

The Parish of the Durham Martyrs
*Incorporating the Churches of Our Lady of Mercy
& St. Godric, St. Joseph and St. Bede*

Parish Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden



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Parish Newsletter – 10th May 2026 **6th Sunday of Easter**

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On Wednesday evening I attended a gathering of clergy and laity as Bishop Stephen outlined his vision for the future of the Diocese. The meeting was a follow up to the Bishop Stephen's recent Pastoral Letter and questionnaire, to which we responded to in great numbers. Thank you.

There were brief presentations from heads of various departments in the Diocese. I came away with the sense that we are all now experiencing a reality check, especially on the number of properties in the parishes, and diocese that are a financial drain. No surprise. There will be follow-up meetings, especially at a local parish, and Partnership level, and you will be regularly updated.

Eucharistic Ministers: Thank you all who responded to my appeal for Eucharistic Ministers. Fr Adrian Dixon has kindly agreed to come to the parish of the Durham Martyrs on Saturday 25th July to give an in-house training day. The day will begin at 10.00am concluding at 3.00pm. There will be more information nearer the time.

Can names and contact details of all attendees please be given to Marjorie as soon as possible. I do realise some of you will be on holiday, but do give her your contact details anyway. Thank you. Don't forget dates for your diaries re Holy Island Day Pilgrimage.

Feast Days

Tuesday 12 th May	Ss. Nereus and Achilles MM/St. Pancras M
Wednesday, 13 th May	Our Lady of Fatima
Thursday, 14 th May	The Ascension of The Lord

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Mary Crilley	Ian Baillie
Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Mary Carney
Josephine Lyons	Robin Humphrey
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison

Anniversaries:

Estelle Wild	John Pickles
Mary Hollingsworth	



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to family and friends of Danny McCann, whose **Requiem Mass** will take place at **St. Joseph's** on **Friday, 29th May** at **10.00am** followed by cremation in Durham at 11.30am.

Forthcoming Funerals

The late Sylvia Colligan, whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St. Joseph's** on **Tuesday, 12th May** at **10.30am**, followed by burial in South Road Cemetery at 12.00 noon.

The late **Joyce Grant**, whose funeral will take place at Durham Crematorium on **21st May** at **1.00pm**.

The late **Sheila Owens**, whose funeral will take place at St. Cuthbert's on **Tuesday, 26th May** at **10.00am**, followed by cremation in Durham. *Requiescant in pace.*

Holy Day of Obligation – The Ascension of The Lord, 14th May

Parish Masses will be : St. Godric's 10.00am and St. Joseph's 7.00pm

Care for Creation (formerly Laudato Si') Group

7.30pm Monday 18th May in the Franciscan Friary - Every month we meet to talk about how we as a parish and as individuals can better care for Creation, our common home. All are welcome



There will be a parish coffee morning on **Monday 18th May**. It will take place immediately after the 9.15am Service of the Word and Holy Communion. All proceeds are for the charity Women in Need in Nagpur, India. Everyone is very welcome.

Franciscan Seminar Series – 2026

To mark the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis, the Franciscan Friars in Durham are pleased to offer a series of three seminars on Franciscan themes for the parishioners. These gatherings will provide an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the spirituality and legacy of St. Francis in a welcoming and prayerful setting. The first of the seminars will take place at the friary on Tuesday 12th May at 7.00pm.



Parish Summer Baptism Programme

The summer Programme will take place at **St. Joseph's** on **Monday, 22nd June from 6.00-9.00pm**. Refreshments will be provided. If you wish to enrol, please contact Marjorie for further details and a Registration Form.

Please note that the next meeting will be on Saturday 30th May, after 5pm Mass at St Joseph's. This month we're lucky enough to have members of Durham University Gospel Choir joining us.

A reminder about the youth group breakfast fundraiser at both churches after Sunday Mass on 17th May. See poster on the noticeboards at the back of both churches.



Save the Date – the next **International Lunch** will be taking place in the Jubilee room, St Joseph's after 10:30 Mass on 7th June. All are welcome to join us. If you can, please bring a traditional dish from your part of the world.

Invitation to pay the rosary together

All are welcome to join us to pray the Holy Rosary this month of May. We will be praying the Rosary all Fridays during May at 7.00pm.



Date	Church	Group Leading
8 th May	St. Joseph's	Parish Prayer Group
15 th May	St. Godric's	Legion of Mary
22 nd May	St. Joseph's	Parish Schools
29 th May	St. Godric's	SVP



Summer Concert

Saturday 4th July, 7pm a Summer Concert at St Godric's, given by the St. Godric's Choir.

See poster in the porch at the back of both churches.



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL 200 CLUB

Results – May 2026

1st (£50)	No. 8
Dave McDermot	Tynemouth Priory St. Edwards W.B.
Lucy McGoay	Durham Martyrs, St. Godric's
2nd (£25)	No. 161
Laurence McDermott	All Saints, Lncchester
Deborah Gardener	Durham Martyrs – St. Godric's

With many thanks for your continued support



Durham Martyrs Walking Group – 16th May 2026

Our next walk will be a short 'social' walk along the coast at Seaham. The route is approximately 4 miles on footpaths and depending on tide, along the beach to Seaham Hall beach.

It is mainly level but there are steep steps on the return journey. Free parking is available on the rough ground opposite Byron Place Shopping Centre or pay and display nearby. There are various options for us to enjoy refreshments and a chat at the end of the walk. Please meet at the statue at entrance to Byron Place Shopping Centre at 10.30am.

Volunteer Drivers

If you drive a vehicle to carry out church-related duties, you should check the level of cover provided by your insurance company and tell them that you are volunteering. In the vast majority of cases your insurance company will not charge an additional insurance premium for your volunteering work and will simply make a note on your policy. They may provide cover under your SDP policy or they could choose to add personal business cover. If they suggest that a payment is required, this may be waived if you tell them how little you drive for the church compared to your other activities.

Please complete the annual declaration (Form F8) downloadable via this link: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/services/health-safety/health-safety-manual/>

Submit the form to your parish health and safety representative johnwells2911@gmail.com or to the parish secretary. You do not need to provide documentation. Examples of church-related journeys include:

- those who use cars to take communion to the housebound
- driving to the bank with collection monies
- being part of a rota to collect members of (for example) a lunch club
- an organised or semi-organised arrangement where parishioners with cars pick up other parishioners to bring them to Mass.

Parish School News



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
<https://stjosephsgilesgate.bwcet.com/>

This week the children in Year 6 will be taking their SATs tests. We are offering a free breakfast club for all year 6 children during SATs week.

On Wednesday 13th May the children in Year 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

Loving God, as our children begin their SATs this week, fill them with peace, confidence and courage.

Guide their minds, calm their worries, and bless their families with patience and support.

May they always know Your love is with them in all they do,
Amen



St Godric's Catholic Primary School
<https://stgodricsdurham.bwcet.com/>

This week we welcomed Paul and Dan, two Durham police officers, who visited our Year 3 and Year 4 classes to talk

about staying safe online. The children engaged really well and came away with some clear, practical guidance.

Our Early Years Stay & Play sessions have also continued, and it has been great to have parents in the setting, joining in with activities and seeing the children's learning first-hand. These sessions always strengthen that sense of partnership between home and school.

Next week, our Year 6 pupils begin their SATs. Each morning, the children will be offered a choice of breakfast items to help them start the day well, with the much-anticipated bacon and sausage sandwiches on Thursday to mark the final day of the tests. The children have worked with real focus and determination, and they are ready. We continue to remind them that SATs are only one small part of their time at St Godric's. Please keep them in your prayers during the week ahead.



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School
<https://stthomasmorebelmont.bwcet.com/>

Good Luck to Our Year 6 Pupils! Next week, our Year 6 pupils will be sitting their SATs tests. We would like to wish

each and every one of them the very best of luck.

They have worked incredibly hard throughout the year, showing determination, resilience and commitment to their learning. We are very proud of all they have achieved. While these tests are important, what matters most is that they try their best — which we know they will.

To help make the mornings a little easier, school would like to warmly welcome pupils into school earlier than usual to join our **free Breakfast Club**. It's a chance to enjoy a healthy breakfast, settle nerves and start the day feeling calm and prepared.

We keep our Year 6 children in our thoughts and prayers as they take this next step, and wish them confidence, success and peace of mind throughout the week.

SAVE THE DATE

(1) Parish of the Durham Martyrs annual pilgrimage to Lindisfarne

Saturday 5 September 2025

More details to follow.

(2) Keswick Retreat 2027

We will once again be retreating at Castlerigg Manor in Keswick from **Friday 26th to Sunday, 28th February 2027**.

Due to increased costs, the price of the retreat will be **£155 per person**. This includes all accommodation and meals.

If you are interested in joining the retreat or would like any further information drop Katie a message or give her a call on 07807 935066.

Forthcoming Events at Ushaw - Chapter & Verse is Ushaw's book group. The next meeting of the book group is on **Tuesday 19th May at 1.30pm.** For this meeting we will be reading *Apologia pro Vita Sua* by John Henry Newman. Come along and join the conversation, even if you have not had time to read the book! No pre-booking is required, and the event is free with Ushaw membership or a day pass.

Lecture at Holy Name, Jesmond 16 May, 11.00am

'From Francis to Leo: the Catholic Church in a Change of Era' - When Pope Francis died a year ago, the Cardinals elected a Pope who would continue and deepen his reform, which they said was key to evangelizing today's world. This is what Francis and now Leo call "the change of era" -- a new apostolic age.

In his lecture at the Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX on **Saturday 16 May at 11am**, Pope Francis biographer and noted Catholic journalist and commentator, Dr Austen Ivereigh explains the nature of the Francis-Leo transition, how the Church is being called to change its way of operating, and why it matters for the future of faith in these islands.

All are welcome, there is no charge and no booking is necessary.

Our Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion team would like to advertise their Mass for Pentecost – see below:

CHARIS invite you to the Mass for Pentecost on Saturday 16th May at English Martyrs Church, Stamfordham Road, Newcastle, NE5 3JR. Praise and worship begins at 1:00 pm, followed by Mass at 1:20 pm, celebrated by Bishop Stephen.

This joyful celebration will feature music from our music groups, prayers and parts of the liturgy in different languages. The Mass is open to all, so we look forward to seeing you there.

Mass Intentions for the Week

10th May 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 9 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey
Sunday 10 May	9.00am Gloria Hughes 10 th Anniversary 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.00am The Charlton Family, and Charles Gnanaprakasam 30 th day remembrance
Monday 11 May	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 12 May	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am NO MASS	10.30am Requiem Mass of the late Sylvia Colligan
Wednesday 13 May	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am – St. Joseph's Years 3 & 4 attending Sylvia Colligan
Thursday 14 May ASCENSION OF THE LORD	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Timothy Caulfield	7.00pm Ascension Mass
Friday 15 May	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Peter and Catherine McLoughlin
Saturday 16 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Kevin Crilly Anniversary
Sunday 17 May 7 th SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am Frank & Bernard McGoay, and Susannah & George Michiels	10.30am In thanksgiving for a 90 th Birthday, Sylvia Colligan, and Patrick McQuillan 9 th Anniversary

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 10	Mon 11	Tue 12	Wed 13	Thurs 14	Fri 15	Sat 16	Sun 17
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	6.30pm (Chaplaincy) Mass in Durham Cathedral: Vigil of the Ascension)	12.15pm	12.15	9.15am and 12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm