

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 Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers

Parish Newsletter

1st February 2026 – 4th Sunday of the Year

Parish Secretary: Mrs. M. D. Towers
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
Parish mobile: 07483 369 561
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

Alternative Beatitudes

Blessed be the dreamers, for they know how to hope.

Blessed be the mothers, for they know the value of life.

Blessed be the faithful, for they know the power of prayer.

Blessed be the wanderers, for they know the ways of the world.

Blessed be the silent, for they know how to truly listen.

Blessed be the teachers, for they know the joy of a child.

Blessed be the lost, for they know how it feels to be found.

Blessed be the joyful, for they know the importance of laughter.

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Feast Days

Monday, 2 nd February	Presentation of The Lord
Tuesday, 3 rd February	St. Blaise Bp, M/St. Ansgar Bp
Thursday, 5 th February	St. Agatha V, M
Friday, 6 th February	St. Paul Miki and Companions MM

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:

Eric Smith	Mary Harland
George Grainger	Thomas Loughlin
Gerald Lennon	John McDonough
Barbara Birney	Wendy Clough
Teresa Madge Raine	Kathleen Creswell



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Joseph John Jackson whose Funeral Service will take place at St. Joseph's, on **Friday, 6th February at 2.00pm.**, followed by burial in Belmont.

... and also to the family and friends of the late Philip Gibson, whose Funeral Service will be held at St. Joseph's on **Wednesday, 11th February at 1.00pm** followed by burial at South Road, Durham, and not Belmont as previously stated.



Parish Landline

After months of being inactive, we now have our landline back in action for incoming calls – 0191 3843810. The parish mobile is also still available – 07483 369 561.

Journey in Faith – Thursday, 5th February at 7.00pm. The topic will be Reconciliation. All welcome.



Hearty Soups for Lent

Lenten Charity Soup - Dates will be: 20th and 27th February, and 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th March. Four slots have now been booked.

The slot on 20th February has been taken by the SVP, the 6th March will be the Justice and Peace Group. The Youth Group will host a lunch on 20th March and the Bereavement Group on 27th March.

This leaves 27th February and 13th March.

Baptism Programme

The Spring Baptism Programme will take place on **Monday, 16th March at St. Joseph's from 6.00-9.00pm.** Please contact the Parish Secretary for more information in the first instance.



Parish School News



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

learn about their safety, their role within their community, and how the police work to keep them safe.

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

Also on Wednesday 4th February the Scholastic Book Fair will arrive in school. This is a pop-up celebration of reading that puts the very best of books in full view for the children to choose from and purchase. The book fair will be in school until Wednesday 11th February, so pop in before or after school to browse the wonderful range of books.



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

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 as our three cluster primary schools to celebrate this special preparation Mass.

On Monday 2nd February, the Mini Police will be talking to Year 5 and 6 in school. The scheme is designed to give children the opportunity to

Change of Date Please be aware that the Explanation Mass for all Y4 children will now take place on **Sunday 15th**

Holocaust Memorial Day - This week, during our KS2 Celebration of the Word, we gathered in prayer and quiet reflection to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Together, we paused to remember those who suffered and to reflect on the importance of standing up for the dignity of every person.

We linked our time of prayer to the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Human Dignity, reminding our children that each person is created in the image of God and deserving of respect, compassion and kindness. Our reflection encouraged pupils to think about how they can bring God's light into the world through small, everyday acts of care for others.



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 setting.



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

We have recently received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education recognising the work of our school. This acknowledgement reflects the dedication of our staff and pupils, and we are grateful for the continued support of our school community.

Note from the Friends of St. Godric's School

The Friends of St. Godric's School have a good range of generic pre-loved uniform items - mainly grey uniform such as trousers, skirts, pinafores, some white polo t-shirts and some maroon/burgundy cardigans and jumpers.

If any schools or organisations could make use of a selection of these items, please email friendsofstgodrics@gmail.com.



Thank you to everyone who came to our session last Saturday. The campfire helped us to reflect on how by being together we shine brighter.

We're looking forward to see you at our next meeting on **Saturday 28th February**.

International lunch:

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next international lunch planned for **Sunday 15th February, after the 10:30 Mass at St Joseph's.**

Let's celebrate together the richness our diverse community brings to our Parish. Bring some food to share and be ready to enjoy time with our lovely international community Everyone is welcome.

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

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 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

1st February 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 31 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Thomas and Audrey Loughlin and Gerald and Mary Lennon
Sunday 1 February	9.00am Deceased members of the SVP 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am World Peace
Monday 2 February	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 3 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Dorothy Coggins (SVP)	NO MASS
Wednesday 4 February	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am – Margaret Nancarrow St. Joseph's Yrs. 3 and 4 attending
Thursday 5 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Stephen McKenna	NO MASS
Friday 6 February	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am – Margaret Graham (SVP) 2.00pm Funeral Service of the late John Joseph Jackson.
Saturday 7 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Joanne Fryer and Belle Blakey
Sunday 8 February	9.00am Stephen Coyne Anniversary 3.00-4.00 – Exposition	10.30am Brian Harland

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 1 Feb	Mon 2	Tue 3	Wed 4	Thurs 5	Fri 6	Sat 7	Sun 8
10.00am and 6.30pm	9.15am	NO MASS	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	NO MASS	10.00am and 6.30pm