

***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*



TELEPHONE: 07483 369 561  
EMAIL: [durham.martyrs@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:durham.martyrs@diocesehn.org.uk)  
WEBSITE: [www.durhammartyrs.co.uk](http://www.durhammartyrs.co.uk)  
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

*Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers*

## **Parish Newsletter - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2025**

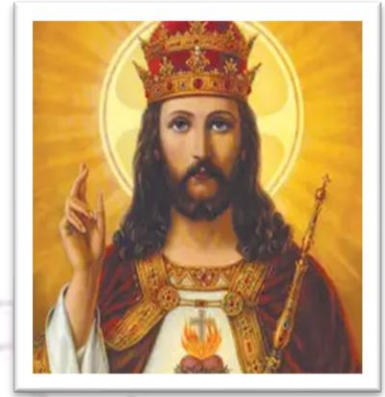
### **Our Lord Jesus Christ the King**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Colm Hayden

**Parish Secretary:** Marjorie Towers 07483 369 561  
Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday,  
8.30am-4.00pm

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

(Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital  
who would like a visit)



We celebrate our annual Memorial Sunday Mass of Remembrance this Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm in St. Joseph's.

Families who have been bereaved during the past year will be lighting candles for their loved ones. It is an opportunity to be amongst other parishioners who also suffered bereavement during the year.

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 will be lit at every Mass until Christmas. These represent deceased members of the wider parish and our families and friends,

All are welcome, and please do join us in the Jubilee Room afterwards for seasonal refreshments.

Next Saturday morning (29<sup>th</sup>), we have our Parish Community Christmas Fayre from 10.30am-12.30pm. Once again 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 and see the amazing stalls manned by various external and parish groups, not forgetting Santa's Grotto!

## Feast Days

Monday, 24 November	St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions (The Martyrs of Vietnam)
Tuesday, 25 November	St. Catherine of Alexandria V, M
Wednesday, 26 November	St. Leonard of Porto Maurizio Rel



Prayers – please keep in your prayers

Kitty Trainor	Ann Close
Mary Armstrong	Syd Inglis
Sheila Owens	Liz Murray
Margaret Nancarow	Veronica O'Reilly
Danny McCann	Marek Earnshaw
Rose Simpson	Nigel Anthony Cunningham
John Barrett	

## Anniversaries



Brian O'Connor	Norah Shaw
Audrey Loughlin	Maureen Bryden
Tess Moon	Richard Barker
Bryan Moran	Michael Wilkinson

**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Mark Shaw, whose Funeral Service will take place at St. Joseph's on Friday, **19<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00pm, followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.**

*Requiescat in pace.*

## Forthcoming Funeral

Phil Casey, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December in St. Joseph's at 12.00pm followed by cremation

## Safety and Security of Church buildings

Buildings across the Durham Martyrs Parish are accessed by a number of parishioners on a daily basis, it is recognised that they will be key holders and as such have a responsibility in ensuring the buildings are secure upon exiting.

There have been occasions recently where doors have been left unlocked and this can create a security risk particularly the personal safety of Fr Colm. A review of entry and exit points will be undertaken to identify problem areas.

Parish Buildings committee.

# PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



St Godric's Catholic Primary School

<https://stgodricsdurham.bwcet.com/>

Sunday 30 November - We welcome our First Holy Communion children for Mass at St Godric's Church at 9am.

Monday 1 December - The First Holy Communion Catechist session *We seek forgiveness* will be in school on Monday 1 December at 3.15pm.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

<https://stjosephsgilesgate.bwcet.com/>

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November, the Year 4 pupils from our Small Schools Cluster will attend a residential retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village. This is joyful, reflective and community building experience for children. It is a 3-day retreat with lots of exciting activities such as creative workshops, woodland walks and a fantastic Escape Room Challenge.

The children will return on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November it will be a Non-uniform day and we will be grateful for any donations of cuddly toys for our upcoming Christmas Fayre



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School

<https://stthomasmorebelmont.bwcet.com/>

At St. Thomas More, our year 4 children are looking forward to a 2-night stay residential at Emmaus Village next week. Hosted by The Youth Ministry team, they will provide a warm, uplifting, and memorable experience for our year 4 pupils - helping them to explore and deepen their spirituality within a joyful Catholic environment. Through creative activities, reflective prayer, and engaging group sessions, the children will have the opportunity to nurture a sense of belonging and recognise God's presence in their everyday lives. We have no doubt, that this exciting opportunity will help our children grow in confidence, compassion, and faith.



St Leonard's Catholic Secondary School  
<https://stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com/>

### A celebration of joy, jingles and harmony

This year our music ensembles will be performing on Tuesday 16th December at St. Joseph's Church in Gilesgate.

Tickets will be free but are limited. If you would like to book tickets, please click on the link below. Performers will not require a ticket.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-leonards-presents-sounds-of-christmas-tickets-1967528033312?aff=oddtcreator>



**Thank you** – Edith Haswell and family would like to thank everyone for all the cards and messages of condolence received in memory of Ken, and also for the donations in lieu of flowers. Children's Cancer North and Bright Red be benefitted from £200 each.

### Journey in Faith

On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November, the topic will be Baptism. Please come along if you would like to learn more about our Faith. For further information speak to Marjorie in the parish office, 07483 369 561.



**Memorial Sunday** - our annual Memorial Sunday Mass will take place this Sunday **23<sup>rd</sup> November** at St. Joseph's at 3.00pm. All families of deceased parishioners who have been bereaved during the past year have received 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.



We are meeting this Saturday (22<sup>nd</sup>) after the Vigil Mass and will be making some Christmas decorations.



**Parish Community Christmas Fayre, Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> November, in St. Joseph's Church at 10.30am-12.30pm**

Thank you once again for your amazing, very generous donations to our Fayre. It's almost here and we are really looking forward to a special Parish/Community event. Many of you have signed up to help in preparations as well as on the day itself. Our final 'ask' is for donations (with ingredient information) for our cake stall. These can be brought into church on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> or on the day. Also toy donations that are boxed.

During the Fayre we will be taking a limited number of pictures for our social media feeds. Please let one of us know on the day if you don't wish to be photographed. Our final plea is to spread a warm welcome to families and neighbours. We're hoping our Fayre will be a huge success when we will have the opportunity to spend time together and learn of the amazing support in our Parish and wider Community. Santa has confirmed he is able to visit!.

If you have offered to volunteer, the Church will be open from 9am we would be grateful if you could arrive no later than 9.45am.

For parish stall holders, we are hoping to have most tables placed into position for you to stock on Friday 27<sup>th</sup>, after morning Mass (from 10.30am) until 8pm.

Please contact the parish on Friday, Erica and Cynthia will be there, for an update on table availability and queries.

Thank you  
Erica and Cynthia



Also, please spread the word Santa will be attending and looks forward to meeting children in the community Ho! Ho! Ho!



**Advent Soup Lunches – many thanks to the following:**

5<sup>th</sup> December, Justice and Peace Group

12<sup>th</sup> December, Youth Group

19<sup>th</sup> December - SVP



## Save the Date

The SVP will be holding their annual Christmas Party on **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December** in the Jubilee Room at **St. Joseph's** from **12.00 noon**.



## *Christmas Party*

There is a list at the back of both churches for you to put in your name and a contact number if you would like to attend, and also indicate whether you would like a lift.

We would be grateful to the parish for any donations of raffle prizes.

## World Youth Sunday Collection

This weekend we will celebrate World Youth Sunday, when the Church gives thanks for the life and faith of our young people. The retiring collection will support the work of the Youth Ministry Trust (YMT), our Diocesan Youth Service. Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of church - please consider taking one home this week and bringing it back for next Sunday's collection. Your generosity helps young people encounter Christ and grow in faith.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday 14th December** **3-4pm**

**St Joseph's Church**

**Parish Christingle**

**Bring your own orange**

to make your own Christingle at our craft table in the Jubilee Room (Everything else will be provided in church) then join us for the lighting of the Christingles and prayers at **3:30pm**. All welcome.

## Durham Churches Together

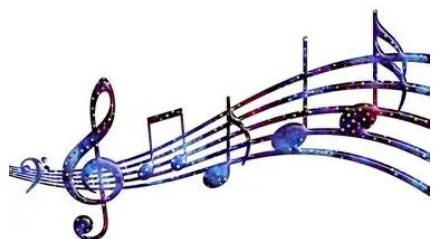
The Committee is running a series of studies on Receptive Ecumenism. The first one will be on Wednesday 26th November in the Woods Room at Waddington Street URC 12.30 - 2 pm.

Soup, tea, coffee will be provided from 12.30 with the study commencing at 1 pm. The following study, t.b.a., will be in January. The studies are written by Churches Together in England.

"The essential principle behind Receptive Ecumenism is that the primary ecumenical responsibility is to ask not "What do the other traditions first need to learn from us?" but "What do we need to learn from them?" The assumption is that if all were asking this question seriously and acting upon it then all would be moving in ways that would both deepen our authentic respective identities and draw us into a more intimate relationship." (Durham Centre for Catholic Studies).

It is not essential to register for the study on 26th November but it would help catering if you can kindly let Charles Jolly know if you hope to attend: [charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com](mailto:charles.jolly13@btopenworld.com)

## DECEMBER CONCERTS



**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm - Durham University Chamber Choir**

**“ O Radiant Dawn “ - The performance features music by MacMillan, Alain, Marsh and Park.**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm - Dunelm Consort and Players - “ The Messiah “**  
If you are planning to attend, please click into the link for tickets:  
<https://durhamstudentmusic.org/whats-on/handels-messiah-1>

Please note that St Godric's Church will have rehearsals for our two upcoming concerts as follows:

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December** from 11.00am onwards **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December** from 11.00am onwards.

**Ways of Giving to support the Parish – in the Work it does and to maintain its Buildings**  
By Standing Order or Envelope or Cash on the Collection Plates or the Fourth Option of Giving by Debit or Credit Card using the electronic giving plates at the back of each Church or online via the Parish Website. Donations may be able to be gift aided .

To set up a Standing Order or for Internet Banking:

**HSBC Bank Account – Durham Martyrs Parish**

**Sort Code – 40 34 45**

**Account No – 51179306**

Occasionally it may happen that a donation is incorrectly made - eg that too high a donation is made - and it is not realised until sometime afterwards. If you find you have made an error with your donation please contact Fr. Colm in confidence and we will correct it.

## Monthly Tip for Sustainable Living

Only 32% of plastic waste across the UK is recycled each year. Up to 4 million tons goes to landfill, is lost in the environment, or enters our rivers and seas. We can make a difference if we all limit our use of plastic. Some small ways are:

- Buying fruit and vegetables loose if possible
- Using refillable bottles for washing up liquid, shampoo, hand-wash, household cleaners
- Preferring reusable containers or food wraps to clingfilm
- Carrying a reusable cup for takeaway drinks
- Rejecting plastic bottles of water - a plastic bottle will only start to decompose after about 450 years

### **Forthcoming Events at Ushaw**

**The Council of Nicaea:** Throughout November, Ushaw has an exhibition in the Cloister corridor on the theme of the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea. To accompany the exhibition, on Friday 28th November Ushaw's conversation group "Let's Talk About..." will be talking about Nicaea and the Nicene Creed. This is an opportunity for us to share what we know about the Council, and what it means for Christians. The meeting starts at 10am, and everyone is welcome. No ticket required. Further details are on Ushaw's website <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/>.

### **Ushaw is hosting a series of talks called The Conversation Room.**

On **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm**, Lucia Luck shares the fascinating story of Francis Joseph Sloane (1794–1871), a former pupil of Ushaw College, revealing his generosity, enduring affection for Ushaw, and the broader context of Catholic life in 19th-century England.

Pay as you wish for the talks, pre-book your place on [The Conversation Room - https://ushaw.org/whatson/the-conversation-room/Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels & Gardens](https://ushaw.org/whatson/the-conversation-room/Ushaw: Historic House, Chapels & Gardens).

### **From the Diocese**

#### **Holy Island Term Time Volunteer Opportunity**

Are you retired, semi-retired or just enjoying life and would like to give something back to the children of the North East? If so, this could be for you. Holy Island SVP Vinnie's Camp are looking for volunteers to help in their Kitchen or with caretaking at our centre on Holy Island. Commitment time would vary from a weekend, to half a week, a full week or maybe more if you would like to, and you get to stay in our very comfortable Lindisfarne House accommodation. Without more term time volunteers our Summer SVP Vinnies Camps would not be possible and many schools in the North East would not have access to reasonably priced residential holidays for their children. Applications open in December on our website: <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> If you are interested or want more information please email [barbart@svp.org.uk](mailto:barbart@svp.org.uk)

#### **Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camps Summer 2026 Volunteering Opportunities**

We would love to have more volunteers help out at our weekly SVP Summer Camps on Lindisfarne. Helping is a really great thing to do and you will need to be prepared to give a week of your time over the Summer holidays, have high levels of energy, patience, a sense of humour, be a team player, flexible and good at communicating with adults and children. If you would like to volunteer or know someone who would be great please look at our website - applications for volunteering in 2026, open in December. <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp>



	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 22 November	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Audrey & Thomas Loughlin, Ernest Layton Anniversary, and Bede Murray Birthday Remembrance
Sunday 23 November Our Lord Jesus Christ the King	9.00am Audrie Walsh Birthday Remembrance and a 40-day Prayer Intention for the late Jayson Ramos 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Austin Flynn Anniversary and Jim Pickering Birthday Remembrance 3.00pm Memorial Sunday Mass
Monday 24 November	NO MASS OR SERVICE	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 25 November	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Peter & Catherine McLoughlin and Eleanor, James & Brigid Murray	NO MASS OR SERVICE
Wednesday 26 November	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Freda March
Thursday 27 November	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Frances Openshaw	NO MASS
Friday 28 November	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Joe and Robert (Lourdes)
Saturday 29 November	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass John Hanley
Sunday 30 November 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent	9.00am John Carré 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary and Cecelia Pinkney Birthday Remembrance 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Ken Haswell and Christopher and Veronica Kelly

**St. Cuthbert's**

Sun 23	Mon 24	Tue 25	Wed 26	Thurs 27	Fri 28	Sat 29	Sun 30
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am Mass for the Bereaved	10.00am and 6.30pm