

**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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 Presentation of The Lord

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs. M, D. Towers

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**Hospital Chaplain** Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544

(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

There are some questions being asked about Liturgy in our churches. From welcoming people at the door, to coffee at the end of Mass. All questions revolve around, ‘how can we make it better?’. In between the welcome and the coffee there are the readings, the homilies, the Intercessions, and the Eucharist. We have comments on the sound system, the music, the distribution of Holy Communion. The list goes on. Throughout, there is a genuine effort to make attendance at Church more relevant to the life of all who come (I include sacramental activities within the church here: Confession, baptism, and we can add Exposition and funerals).

We face a real challenge into the future...but an exciting one.

“Recent surveys reveal that younger people, especially Generation Z ( born between 1997-2012), are less likely to be atheists...and living some form Faith much more than the generation before them.”( Canon Emeritus, Angela Tilby , BBC radio 4, “Thought for the day” , Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January).

We now have a new Lectionary (scripture readings). There are some challenges in adjusting to this . Do we sing the Gospel Acclamation more regularly? Ministers of the Eucharist again present new challenges. New Ministers? And then there’s the area of succession! Anyway, over the next two Saturday mornings I will try and clarify some of this greyness....with some positive actions. Next Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00, we begin with the Ministers. Please do make time. Thank you again for all your support.

## Feast Days

Monday, 3 February	St. Blaise Bp, M/St. Ansgar Bp
Wednesday, 5 February	St. Agatha V,M
Thursday, 6 February	St. Paul Miki & Companions MM
Saturday, 8 February	St. Jerome Emiliani P/St. Josephine Bakhita V

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Tony Twomey
Ann Hourican	Ian Hamilton
Mary Armstrong	Ann Close
Sheila Owens	Margaret Graham
Margaret Nancarrow	Veronica O'Reilly
Freda March	Judith McLean
Michael Farmer	Christopher Godbolt
Ann Childs	

## Anniversaries:



George Grainger	Gerald Lennon
Mary Harland	Thomas Loughlin
Barbara Birney	George Hill
Laura Mulvaney	Mary Hails

## Journey in Faith

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith will take place at St. Joseph's on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> February, at 2.30pm.

## Laudato Si' - Care of Creation

The next meeting of the Laudato Si' group will be at 7.30pm on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, in St. Francis Friary



Save the Date – Parish St. Patrick's Ceilidh  
Saturday evening, 15<sup>th</sup> March in St Joseph's School.  
More information to follow.

**Congratulations to the Wednesday Lunch Club** – for a successful Food Hygiene Inspection carried out by Durham County Council this Wednesday during the lunchtime session.

### **Mornings of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers**

Fr. Colm will be holding two mornings of reflection in February, both commencing at 10.00am in the Jubilee Room.

The session for Ministers will take place on **Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> February** and the session for Readers will take place on **15<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **St Godric's Cleaning Day**

The next cleaning time for St. Godric's church will be on 11<sup>th</sup> February after 10am Mass (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month).

All are welcome and even the smallest task is very helpful. Thanks to Maria's prayer group who took over and gave us a break in January.



### **Confirmation 2025**

We are pleased to announce that our Confirmation Ceremony will take place on **Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 6.30pm** in St. Joseph's.

Bishop Stephen will be the chief celebrant.

### **Save the Date (i)**

#### **THE UPPER ROOM-THE LAST SUPPER**

**St. Godric's Church 7.00pm Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

Christian Stejskal narrates the chapters 13-7 from the Gospel of John. Storyteller, photographer and violin player Christian Stejskal has walked in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and photographed the cultural landscape in Israel and Egypt in search of biblical visual symbols and metaphors, illustrating the "Upper Room" – the Passover meal Jesus celebrated with His 12 disciples before going to the Cross.

Experience the faithful memorisation of the Gospel of John (chapters 13-17) whilst listening to original solo violin pieces and viewing black-and-white photographs from the Middle East on a screen. The performance will last 75 minutes and tickets are £5. Contact Joe Hughes: [joe.hughes2017@hotmail.com](mailto:joe.hughes2017@hotmail.com)



### **Save the Date (ii)**

**The spring Parish Baptism Programme date is :**

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm - 9 pm, St Joseph's Church / Jubilee Room**

This programme is for parents and those wishing to attend will be very welcome to gain understanding of the signs, symbols and importance of the Sacrament of Baptism and the Catholic Rite of Baptism. Please contact Mrs Marjorie Towers, Parish Secretary in the first instance for further information.



February Edition now on sale - £1.50

**Next Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm in the parish room at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham.**

There will be an illustrated talk by Richard Pears (university librarian) entitled '**Catholic Country House Building in Durham and Northumberland 1570-1829**'.

From the excommunication of Queen Elizabeth I to the Catholic Emancipation Act, Catholic families were persecuted, fined and excluded from public office and universities. Despite this, many of the wealthier Catholic families retained their lands and rebuilt their mansions in fashionable architectural styles.

In this talk, Richard Pears will examine these country houses and argue that exclusion from English society increased their engagement with European culture, in particular the architecture of the Italian renaissance. By adopting the architecture of classical Rome the families signified their continuing devotion to the Roman Catholic Church.

The talk is free but donations towards the church building repairs will be welcome.

**From the Diocese**

**A Liturgical Day of Reflection for Liturgical Leaders for Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion**

**Date: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Times: 10.30am-3.00pm - arrivals, registration and refreshments from 10.00am**

**Location: St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY**

**Cost: £15.00 per person**

**Catering: Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided.**

This Day of Reflection may be self-funded or funded by your parish. You can indicate your payment preference on the online booking form. An invoice will be sent to the payee following the event. Payments can be made by bank transfer or cheque.

***Booking Deadline: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025.***

**Booking:** please book your place by accessing the online form at [bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents](https://bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents) or via the parish office sign-up sheet. Marjorie can make your booking on the parish office sheet.

For further information please email: [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk).

## **Relic Tour - Blessed Carlo Acutis – 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March**

Blessed Carlo Acutis is scheduled to be the first millennial saint as he will be canonised in April 2025. Because of his devotion to the Eucharist, his youthfulness and his life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, he was chosen to be the patron of Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. A relic of Blessed Carlo will visit our diocese between 26-30 March 2025 and there will be an opportunity to attend Mass in the presence of the relic, as well as times of veneration and talks about the life of Blessed Carlo on Saturday 29 March from 10.30am until 3pm, at Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Wrekenton, NE9 6RZ.

There will be an exhibition of Blessed Carlo's own website, and there will be opportunity for confession throughout the day. All are welcome, however, tickets are required for events, (these are free.). For further information and to book a ticket please visit the website: [CarloAcutis.bwcet.com](http://CarloAcutis.bwcet.com) or email [relic-tour@bwcet.com](mailto:relic-tour@bwcet.com)

## **Durham Churches Together**

### **World Day of Prayer – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 1.30pm Carville Methodist Church**

All are welcome to come and share in this global ecumenical service written by the women of the Cook Islands and to join us for refreshments in the hall after the service. See poster.

## **Super Space Half Term at Ushaw**

Join us for an out of this world experience at Ushaw, as Super Science is back! Discover the intergalactic activities that you can get up to below.

### **Brilliant Bottle Rockets | Monday 24, Tuesday 25 & Friday 28 February 10:30am – 12pm & 1pm – 2:30pm**

Harness the power of propulsion as you design, build and launch your own bottle rockets in our pop-up workshop, all materials provided, outdoor clothing essential.

Booking required, you can do so [here](#)

### **Out of This World Free Crafts | Thursday 27 February, 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm**

Come and join us for free space-themed papercrafts, where creativity knows no bounds. No pre-booking required, included with Ushaw Membership and Day Pass.

### **Searching for Stars Indoor Trail | Sat 22 February – Sun 2 March, 10am – 4pm**

Looking around our Main House for the wonders of the night sky.

No pre-booking required, included with Ushaw Membership and Day Pass.

Little astronauts can also find colouring in the café, and the return of Train Toy Takeover.

Not a Ushaw member? Become one below!

[\*\*BECOME A MEMBER\*\*](#)

# Mass Intentions for the Week

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 1 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Thomas & Audrey Loughlin and Gerald and Mary Lennon
Sunday 2 February	9.00am World Peace 3.00pm-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Roger Charlton, and A Private Intention (MC) 3.00pm – Mass for First Holy Communicants from our schools, and their families
Monday 3 February	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 4 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Bridget Frobisher	NO MASS
Wednesday 5 February	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am St. Joseph's School Mass
Thursday 6 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am In thanksgiving (BH)	NO MASS
Friday 7 February	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Private Intention (M & T)
Saturday 8 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Bernard Robson
Sunday 9 February	9.00am Patrick Frobisher 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Brian O'Connor, and John Power and Betty Larmour

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 2	Mon 3	Tue 4	Wed 5	Thurs 6	Fri 7	Sat 8	Sun 9
10.00am And 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm