

**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 Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers*

## Parish Newsletter – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

**Parish Priest** Fr. Colm Hayden

**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 818 544/0191 3332183

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

For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

### **Beneath the Sparrow's Wing**

The wind moves softly through the olive leaves,

a whisper older than the stones we stand upon.

Fear clings like dust to the hem of the day,

yet the sky holds its blue without trembling.

A sparrow drops into the courtyard,

its small heart beating against the silence—

and I remember: not one falls unseen,

not one is forgotten in the gaze that made the light.

The shadows lengthen, but they do not own the earth.

The voice that called the sea to stillness

calls my name in the marrow of my bones,

and courage rises like bread in the warmth of His hands.

## Feast Days

Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Ss. John Fisher & Thomas More MM
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	St. Etheldreda, Abbess
Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> June	The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Maureen Milsom
Josephine Lyons	Robin Humphrey
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison
Mary Crilley	Sheila Wressel
Sigrid Peyerimhoff	Rita Harrison
Syd Inglis	

Anniversaries:

Rebekah Fox	Geoffrey Taylor
Joan Humble	Shaun Magill
William Curry	Ken Herbert



**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Violet Stannard, whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Joseph's on **Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am**, followed by burial in South Road Cemetery.

... and also to Michael Ridley and family on the sad loss of his mother, Marion.

**Forthcoming Funeral** – the late Gerard Shaw, whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Joseph's on **Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 10.00am**.

*Requiescant in pace.*



**Father's Day Cake and Plant Sale** – this **Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> June**. The Youth Group will be selling cakes at the end of Mass at St. Godric's and after Mass at St. Joseph's. The cakes and plants have been kindly donated by John Thompson. All funds will go towards our camping trip in September.

**SAVE THE DATE-** We plan to celebrate the Youth Group's 1st birthday with a camping trip. The money we raised from the breakfast fundraiser will help to go towards funding this on 19-20 September at Moorhouse Adventure Centre. More details to follow.

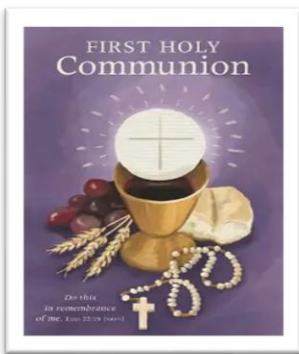
The next youth group is taking place on the day of the Significance Festival Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1H3KkJ3bhW/> As this is such a special event, we would really love for our young people and their families to join us in attending this family friendly event instead of our usual arrangements.

More details will follow, so look out on the parish and youth group social media, as well as in the bulletin in the coming weeks. We hope you can join us!

**Holy Mother, The Church - women's faith group - the final session being this Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June in the Don Bosco Room at 7.30pm**

### **Franciscan Seminar Series 2026**

The second of the three seminars will take place at the friary this **Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 7.00pm**, for approximately one hour. Everyone welcome.



On behalf of both St. Joseph's Primary and St. Thomas More Children and staff, I would like to sincerely thank our sponsors, catechists, parishoners and parents for their prayers, support and practical help. Your kindness and commitment have been invaluable in preparing the children for the special sacrament of First Holy Communion. A special thank you to parishoners who have specifically supported setting up access to facilities and co-ordinating the day. Our young people and their families have been very warmly welcomed as they continue to grow in faith and their relationship with Christ.

*Lianne Paige*



**Save the Date – on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June, the SVP will be holding a Summer Tea Afternoon in St. Joseph's Jubilee Room at 2.00pm.**

If interested, please sign the lists at the back of each church and tick if transport is required.

### **Celebration of the Lives of Loved Ones Mass**

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, the Bereavement Support Group will hold the Celebration of the Lives of Loved Ones Mass at 10.00am in St. Joseph's.

We hope that you will be able to join us to remember our loved ones and lay a flower in their memory. We will be serving refreshments afterwards in the Jubilee room and would love to see you all.



## **Benefits Talk at St Joseph's Church on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 at 2pm**

If you missed the Benefits Talk in May, there is another chance on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2026. The people who came along in May did not expect to be claiming anything but most of them went away to check their entitlements.

One person was going to check their eligibility for Attendance Allowance; some people went on to check their National Insurance Contribution Record and request a Forecast of how much their State Pension will be.

Other people were checking their eligibility for Income Tax Allowances including Marriage Allowance. The talk will also cover such areas as Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payments, Pension Credit and Carers Allowance. Come along on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to find out more.

## **Young Adults Group – St. Cuthbert's**

We're starting a Young Adults Group at St. Cuthbert's, Durham. The group is for people in their 20s and 30s, to explore their faith and their life as Catholics and we hope that it will be a place of prayer and friendship. There will be an Introductory meeting, to talk about what you would like from a Young Adults Group, and to plan. The introductory meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham. Please do come along! If you are interested but can't come to the meeting, contact Margaret Doyle on [margaretdoyle1066@sky.com](mailto:margaretdoyle1066@sky.com)

## **Day for Life - Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

This year the church marks the Day for Life under the theme of 'The Wonder of the Child in the Womb', also recognising the loss of children who died before birth and the grief of their parents. The Bishop's message and prayers can be found on the website [www.dayforlife.org](http://www.dayforlife.org)

You can also show support by joining SPUC's campaign by visiting : <https://www.spuc.org.uk>

**Newman Tyneside Circle** invites you to come and hear **Tom O'Loughlin** speak on **Luke 5:27-32 as a discipleship text: Christian hospitality and the contemporary rejection of liturgy**, in the hall of **Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle, NE2 3JX**, on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026, at 7.30pm.**

What can reading the story of the call of Levi (Lk 5:27-32) say to us about how we imagine discipleship? And can it speak to us about the place of meals and Christian hospitality? If so, might it show us a way out of the current dead-end where so many Christians do not give any value or importance to liturgy?

Dr Tom O'Loughlin is Emeritus Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Nottingham. He has written, and continues to write, on a wide variety of theological topics, particularly liturgy and the Eucharist. His book *The Eucharist: Origins and Contemporary Understandings* is a major contribution to our understanding of the central ritual of our faith.



There will be a parish pilgrimage to  
Lindisfarne on Saturday 5 September 2026

### Itinerary

10.15am	Bus leaves St Joseph's Church, Gilesgate (Option to make your own way to the island)
11.45am	Arrive Beal
Pilgrimage walk across the causeway- 3 miles, on wet sand (Optional)	
1.30pm	Picnic lunch in the shadow of Lindisfarne Castle (Optional)
Opportunity to explore the island across the afternoon	
3pm	Mass at St Aidan's Church (Optional)
4.30pm	Coach leaves island
5pm	Arrive at Seahouses (Option to purchase fish and chips/meal)
7pm	Leave Seahouses
8.30pm	Coach arrives at St Joseph's Church, Gilesgate

Coach cost: £10 per adult, £5 per child

To book a place on the bus, please put cash in an envelope, clearly marked with your name and required number of seats, and post through the parish office door at St, Joseph's Presbytery.

All payments must be made by Friday 14 August.



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

### St Leonard's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

1936, and this summer the school will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We will have a year of celebrations including events for parents, pupils and staff. We would like to begin the anniversary year though with an opportunity for former staff members to tour the new building. If you would like to book a place, please use the information below.

St. Leonard's opened its doors for the first time on 26<sup>th</sup> August

Former Staff Tour: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2026 - 10am-12noon. To book a place please [use this link](#) or use the QR code below.



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

Thank you to everyone who attended the Somone Special Celebration for Father's Day. The

event was a great success, and the Pick and Mix Surprise Raffle was lots of fun.

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June, Year 5 and 6 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June, Year 6 will be attending the YMT Leavers Festival at the Emmaus Youth Village.

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June it will be a Non-School Uniform Day in school with any donations of bottles for the School Summer Fayre. All donations will be greatly received.



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

It has been a very busy and joyful week at St. Godric's. We began our other faiths

week with a wonderful talk from Noha, who shared her knowledge of the Islamic faith with the children. We also had an important reminder about keeping safe around water and rivers as we head into the summer months.

Several of our children took part in the Durham Dash and we were delighted to have four finalists — a fantastic achievement. We ended the week with a very busy (and very lovely!) coffee morning. It was wonderful to see so many families there.

Next Thursday, our Year 6 children are off to London for the day. They will be visiting 10 Downing Street, enjoying a meal together, and taking part in a workshop at Parliament — a truly memorable experience for them.

Just a reminder that school is closed to all pupils on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June.



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

Next Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June, we are delighted to be hosting our annual *St. Thomas More's Got Talent* Final. The

children have already taken part in auditions, and our winning acts from Key Stages 1 and 2—selected by their pastoral groups—have now been announced and are busy rehearsing for the big day.

As a school community, alongside our neighbouring parish schools, St. Joseph's and St. Godric's, we have also begun planning our Holy Communion Programme for the next academic year.

We look forward to sharing further details with you soon and we warmly encourage you to consider including your child in this important Sacrament, as part of their faith journey.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

21<sup>st</sup> June 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 20 June	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Margaret White and Joyce Grant
Sunday 21 June	9.00am - Canon Robert Spence Birthday Remembrance, and 40 days' anniversaries of Antoni� Campo and Wilfrido Francisco 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Brian O'Connor John and Nuala Russell and Norman Wilson Birthday Remembrance
Monday 22 June	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 23 June	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am Special Intention (A & J)	NO MASS
Wednesday 24 June	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am – Mark and Gerard Shaw (St. Joseph's School Yrs. 5 & 6 attending)
Thursday 25 June	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Fred Leonard	NO MASS
Friday 26 June	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Vocations to the Priesthood
Saturday 27 June	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Philip Hewitt and Rosalind Kirby, and Belle Blakey
Sunday 28 June Ss. Peter & Paul	9.00am Susannah Michiels 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Deceased members of the Binks and Thompson Families

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 21	Mon 22	Tue 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27	Sun 28
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	7.00pm	9.15am	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm