

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 – 1st March 2026



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Lent

Robert Herrick

Is this a fast, to keep the larder clean?
And clean from fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish of flesh,
Yet still to fill the platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour, or ragg'd to go,
Or show a downcast look and sour?

No, tis a fast to dole thy sheaf of wheat,
And meat unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from stife, from old debate
And hate
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent,
To starve thy sin
Not bin,
And that's to keep thy Lent.

“Lent is the most important time of the year to nurture our inner life. It’s the time during which we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the mystery of the death of Jesus, but also the death and resurrection that constantly takes place within us.

Life is a continuing process of the death of the old and familiar and being reborn again into a new hope, a new trust and a new love. The death and resurrection of Jesus therefore is not just an historical event that took place a longtime ago but rather an inner event that takes place in our own heart when we are willing to be attentive to it.

True repentance is an interior attitude in which we are willing to let go of everything that prevents us from growing into spiritual maturity and there is hardly a moment in our lives in which we are not invited to detach ourselves from certain ways of thinking, ways of speaking, ways of acting that for a long time gave us energy, but that always again needs to be renewed and recreated.”

Henry Nouwen

Feast Days

Wednesday, 4 th March	St. Casimir
Saturday, 7 th March	Ss. Perpetua and Felicity 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
Anthony Gibson	Robin Humphrey

Anniversaries:

Jack Bradley	Isabella Eccles
Mary Lennon	Philip Grainger
Cara Armstrong-McKay	Veronica Pennicook
Patricia Grainger	



Sympathy – the Requiem Mass of the late Theresa Armatage will take place on Wednesday, 18th March at 10.00am in St. Joseph’s followed by burrial in South Road Cemetery.

Forthcoming Funeral

The Funeral Service of the late Thomas (Sonny) Hardy will be held on **Wednesday, 11th March at 12.00pm** in St. Joseph's, followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

Requiescant in pace.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Sunrise Services at 7.30am in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's, and take place every Tuesday and Thursday morning throughout Lent.



The final service will be on **Tuesday, 31st March.**

Pastoral Letter. First Sunday of Lent. 22nd February 2026

Lent, A Season of Preparation for Mission - A copy of the Bishop's recent Pastoral Letter is available on the notice boards at both churches, and also on our website.

More information in the Bishop's Pastoral Strategy can be found on the Diocesan website.

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches

Date	Group
6 th March	Justice and Peace
13 th March	Sanctuary 21
20 th March	Youth Group
27 th March	Bereavement Group

Lenten Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7.00pm followed by Holy Communion



Date	Venue	Group
March 6 th	St. Godric's	No Stations (Gospel Choir Concert)
March 13 th	St. Joseph's	Youth Group
March 20 th	St. Godric's	Ecumenical Stations
March 27 th	St. Joseph's	Sanctuary 21
April 1 st – Good Friday	St. Joseph's – 10.00am	Confirmation Group

Easter Masses/Services

Day	Date	Time	Church
Holy Thursday	2 nd April	7.00pm	St. Godric's
Good Friday	3 rd April	3.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Saturday	4 th April	7.00pm	St. Joseph's
Easter Sunday	5 th April	9.00am 10.30am	St. Godric's St. Joseph's

Could those Readers and Ministers who have not yet indicated their availability during Holy Week please email Marjorie over the coming week. Thank you to those who have been in contact.

Journey in Faith – Thursday, 5th March at 7.00pm. All welcome.

Lunch Club – resumes this week on Wednesday, 4th March.



TICKETS NOW ON SALE

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

14th March 7pm-10pm in St Joseph's School Hall

Brilliant Ceilidh Band 'North by North East'.

£5 Adults. £2.50 Children. Tickets available after all weekend Masses.

We would also be very grateful to receive donated items for our Raffle.

Forthcoming Concert St Godric's Church - Durham University Gospel Choir

7.30pm Friday 6th March. Entry via pay-at-door (prices to follow).

The following day the Church is being used for recording by Purple Radio (Durham University Student Radio).



Parish School News

Note from the Trust

Our parish schools are part of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, a family of 47 schools based in Northumberland, Gateshead, Sunderland and Durham. To find out more about our Trust, and to access the latest newsletter, please use the following QR code:

Please also follow the Trust social media on our website: [Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust – Enabling all to Flourish](#), Facebook @ Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust and LinkedIn @ BWCET



Our next meeting will take place this Saturday, 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**. On the

28th we'll be making the lanterns at RT minds, we'll all go together from St Josephs. And on 22nd March those who made lanterns are invited to join the event from 5:30 pm. In order for us to plan and to give you all the details we will be grateful if those planning to attend can send us a message to durhammartyrsparihyouthgroup@gmail.com Looking forward to seeing you there.

Aid for Ukraine – Call for candles / Non-prescription medical supplies

In response to a recent appeal in Northern Cross for candles, candle wax, I am gathering candle stubs and redundant pascal candles from both churches.

Bandages and over the counter medical supplies are also needed. If you are able to donate any non-prescription medication, please pass it to Kathleen Murray at St. Godric's or myself at St Josephs. For safety reasons please do not leave it at the back of churches. Wagons are leaving the North East with donations for Ukraine on a regular basis.

Thank you
Peter Thompson



Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for the month of March 2026 St. Godric and Bede

Red mission boxes / donations from St. Bede's will be collected by sponsors in the usual way during March.

Please bring those for St. Godric's to Sunday Mass on 8th, 15th, 22nd or 29th March. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity

Events at Ushaw:

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday afternoon during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross in the Stations Corridor at Ushaw at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

Workshop on Synodality:

The Catholic Church worldwide is now in the Implementation Phase of the “Synod on Synodality”. If you would like to know more about what synodality means for the church globally and for our own local churches, please join us at Ushaw for a Workshop on Synodality on **Saturday 7th March**. Synodality aims to expand the opportunities for everyone to participate actively in all aspects of the life of the Church, and our Workshop will consider practical questions on what we can do in our own parishes and local churches. The day costs £10: it starts at 11am and will finish by 3.30pm. Further details are available at <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/>

Note from Faith and Mission

Sycamore course

As we begin our Lenten journey, we are offering a Sycamore course for Lent, using sessions to explore our relationship with prayer during this season. Sessions such as 'seven rules of prayer', 'praying with the Bible' and 'prayer for beginners', this Sycamore course is open to everyone. We invite you to share this information and booking link with those you feel would be interested. I have also attached a poster which can be shared with others.

'Prayer in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be along with him who we know loves us.'

St Teresa of Avila

Join us in this season of Lent as we look at how we might enter more deeply into prayer. Using sessions from Sycamore, we will explore wisdom from the Bible, stories from the saints, lots of practical tips and advice about some of the common difficulties we face when praying.

The sessions will take place online using Zoom. They will be weekly on **Sunday evenings** from 6pm to 7.15pm from **22nd February** until **29th March**.

Please register your interest using the link below to receive the Zoom link.

<https://bit.ly/DHNSycamoreLent2026>

See poster on the notice boards.

Celebrating St. Cuthbert's Day at Ushaw

In March, Ushaw is celebrating the life and legacy of St. Cuthbert with a range of services and events. Highlights include **Solemn Vespers for St Cuthbert** at 6pm on **Thursday 19th March**, followed by a Gala Dinner; **Mass for St Cuthbert's Day** at 12:30pm on **Friday 20th March**, with a Buffet lunch to follow; and **Evensong in Thanksgiving for St Cuthbert** at 6pm on **Tuesday 24th March**.

Throughout the week there will also be a small exhibition on Cuthbert at Ushaw, on display in the Ante-Chapel, and a Family-friendly activity trail to find St Cuthbert's Crosses located throughout the House and Chapels. No ticket is needed for the services, but booking in advance is required for all meals. Everyone is very welcome: you can find more details at <https://ushaw.org/whatson/st-cuthberts-we>

Monthly Tip for Sustainable living

By each of us reducing our energy usage, we can save money, reduce our environmental impact, and care for our common home. When it comes to heating our homes, it's worth asking again how warm they need to be, and how we control it. Some energy saving remedies are

- turning down the thermostat
- turning the thermostatic radiator valves down or off in rooms not in use
- getting a smart thermostat to be able to control your thermostat remotely using an app on your smartphone
- turning down the flow temperature on the boiler (*see* The Heating Hub website)

Care for Creation (Laudato Si') Group

Mass Intentions for the Week

1st March 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 28 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Hannah Mary Drane and Belle Blakey
Sunday 1 March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.00am Cara Armstrong-McKay 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Austin Flynn Birthday Remembrance
Monday 2 March	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 3 March	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Special Intention (D & JF)	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
Wednesday 4 March	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Thomas (Sonny) Hardy
Thursday 5 March	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Joanne Fryer	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
Friday 6 March	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Vocations to the Priesthood
Saturday 7 March	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass John and Olive Doyle
Sunday 8 March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	9.00am Frank and Bernard McGoay, in thanksgiving for prayers answered and the Michiels and Condrón Families 3.00-4.00 – Exposition	10.30am Bernadette Kerins

St. Cuthbert's

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