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: 15th November 2026
33rd Sunday of the Year

Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden
Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
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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)

The Parable of Talents
By Lucy Wall

"Oh what a striking parable, a scene with strong intention.
A tale to make us sit up straight and really pay attention!
The picture painted clearly, the message very plain;
A lesson taught on faithfulness and not financial gain.

A master with three servants, tests them at their core;
To some he gives a little, to others he gives more.
Gifting each accordingly, knowing what is fair.
Placing them as stewards over that within their care.

The wise and faithful servants get to work without delay,
Utilising all at their disposal right away.
Yet here we see the lazy man puts nothing to good use,
Wasting what is precious and giving his excuse.

This story clearly showing that no matter the amount,
It's how each gift has been employed for which we give account.
Oh let's consider daily what's been given by our Lord,
Loyal application is what Jesus will reward!

This parable inspires us to use our gifts divine.
Oh Christian, we are saved by grace but must redeem the time!
Be faithful in His service, whatever be your story.
Let's multiply our talents for our Great Redeemer's glory!"

Feast Days

Monday, 16th November	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Tuesday, 17th November	St. Leo the Great Pp D
Wednesday, 18th November	St. Martin of Tours Bp
Friday, 20th November	St. Josaphat Bp, M
Saturday, 21st November	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Sheila Wressel	Rose Simpson	Sigrid Peyerimhoff
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Frank Firth	Rita Harrison
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison	Amanda Hyland
Mary Crilley	Tom Smith	Matt Pallister

Anniversaries:

Joe Hirst	Bob Cass
Sylvia Shaw	Matthew Fletcher
Bernard Robson	



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Marie Haley, who died during the week. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time.

We exend our sympathy also to the families and friends of the late Norman Jones and the late Peter Ross Craig. Funeral arrangements are in the process of being confirmed and will be notified next week. *Requiescant in pace.*

St. Godrics Church Clean – Please note church cleaning this month is this coming Tuesday, 17th November. Everyone who can spare even a short time is very welcome. Thank you.

Advent Charity Soup Lunches



As we are rapidly approaching Advent (29th November is the first Sunday) we will be holding our annual charity soup lunches. The dates are as follows:
Fridays - 4th, 11th and 18th December, from 12.00-1.00pm in the Don Bosco Room.

If you or your group would like to host a lunch, please contact Marjorie to book a date.



Reminder from the Youth Group – the next meeting will take place on **Saturday, 21st November.**

Parish Community Christmas Fayre - 10:30 - 12:30 Saturday 28th November.



Our Christmas Fayre is nearly here. Thank you so much for your generous support. Many of you have offered to help in advance, during and with clearing up. We would still welcome more volunteers to ensure that this special occasion will be more successful than ever.

Contributions towards our raffle and Tombola stalls continue to be very welcome. ***May we remind you to bring some cash with you as not all stallholders will have a card machine.***



The Jubilee Room will be open for preparations on the following days

Thursday 26th November 10am-4pm

Friday 27th November 10am-6pm

Saturday 28th November 8am

Looking forward to a very special Community event.

Marjorie, Cynthia and Erica



Note from the Bereavement Group

Our Annual Memorial Mass will take place early in 2027. We will be organising a simple Remembrance Mass which will be open to all parishioners old and new to remember their deceased family and friends.

More information to follow in the New Year.

CONCERT - Saturday 21st November 7.30pm Durham University Chamber Choir



If you are able to help with stewarding or require further information please contact Joe Hughes.
joe.hughes2017@hotmail.com



Tuesday 17th November

'Raised on Songs and Stories' is a community care outreach project which brings together older Irish people or those of Irish Heritage and their friends. We travel across the North East, up to Northumberland and down to Teesside.

We sing songs, play tunes and encourage anyone to get up and perform bringing together old friends and new.

Every month ROSS is on the road to a local venue where there is lunch, live Irish music and entertainment. Sponsored by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Programme and The National Lottery Community Fund, we welcome as many new faces as possible and would be delighted to see you there!

Ushaw Advent Service

Ushaw's Advent Service, on Sunday 5th December at 6pm, is an ideal opportunity to pause before the preparations for Christmas begin, and to enjoy readings and music on an Advent theme. The service blends scripture readings, prayers and beautiful choral music with well-known Advent hymns, and takes us through the themes of watching, witnessing, and announcing the Good News of Christ's coming.

With music from the Hexham & Newcastle Diocesan Choir, and special contributions from the Diocesan Children's Choir, this promises to be an evening to remember. The service is free to attend, but must be pre-booked. Register for your ticket on Ushaw's website at https://ushaw.org/whatson/adventservice/.

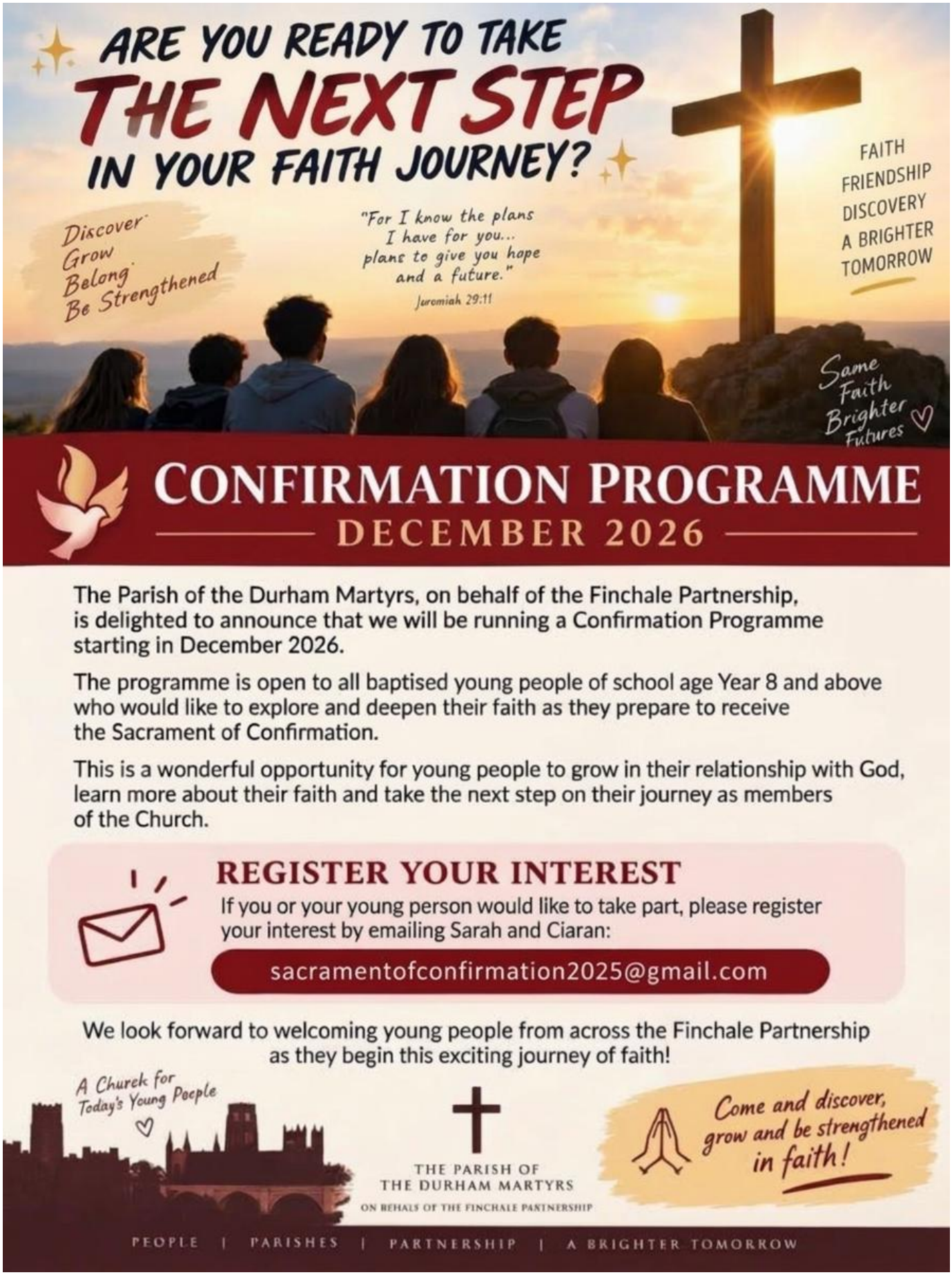
Climate and Nature Crisis

Everyone is invited to attend a Coffee Morning with a showing of the People's Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis at Minsteracres Retreat Centre, Nr Consett DH8 9RT. Saturday 28th November from 10.00am to 11.45am. The film is suitable for ages 16 and over and everyone is welcome. It is free although donations will be welcome on the day to help cover the cost of room hire and refreshments. Please book your place here: *https://buytickets.at/minnie/2500540*

CANCELLATION – KESWICK RETREAT

Please note that the February 2027 Keswick Retreat has been cancelled.

Confirmation 2026/2027



Parish School News

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

There are still places available in our Nursery and we are offering tours for those looking for a school place from September 2027. In our recent Ofsted inspection, St. Godric's was graded Strong in five areas, with inspectors describing the school as a happy and caring place where children feel safe, thrive and grow in confidence. If you would like to find out more or arrange a visit, please contact the school office on 0191 384 7452 or info@stgd.bwcet.com

Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, with the theme "Break the Silence". The week begins with a special assembly and Odd Socks Day on Monday, when children are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate the differences that make us all unique.

On Friday, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform. Rather than bringing money, we are asking families to donate a small bag of food items for Feeding Families, the local charity we are supporting this half term.

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

Anti Bullying Week was a huge success last week in school, and the children came together to raise awareness and promote kindness, respect and inclusion.

Odd Sock Day celebrated what makes everyone unique, and the children proudly wore their odd socks to show that it's ok to be different. It was fantastic to see teamwork and support and to remind us that everyone feels safe, happy and valued.

On Wednesday 18th November and Thursday 19th November parents can book an appointment via Arbor for Parents Evening in school.

Mass Intentions for the Week

15th November

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 14 November	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey and Paddy & Kitty Farrell
Sunday 15 November	9.00am Margaret McBride, and the Moran Family 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Maureen and Thomas Coulthard, and John Quinn 10th Anniversary
Monday 16 November	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 17 November	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion	NO MASS
Wednesday 18 November	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 19 November	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion	NO MASS
Friday 20 November	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Saturday 21 November	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Audrey & Thomas Loughlin, Bede Murray Birthday Remembrance and Ernest Layton Anniversary
Sunday 22 November	9.00am Audrie Walsh Birthday Remembrance 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Roger Charlton and deceased members of the Charlton Family, Austin Flynn Anniversary, and James Pickering Birthday Remembrance

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 15	Mon 16	Tue 17	Wed 18	Thurs 19	Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	6.15pm Divine Liturgy Celebrated in the Eastern Catholic Rite	12.15pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm