



**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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 Secretary: Lisa Hatton Tel: (0191) 373 0219  
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Website: [wdrcp.org](http://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.*



**Second Sunday of Advent (Year B) : 6 December 2020**



**Prepare a way:** In our villages we have quite a few new housing estates being built. And what is the very first thing that is built? The road access, so that other equipment and materials can be brought in for the building of the actual houses. Today, in a section from the very beginning of Mark's gospel, Jesus quotes the prophet Isaiah: 'Prepare a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.' Preparing the way is hugely important so that other things can follow. In this time of Advent, we are each invited to look into our hearts. If we are wanting God to come into our lives, what do we need to

change? What might we need to let go of? First, we build the road so that God may have easy access into our lives and into our hearts.

– David Coxon

	<b>St Joseph's Ushaw Moor</b>	<b>St Michael's Esh Laude</b>	<b>Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Newhouse</b>	<b>St Joseph's Langley Park</b>
<b>Saturday 5 December</b>	6.00 pm Mass For everyone in our parish; Jimmy McQuillan, Alison Davidson			
<b>Sunday 6 December</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>		<b>9.30</b> am Mass For everyone in our parish; John Tallentire, Tony Gibbons, Tony Sands, Peter White	10.30 am Mass For everyone in our parish; Edith and James Hughes	
<b>Friday 11 December</b>				10.30am Mass Joan Brennan
<b>Saturday 12 Dec.</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	6.00 pm Mass For everyone in our parish; Lesley Pugh; Stan Harper; Ron Jackson.			
<b>Sunday 13 December</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>		9.30 am Mass For everyone in our parish; Joseph and Mary Tobin	1030 am Mass For all in our parish; Douglas and Bella Linsley	

**Anniversaries: St Joseph's:** Arthur Rowland, James Coonan, Eric Barnes, Beatrice Towns, Brian Kelly, Joe Halpin, Vincent Keelty.

**Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs:** Thomas Johnson, Joseph Atkinson, Michael McMahon, Dennis Brogan, Thomas Rowan, Mary Hughes, Mary Shoulder, Patricia Kervin, Kevin Slevin, Eileen Mallen.

**St Michael's:** Tommy Johnson, Anthony Sands, May Woodhouse, Joseph Dumighan, Catherine Bygroves, Michael Powell, Mary O'Connor, Oswin M. Towns, Jenny Wilson, Frank Armstrong, Bert Goundry, Thomas Finley, Ken Mashel, Joe Halpin.

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

<b>St Joseph's:</b>	<b>St Michael's:</b>	<b>Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:</b>
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 1)**

<b>St Joseph's:</b>	<b>St Michael's:</b>	<b>Our Lady Queen of Martyrs:</b>
Christine Brennan, Margaret Coonan, Joe Cutmore, Bill Donnelly.	Noreen Gardner, Christine Thompson, Jill Cox, Shelagh Robinson.	Cecilia Wharton, Angela McKenna, Tom Brennan, Karen Thompson.

**Prayer resources (1):** How are you finding our experiments in praying through using 'Lectio Divina' ('reading spiritually')? Again, we have a yellow sheet with today's newsletter to help us gently prepare for next weekend's gospel reading. With this way of praying we read a passage from the bible each day, but we don't read it like a thriller, rushing through the passage at speed. We seek to savour every word, each phrase, to discover how it might speak to our hearts. We read slowly, several times over, to allow the Word of God to seep into our being.

**DH7 Advent Course:** This year's Advent course is to be held on Fridays on Zoom. There have now been two sessions but you can still participate on Fridays, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2.00 – 3.00pm. All welcome! To take part please email Bill Offler: [williamoffler@outlook.com](mailto:williamoffler@outlook.com) and, for a booklet, phone Mary Tribe on 0191- 3849133

## SECOND SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

**Public worship:** For the past four weekends our churches have been open for private prayer only. From this weekend (5/6 December) we can re-open for public worship once more. We will again have mass at St Joseph's at 6.00pm on Saturday, at St Michael's at 9.30am on Sunday, at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs at 10.30am on Sunday, then at St Joseph's, Langley Park at 10.30am on 11 December. Once more we will need to phone in and book a place at a mass; we can't just 'turn up', I'm afraid. You can book a place at a mass by phoning:-

> **01740-469532 between 10.00am – 2.00pm on Wednesday,**  
or > **0191- 366 9465 between 5.00 – 6.00pm on Thursday.**

*Do, please, try to keep to these times.* When you phone in, please give your name, your phone number and say whether you are coming to mass as an individual, as a couple, or as a household. And, if you would like to volunteer the occasional 30-minute cleaning or with stewarding at mass, please let us know at the Parish Office. You can email: [stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com](mailto:stjosephs.ushawmoor@btopenworld.com) or phone the office on 0191-373 0219.

**Facebook page:** We have set up a Parish Facebook page. If you are interested in being part of this then the name of the Facebook Group is "St. John Boste Parish Community".

**Prayer resources (2):** With a recent newsletter there was a sheet which spoke about 'the prayer of Anchors'. The terminology may be confusing initially but it is simply a way in which people, each in their own home or surroundings, can be joined together in prayer. This is a bit like the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament we have had in our churches these past four weeks. Everyone is on their own praying individually, yet there is a great sense of bonding in praying together, at the same time.

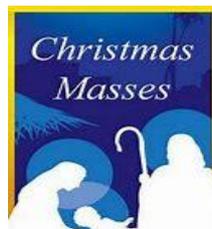


**Parish Coffee Morning:** Our next virtual coffee morning will be on Thursday, 10 December at 10.30am. The meeting will be via Zoom. Don't worry if you have never used Zoom before: it is very easy to join

a Zoom meeting, so please do give it a try. 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).

**'Northern Cross'** is the newspaper of our diocese which brings together news, comment and chat from parishes, partnerships and schools all the way from the Scottish border down to Darlington, Stockton and Hartlepool. Some people may receive a free copy with newsletters this week to encourage interest. 'Northern Cross' is hoping to attract more people to subscribe to this monthly newspaper, either for an online edition or for a paper copy. The annual cost is £36 for a paper edition through the post, or £20 for an online version. The December edition is available now. If you want more information, please phone **01429-274408** or email [editor.norcross@btconnect.com](mailto:editor.norcross@btconnect.com). You could help 'Northern Cross' to survive! A subscription as a Christmas present, perhaps....?

**Prayer resources (3):** As last year, our diocese is offering a reflection on the Scripture readings of each day during Advent. A printed copy is available again today with the paper newsletters that are delivered to people's homes. Those people with access to a computer can access the diocesan website at [redhn.org.uk](http://redhn.org.uk) and scroll down to 'Advent resources' and then 'Advent packs'. Then there are the terrific videos by David Wells ....



**Christmas masses:** In this strange year of 2020 our bishops are hoping that churches will focus on Christmas Day and the 'octave' that follows for celebrating Christmas masses rather than pre-empt the feast. This is a good idea except that it puts considerable pressure on the

relatively few people we have to clean our churches, as that would involve coming in to clean on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. So, I am proposing these masses on Christmas Eve *morning*: 9.00am and 11.00am at St Michael's; then 10.00am and 12 noon at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. On Christmas morning I propose to have masses at 8.30am and 10.00am at St Joseph's, Ushaw Moor. Then a mass at 10.30am on Boxing Day at St Joseph's, Langley Park. [*Please try to leave this mass for residents of Langley Park only since so many people in Langley don't have cars to be able to travel to churches.*] For all of these masses you will need to book a seat. Since they are all 'Christmas masses' please book for only one mass. Further details later.

**Foodbank:** This first weekend in December is usually the best in the year for contributions to the Food Bank. Except this is not a 'normal' year. There is an information sheet with this newsletter. The new Food Bank depot is: *Unit 7-9, First Avenue, Drum Industrial Estate, Chester le Street, DH2 1AG*

**'Blue Christmas'** : Year upon year, TV adverts suggest that everyone has the perfect Christmas, with lots of fun and laughter. Some people do....but many don't. We may want to feel merry and bright, yet in this pandemic year that may feel impossible. Many people are weighed down with anxiety, grief, hurt, sorrow. They may feel tired, broken, lonely. Occasions we would share in - be physically together - may at best look very different, or may not be happening at all. Yet we must 'keep going'. 'Blue Christmas' acknowledges all this. It is a time to come together; to talk to God and to listen; to pray, hear scripture and music; to be there for each other. We'd like invite everyone to a simple and informal 30-minute virtual service on Zoom on Saturday, 19 December at 10:30. We also ask that those unable to attend please hold us in contemplative prayer at this time.

**'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'.