

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

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Parish Newsletter

8th February 2026 – 5th Sunday of the Year

Parish Secretary: Mrs. M. D. Towers
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Parish mobile: 07483 369 561
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

Shine and Season

You are the salt upon the earth,
A quiet gift of humble worth,
That seasons hearts with grace and care,
And draws the lost to love's repair.
You are the light the night can't hide,
A beacon burning deep inside,
Set high so wandering souls may see
The path to truth, the way to be.
So let your kindness brightly glow,
In every place your feet may go;
For when your life reflects His flame,
The world will glorify His name.

Unknown

Feast Days

Tuesday, 10 th February	St. Scholastica V
Wednesday, 11 th February	Our Lady of Lourdes
Saturday, 14 th February	Ss. Cyril, Monk & Methodius Bp – Patrons of Europe

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Mary Dennis
Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Sheila Owens	Veronica O'Reilly
John Barrett	Marek Earnshaw
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	John Doyle
Mary Wright	Danny McCann

Anniversaries:

Laura Mulvaney	John Power
Mary Hails	Noel Reid
Matt Hirst	Betty Larmour
Stephen Coyne	Joseph Cornea
Patrick Killian	George Sutton
John Hirst	John Carroll
David Scott	Hannah Mary Drane
Sharon Henderson	Brian Bowes
Margaret Mary Smith	Dominic Efosa Obakpolor



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Ronald Malarkey, whose Funeral Service will take place at Durham Crematorium on **Thursday, 12th February at 11.30am.**

..and also to Greg Jarvis and family on the sad loss of his brother Tim. His funeral will be held in Newmarket.

Sympathy also to the family of Tony Twomey whose funeral arrangements are not known at this time.

Requiescant in pace.

Forthcoming Funerals

Funeral Service of the late Philip Gibson, at St. Joseph's on **Wednesday, 11th February** at 1.00pm (not 12.00pm as previously noted) followed by burial at South Road, Durham at 2.00pm.

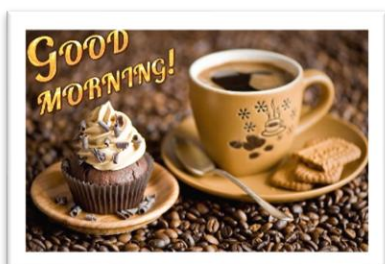
Requiescat in pace



Baptism – we welcome into our parish community Flora Jean Marley who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism **next Sunday, 15th February**, after the 10.30am Mass at St. Joseph's.

The next **St. Godric cleaning date** is **Tuesday 10th February after 10am Mass**. Things have been a bit haphazard over the past few months but if anyone could spare a little of their time on Tuesday they would be very welcome. Thank you.

Journey in Faith – **Thursday, 12th February at 7.00pm**. The topic will be 'Eucharist'. All welcome.



There will be a parish coffee morning on **Monday 16th February**. It will be held in St. Bede's Room in St Godric's School immediately after the 9.15am Service of the Word and Holy Communion.

All proceeds are for Women in Need in India. Everyone is very welcome.

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches

Date	Group
20 th February	SVP
27 th February	
6 th March	Justice and Peace
13 th March	
20 th March	Youth Group
27 th March	Bereavement Group



SAVE THE DATE

All are welcome to our Parish St. Patrick's Ceilidh

14th March 8pm-10pm in St Joseph's School Hall

Brilliant Ceilidh Band 'North by North East'.

£5 Adults. £2.50 Children. Tickets available very soon !

Parish School News



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

This week our school will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week and we will be talking, listening and learning how to support each other and ourselves.

On Tuesday 10th February, the children will be hosting a Safer Internet Day Assembly in the school hall at 2.45pm. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

On Wednesday 11th February, the children in Year 5 and 6 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

Change of Date - Please be aware that the Explanation Mass for the children receiving their First Holy Communion will now take place on **Sunday 15th February at 3pm at St. Joseph's Church, Gilesgate**. This new date replaces the previously scheduled Mass on Sunday 1st February. We look forward to coming together to celebrate this special preparation Mass.



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

Un fantastique Vendredi Français! On Friday, the children all enjoyed a French-themed afternoon. They took part in a quiz, practised speaking

French and tasted some delicious French food, giving everyone a chance to learn and enjoy a little bit of French culture together.

Children's Mental Health Week - This year's theme is 'This Is My Place' and throughout next week, we will explore the importance of belonging, for our mental health and wellbeing. Look out for our photos and videos on our new Instagram and Facebook accounts:

Instagram: stgodricsdurham **Facebook:** St. Godric's Catholic Primary and Nursery School



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

We are delighted to share the exciting news that we have secured our school visit to the Houses of Parliament for this

year. Our Year 5 and 6 children will travel to London on 12th June to enjoy a guided tour of Parliament, see Buckingham Palace, and take in some of the other iconic sights of our capital city. This is always a memorable opportunity for our pupils to deepen their understanding of democracy and British heritage.




We are also offering tours of our school and nursery for families with children who will be turning three in the next year. Spaces are filling up quickly, so we encourage families to get in touch soon if they would like to join our nurturing early years.

Our next meeting will take place on **28th February**, right after the **5:00 pm Mass** at **St. Joseph's**. This time we'll be playing games, share food together and also we'll be making lanterns, as we've been invited to help create them for the upcoming **Lanterns of Hope** event at Crook Hall Gardens. It's a lovely opportunity to get creative together and support a beautiful community celebration.



International lunch - We are looking forward to see you at our next Parish International Lunch, a joyful celebration of the many cultures that make up our community. Join us for an afternoon of friendship and delicious food.

Please consider bringing a dish that represents your heritage or a favourite recipe from any culture. Whether it's something homemade or something simple, your contribution will help make our table as diverse and welcoming as our parish family. Come enjoy good food, good company, and the chance to learn more about one another.

 **Date:** 15th February  **Time:** after the 10:30 Mass  **Location:** St Joseph's Jubilee Room

Confirmation Group 2026 - The group's preparations are going very well and they have completed 2 of their 6 sessions. Please can parents of those preparing ensure they check their emails regularly as this is the only channel of communication between Catechists and parents.



There are regular informative emails shared and if you have any queries or concerns, these should be communicated via this email address as both Catechists and Fr. Colm monitor the account: sacramentofconfirmation2025@gmail.com

Parish Handbook - We have new versions of the Parish Handbook and Parish Information Leaflet for 2026. You will be able to find these on the Parish Website and there are copies on the noticeboards of our churches.

Peru Mission - Joe Pumb will give an update on the Peru Mission at all Masses this weekend.

Safety Alert - St. Godric's Church – Upcoming Maintenance Work

St Godric's church upcoming maintenance work safety alert

- **On Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd January** the path along the north side of the church to and from the car park will be closed whilst scaffolding is being erected.
- The scaffolding will remain in place until scheduled dismantling on **Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th February**. On those two days the footpath will again be closed until the work is completed.

- **After Thursday 22nd January and before Monday 9th February** access along the path underneath scaffolding boards will be permitted even when investigative work is being carried out on the roof above, but please take extra care if using the path during that period for Tuesday and Thursday services.
- Car park users on any of the four days when the path is closed can access the church either by the rear door if keyholders or via the cobbled Back Tenter Terrace and the main door, but bear in mind that contractor vehicles may also be in the car park on those days and throughout the whole period of works so space may be limited.
- Access to the church via the main access path and the main door will be available as normal throughout the whole period, though it may be necessary at times during the working week for a contractor vehicle to be parked on the approach path.
- It is anticipated that the majority of attendees, particularly on the three Sundays, should not be inconvenienced but all are advised to take extra care.



SVP Sudan Appeal

Once again Durham Martyrs' Parish has risen to the challenge and raised over £1,300 for the Sudan Appeal. Given the difficult economic situation, the amount raised is magnificent and illustrates the generosity of your selfless giving.

If you wish to make a donation could you please make out any cheque to 'SVP Twinning', put it in an envelope with your name on and give it to Chris Brennan by this Sunday 8th February. Thank you.

A monthly tip for sustainable living

Can we go on holiday but still reduce our impact on the environment? We can, if we choose more eco-friendly transportation, tour operators and accommodation, and opt for purchases that do less damage to the environment and create more benefits for local people.

For low carbon train travel options in the UK, Europe and worldwide, see www.seat61.com For advice and suggestions on climate-smart holidays, see www.greentraveller.co.uk and www.greenglobaltravel.com

Mass Intentions for the Week

8th February 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 7 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Joanne Fryer and Belle Blakey
Sunday 8 February	9.00am Stephen Coyne Anniversary and Dominic Efosa Obakpolor 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Brian Harland and in thanksgiving for Amanda Hyland's 100th Birthday celebrations this weekend
Monday 9 February	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 10 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Patrick Frobisher Anniversary	NO MASS
Wednesday 11 February	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am – A sick person (St. Joseph's Yrs. 5 and 6 attending) 1:00pm Funeral Service of the late Philip Gibson
Thursday 12 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Margaret Nancarrow	NO MASS
Friday 13 February	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Tony Twomey
Saturday 14 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Joanne Fryer and Rosie Francesca Braithwaite
Sunday 15 February	9.00am Joanne Fryer 3.00-4.00 – Exposition	10.30am Hugh and Sibby Conway

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 8 Feb	Mon 9	Tue 10	Wed 11	Thurs 12	Fri 13	Sat 14	Sun 15
10.00am and 6.30pm	9.15am	12.15pm	6.30pm Chaplaincy Mass in Durham Cathedral	12.15pm	9.15am	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm