a time of quiet prayer each evening at 6.00pm

**Hospital visits:** If you know of a patient wanting a visit in hospital, please inform Fr Paul Tully on 01388-818544 .



**Parish Coffee Morning:** As we go into the new lockdown, many of us will be spending more time on our own. If you are online, why not make yourself a coffee, and join us for a virtual Parish Coffee Morning? The aim is to help

people of the parish to keep in touch whilst we are not able to meet in person, by meeting online for a coffee and a chat. The meeting will be via Zoom. Don't worry if you have never used Zoom before: it is very easy to join a Zoom meeting, so please do give it a try. We met last week but the next virtual Parish Coffee Morning will be at 10.30am on Thursday 19th November. Details of how to join the meeting will be available in the Parish Facebook Group, or by contacting [christine.brennan61@gmail.com](mailto:christine.brennan61@gmail.com) .

**Congratulations!** Monica Hendry, from Ushaw Moor, sneaked past us the fact that she celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 29<sup>th</sup> October! Belated greetings to Monica. Happy birthday!

**'Northern Cross':** Could you help to support the 'Northern Cross', our diocesan newspaper? The annual cost is £36 for a paper edition through the post, or £20 for an online version. The November edition is available now. If you want more information, please phone **01429-274408** or email [editor.norcross@btconnect.com](mailto:editor.norcross@btconnect.com) See separate sheet.

**The Spirituality of the religious orders:** The Finchale Partnership and the University Chaplaincy have organised a series of events on the Spirituality of the religious orders. The events take place on Zoom. The third event in our series is The Spirituality of the Benedictines. Speaker: Scholastica Jacob was a nun of Stanbrook Abbey, and is now living as a Benedictine in Durham, conducting research at the Centre for Catholic Studies on the experiences of English Benedictine nuns in the early 19th century. Date: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm. Details of how to join are available in the parishes' Facebook groups or by contacting [margaretdoyle1066@sky.com](mailto:margaretdoyle1066@sky.com)

**Mission boxes:** Kim Jennings used to look after the red mission boxes at Newhouse. She is aware that some people might want their boxes emptied. However, she has only a list of *names* of box holders, but no addresses. If anyone wants their box emptied Kim is happy to collect. You can contact her on 0191-373 7403 on weekdays after 3.30 pm. She has also received some calendars for 2021. It's difficult simply to leave these at the back of church at present but they could be distributed with weekly newsletters.

**Accompanying this newsletter today:** With your newsletter this week you should find:

- (i) A statement from the Catholic bishops of England Wales about the publication on Tuesday of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.
- (ii) There is also a separate message about the 'Northern Cross'.

**Bishop's mass:** Next Friday, 20 November, at 12.05pm Bishop Robert will live stream a mass from the cathedral. This will be for all who have died of Covid-19 in recent months.

**Readings for next weekend (Christ the King):** Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17; Psalm 22; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28; Matthew 25: 31-46. The week after that (29 November) will be the first Sunday of Advent.