

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

17th November 2024 – 33rd Sunday of the Year

Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden

Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers

Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm

Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544/0191 3332183

(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

Congratulations to St Leonard's on their wonderful Ofsted results. This is particularly excellent when one considers the obstacles the beset the school over the recent years, especially RACK. Well done to Mr Hamill and Staff...not forgetting the students.

There is a joint statement in this bulletin from St Joseph's School and the Parish regarding the recent challenges with drug abuse and loitering in the vicinity of both school, and parish. We ask your support please .

Our Confirmation evenings kicked off on Wednesday with a great attendance. Thanks Sarah and Kieran for leading. Excellent.

The Journey in Faith also began on Thursday with a really good turnout. You are welcome to join us.

Feast Days

Monday, 18 November	Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss. Peter and Paul
Wednesday, 20 November	St. Edmund King M
Thursday 21 November	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday, 22 November	St. Cecelia V, M
Saturday, 23 November	St. Clement 1 Pp, M/St. Columban Ab
Sunday, 24 November	Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Tony Twomey
Ann Hourican	Jared Howarth
Mary Armstrong	Ian Hamilton
Sheila Owens	Ann Close
Margaret Nancarrow	Margaret Graham

Anniversaries:

Bob Cass	Matthew Fletcher
Brian O'Connor	Norah Shaw



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Craig Mackerness. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time.

Funerals this Week

Wednesday, 20th November

Requiem Mass of Brian Harland, 10.00a.m at St. Joseph's

Friday, 22nd November

Funeral Service of Dawn Kate Lennon, 12.00pm at St. Joseph's
Requiesant in pace

Global Healing Film Nights at St. Francis' Friary

November 18th and 25th, 7 - 8.15 pm.

All are welcome to join us at the Friary to watch the films. We also hope to discuss the topic and to share together practical ways of responding to the current crisis. These are inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical "Laudato Si" (2015) on the dangers of Climate Change and our response.

New parish email address

Please note that we have a new diocesan email address with immediate effect:
durham.martyrs@diocesehn.org.uk

Eucharistic Services at St. Joseph's

At present there are about 3 to 8 people attending the services. How can we encourage attendance. Would a different time be better? Perhaps something special for Advent? Your ideas are welcome. Please contact Fr. Colm with your suggestions.



Parish Community Christmas Fayre – 16th November – 10.30am-12.30pm - A very big thank you from Fr. Colm and the organisers of our first Community Christmas Fayre, which takes place this weekend.

We have been overwhelmed at the generosity of parishioners who very kindly responded to our requests for items over the past few weeks.

Please do join us tomorrow morning and see the amazing stalls manned by various external and parish groups, not forgetting Santa's Grotto!

Journey in Faith

If anyone is interested in finding out more about our faith, please contact Fr. Colm.

Confirmation Programme

We were delighted to meet so many young people and their families at the first session of our Preparing for Confirmation Programme on Wednesday evening.

We had 28 candidates attend the session and we really are looking forward to getting to know you all as we begin this journey together. The next session will be held in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's Gilesgate on 11th December at 6pm. In this session we will consider our Journey of Faith and the Importance of Baptism.

Youth Mass

A group of volunteers from St. Leonard's will be leading Mass at St. Godric's on Sunday 1st December at 9am. We hope this will be the first of many where our young parishioners become involved in our parish. We would especially welcome any newcomers and family members of our Mass leaders to join us to celebrate this Mass at St. Godric's.

Cleaning at St. Godric's

Help needed. We need helpers for cleaning at St. Godric's.

We have decided to set a particular day each month, ask for helpers and whoever can manage would be very welcome for as long or short time as they can offer. We have decided on the second Tuesday of each month. The next cleaning date is **Tuesday the 10th December** to begin after 10am mass. Our November meeting was fun and others would be welcome. Any queries contact Mary Earnshaw 07748764366.

New Lectionary from Sunday 1st December 2024

The new lectionary/translation will begin to be used on **the first Sunday of Advent** using the **ESV-CE** translation. We will change from the Jerusalem Bible used since the 1960's. The complaint against the Jerusalem version is it has all interpretation built into the text and limits the interpretation by the reader as it has already been interpreted for us. The ESV strips back these layers and leaves just the text. Instead of all the work being done for us it challenges us to wrestle with the Word, to think about it.

Nothing of the choice of readings will change in the new Lectionary just the translation.

The Psalms translation used at Mass is also changing. The new lectionary Psalms will be taken from **Abbey Psalms and Canticles** instead of Grails Psalms. The Abbey Psalms are being used to keep a degree of musicality to the Psalms.

There will be a reflection evening on **Thursday 21st November at 7pm in St Joseph's** for all Readers in the parish. Anyone who would like to read in Church is also more than welcome to attend.



Sudan Appeal

Once again, the SVP is making a Christmas Appeal for funds to relieve the desperate situation in Southern Sudan. There are 1.4 million children under the age of five suffering from acute malnutrition and 7.1 million people facing food insecurity.

The SVP has been working tirelessly to provide hope and assistance with projects such as; Infant feeding, Healthcare Centres, Schools, Home for homeless young boys, Support for displaced persons as well as Vocational Training Opportunities. Your generosity over the past years has been outstanding and I hope you will continue to support this worthwhile cause.

To make a donation directly to the SVP please click the following link: <https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/page/134642/donate/1> Or, if you wish to pay by cheque, please make it out to 'SVP Sudan Appeal' and put it in an envelope with Sudan Appeal on the outside and then put it in the Offertory basket, by December 14th. Thank you in anticipation, Chris Brennan.



Memorial Sunday - our annual Memorial Sunday Mass will take place next **Sunday 24th November** at St. Joseph's at 3.00pm. All families of deceased parishioners who have been bereaved during the year 1st November 2023 – 31st October 2024 will receive a personal invitation from Fr. Colm to come along and light a candle in remembrance of their loved ones.

Fr. Colm will light three larger candles (one for St. Joseph's, one for St. Godric's, and one for St. Bede's Chapel) which represent the deceased members of the wider parish and our families and friends. These will be lit at every Mass until Christmas. Please come along to the Mass and join us for seasonal refreshments in the Jubilee Room afterwards. Everyone welcome.

Save the Dates

Christmas Concert - Durham University Chamber Choir

7.30pm Saturday 7th December - St. Godric's Church

Early notice of the above concert. Further details to follow.

Help with stewarding on the night would be appreciated.

Please contact Joe Hughes

Email joe.hughes2017@hotmail.com

Mobile 078 1446 1446

Sunday 15th December – Parish Christingle 3:00pm

Children and families are invited to join us at **3pm** on **Sunday 15th December** in **St Joseph's** for our **Parish Christingle Service**. From **3pm** Children will make their own **Christingles** in the Jubilee Room (Church will provide everything needed) where we will talk about what each part symbolises before going into Church at **3:30pm** for the blessing and lighting of the Christingles. We will have prayers and finish with a carol. All are welcome!

Please **RSVP BY MONDAY 9th DECEMBER** if you plan to attend with **your child(ren)'s name(s)** and **how many Christingles you will need to make** so we have a rough idea of how many oranges to purchase by emailing durhammartyrswebsite@hotmail.com.

Advent Concert - Thursday 19th December 7.00pm

St. Joseph's Church, Gilesgate

FREE ENTRY

An evening of music, film, poetry and conversation with special guests from Palestine, is being held on **Wednesday 4th December** at **7pm** at **Elvet Methodist Church, Durham**. It is being hosted by Amos Trust, a Christian charity.

The event is **free**, though it is advisable to book tickets.

Full details are available from amostrust.org/christmas-appeal

St. Thomas More School - Nursery and Reception Admissions

Open Days :

Friday 22nd November 9.30am

Tuesday 26th November 9.30am

Tuesday 3rd December 9.30am

Friday 13th December 1.30pm

Or you can get in touch to make an alternative appointment. Contact us 0191 3864761, or email stmb@stmb.bwcet.com All families welcome

Parish of the Durham Martyrs Memory Café

Durham Martyrs Parish host a Memory Café, for those living with dementia and their carers on the second Tuesday of every month (1-3pm) at **St Joseph's RC Church, Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG.**

During the Café as well as enjoying cake and refreshments, we do craft activities, games and have sing -a-longs and even dancing in a friendly and relaxed environment. If you have any queries or would first just like to come along and see what happens, please contact **Durham Martyrs' Parish Secretary - (0191) 3843810 or 07483 369 561, or email durham.martyrs@diocesehn.org.uk**

Statement from Father Colm and David Miller, Executive Head of St Joseph's School

Sadly, we find ourselves having to inform you of recent acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour that have affected both the school and church properties. Over the past few weeks several incidents have occurred, and these actions have caused both financial strain and a disruption to the children's learning environment.

At St Joseph's, we strive to provide a safe, welcoming and inspiring space for all our children and families. Unfortunately, repairing this damage will require us to divert funds and resources from activities and resources that benefit the children. Both school and church are working closely with local authorities to investigate these incidents and to mitigate against further issues. Additionally, we kindly ask for your assistance. If you notice any suspicious activity, please do not hesitate to contact us or the relevant authorities.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us foster a sense of respect and pride in our community.

Assisted Suicide Bill

'Not Dead Yet UK' – a network of people with disabilities who oppose legalising assisted suicide, has helped in printing and distributing postcards throughout the UK. These postcards present evidence-based reasons to oppose assisted suicide, urging MP's to vote against this Bill on 29th November. If these postcards are sent to local MP's in large numbers, they will have a big impact.

There is a supply of postcards at the back of church. If you would like to help, please take one, fill in the details, attach a stamp and send it to the House of Commons.

Forthcoming Events at Ushaw

Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw

On Sunday 17th November at 4pm, please join us for Sung Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw, an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church for the day. All are welcome. No tickets needed.

A Workshop on Synodality

On Saturday 30th November Ushaw will be hosting a Workshop on Synodality, with Guest Speaker, Professor Anna Rowlands. This is a chance to find out more about the worldwide Synod, and also to bring together people from across our Diocese to explore how we can use the synodal approach locally, to help everyone to participate in the life of our local churches. The day runs from 11am to 3.30pm, and tickets cost £10. Further details on Ushaw's website at <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/>, where you can also book your tickets.

Little Sisters of the Poor

A huge thank you to everyone who very kindly supported our Christmas Fayre at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 9th November. It was a great success. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did.

We look forward to welcoming you back.

Mother Kathleen Mary and Community

Mass Intentions for the Week

17th November 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 16 November		5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey, Anthony Farmer and a Special Intention (Illness-EL)
Sunday 17 November	9.00am Brian Bowes(SVP) 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Austin Flynn Anniversary and Veronica and Eric Smith
Monday 18 November	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 19 November	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Joseph and Mary Ellen Ward and Colin and Stella Wild	NO MASS
Wednesday 20 November	NO MASS	10.00am Requiem Mass of the late Brian Harland
Thursday 21 November	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Audrie Walsh Birthday Remembrance	NO MASS OR SERVICE
Friday 22 November	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am – World Peace 12.00pm Funeral Service of the late Dawn Kate Lennon
Saturday 23 November	NO MASS	5.00pm – Vigil Mass Audrey and Thomas Loughlin and Bede Murray Birthday Remembrance
Sunday 24 November	9.00am Special Intention (MT) 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Brian O'Connor Anniversary 3.00pm Memorial Sunday Mass of Remembrance

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 17	Mon 18	Tue 19	Wed 20	Thurs 21	Fri 22	Sat 23	Sun 24
10.00am and 6.30pm	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	NO MASS	7.00pm	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm