

***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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**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

I'd like to welcome, and thank, Gillian McArthur, who is our new Safeguarding Officer for the Parish of the Durham Martyrs. As you know, Kathleen Murray and Dennis Bradley have been our Safeguarding Officers for nearly twenty years. They have worked diligently to ensure safeguarding practices were of the highest priority. I'd like to thank both for their care, sensitivity and support, to me in particular over the years. Thanks to Gillian for taking on the roles of two. But from the parish perspective, it is better to have one.

We had a visit from the Youth Ministry Team last Saturday for our Youth Team. What a great evening it was. Well done to our parish team for organising it.

We welcome Bishop Stephen next Tuesday night for our Confirmations. We expect a full house with parents and sponsors joining us.

## Feast Days

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	The English Martyrs
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> May	St. John of Beverley Bp

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Mary Crilley	Ian Baillie
Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Rita Harrison
Josephine Lyons	Robin Humphrey
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison
Mary Carney	

## Anniversaries:

Mary Morgan	Jack Craggs
Bob Wilson	Veronica Crilley
Agnes Henderson	Nancy Newcombe



**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to family and friends of Danny McCann, and to Fr, Andrew Shaw on the sad loss of his mother, Pauline, and to Stuart Wright on the sad loss of his father, Reg.

## Forthcoming Funerals

The late Lynne Margaret Guy, whose Funeral Service will take place on **Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May**, in **St. Joseph's** at **1.30pm** followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

The late Sylvia Colligan, whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St. Joseph's** on **Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May** at **10.30am**, followed by burial in South Road Cemetery at 12.00noon.

The late **Joyce Grant**, whose funeral will take place at Durham Crematorium on **21<sup>st</sup> May** at **1.00pm**.

The late **Sheila Owens**, whose funeral will take place at St. Cuthbert's on **Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May** at **10.00am**, followed by cremation in Durham. *Requiescant in pace.*

**Mary Carney** - We have been asked to remember Mary Carney in our prayers. Her family visited our church over the Easter weekend and we would like to contact them to see if Mary needs further support. If anyone has contact details for Mary or her family could you forward them to Marjorie. Thank you.

Eucharistic Service at St. Bede's - Please note there is no service on Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> (Bank Holiday) Services resume Wednesday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 9 am



## Children's Liturgy – St. Joseph's

Please note that Children's Liturgy resumes this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

We would love some more volunteers to join our small team of children's liturgists at St. Joseph's 10.30am Mass on Sunday mornings.

Even if you're not sure but would like to know more, we're happy to answer any questions you may have,

## Franciscan Seminar Series – 2026

To mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St Francis, the Franciscan Friars in Durham are pleased to offer a series of three seminars on Franciscan themes for the parishioners. These gatherings will provide an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the spirituality and legacy of St. Francis in a welcoming and prayerful setting. The seminars will take place at the friary on the following Tuesdays:

- 12 May
- 23 June
- 22 September

Each session will begin at 7:00pm and will last for approximately one hour. All are warmly invited to attend.

**Benefits Talk at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm** - Do you know how much State Pension you qualify for or when this is payable? Do you know about Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payments, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance or Carers Allowance? If any of this information is useful to you, or someone you care about, come along to the presentation at St Joseph's Church on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** to find out more.

## Gilesgate and Belmont Wellbeing Project

Thanks to the support of parishioners partaking in hospitality after the 10.30 mass at St. Joseph's on a Sunday morning we have been able to make a donation of £150 to the Gilesgate and Belmont Wellbeing Project.

This project provides practical support, companionship and food to those most in need in the local community and indeed its sterling work has been recognized by the award of a BBC Make a Difference Award for Best Community Group.

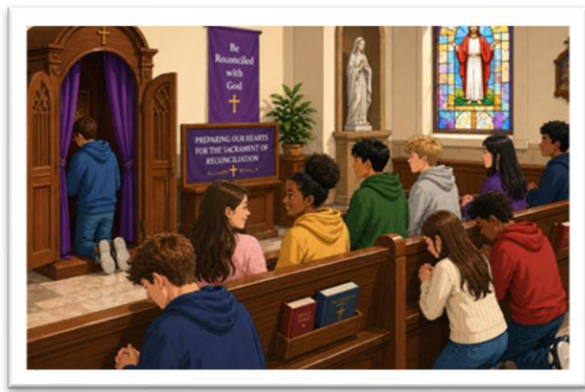
Our parishioners' generosity has been gratefully acknowledged by an email send to me (Graham Donachie) by the Project Co-Ordinator and is displayed on the noticeboard at the back of church where you can also find out more details about the project.



### Parish Summer Baptism Programme

The summer Programme will take place at **St. Joseph's** on **Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June from 6.00-9.00pm**. Refreshments will be provided. If you wish to enrol, please contact Marjorie for further details and a Registration Form.

**Confirmation** - Our Parish welcomes Bishop Stephen to celebrate mass for our confirmation candidates on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 6:30pm**. We are blessed to gather and witness those people receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. These individuals have heard the Lord calling them and have devoted the past nine months to preparing for this significant moment in their journey of faith. They have engaged in evening catechesis sessions, a day retreat and have actively explored various ministries within the life of the parish community. They have also received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation.



Our youth group had a wonderful time with the YMT! They helped us reflect on how each of us is unique and plays a very important part in God's plan.



A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who comes along and to all who give their time to make the youth group possible.

We're now planning a fundraising event featuring a delicious breakfast after Sunday Mass — stay tuned for more details!

## Invitation to pay the rosary together

All are welcome to join us to pray the Holy Rosary this month of May. We will be praying the Rosary all Fridays during May at 7.00pm.



Date	Church	Group Leading
1 <sup>st</sup> May	St. Godric's	Youth Group
8 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Joseph's	Parish Prayer Group
15 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Godric's	Legion of Mary
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	St. Joseph's	Parish Schools
29 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Godric's	SVP

## Volunteer Drivers

If you drive a vehicle to carry out church-related duties, you should check the level of cover provided by your insurance company and tell them that you are volunteering. In the vast majority of cases your insurance company will not charge an additional insurance premium for your volunteering work and will simply make a note on your policy. They may provide cover under your SDP policy or they could choose to add personal business cover. If they suggest that a payment is required, this may be waived if you tell them how little you drive for the church compared to your other activities.

Please complete the annual declaration (Form F8) downloadable via this link: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/services/health-safety/health-safety-manual/>

Submit the form to your parish health and safety representative [johnwells2911@gmail.com](mailto:johnwells2911@gmail.com) or to the parish secretary. You do not need to provide documentation. Examples of church-related journeys include:

- those who use cars to take communion to the housebound
- driving to the bank with collection monies
- being part of a rota to collect members of (for example) a lunch club
- an organised or semi-organised arrangement where parishioners with cars pick up other parishioners to bring them to Mass.



## St. Godric's Church Cleaning – Amended date.

Please note that the church cleaning at St. Godric's will take place this coming **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May**, instead of the usual second Tuesday of the month. New volunteers always welcome to join the team

## Parish School News



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

**On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May**, the Mini Vinnies will be joining Year 5 and 6 at Mass in church at 10am. They will be talking about their role and how they

support those in need within the school community and parish through acts of kindness, fundraising and outreach.

They will be helping with refreshments after Mass and showing their class floor books for PSHE, Creative Prayer. All families and friends are welcome to attend. Also on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, all are welcome to attend an Anxious about School coffee afternoon at 2pm in the school hall. This is a relaxed and friendly session and is a chance to ask questions and share experiences with each other.

**On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**, 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. They have a 3 for 2 offers on all books with the cheapest book free. The book fair will be in school until Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, so pop in before or after school to browse the wonderful range of books.

**On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**, to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir David Attenborough, the children in school will be planting a flowering shrub as a lasting tribute to his dedication to nature and the environment.



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

We're extremely proud to announce that 5 of our Year 13 pupils received their bronze John Paul II awards this week. These were presented to them in

celebration with the rest of the year group. Our pupils have worked hard throughout the past 2 years volunteering and giving up their time to help others in both school and the wider community. They have led liturgy in school and been excellent role models to younger pupils. We look forward to seeing what our Year 12 group achieve next year.



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

Year 5 had a wonderful trip to Holy Island this week, taking time to reflect on the holy ground walked by St Cuthbert and St Aidan. We were

warmly welcomed by the SVP camp, and our stay was truly special. Highlights included our pilgrimage walk, visits to Bamburgh Castle, Lindisfarne Castle and the Priory, as well as some souvenir shopping — and of course, fish and chips - delicious!

A poster for a Nursery Open Morning event. It features the school's logo and text: 'ST GODRIC'S Catholic Primary School', 'Nursery Open Morning', 'Wednesday 10th June 10am', 'Is your child 3 or turning 3 before September? Would you like them to start Nursery in September?', 'We have both 15 hour and 30 hour places available. Please come along!', and an illustration of four children.

Next week we welcome more of our Early Years families into school for our Stay and Play sessions and we have the community police in school to talk to Year 3 and 4 about Internet safety.



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

Spring feels like it's finally here!  
Our nursery and year 2 children have enjoyed a 'Wild

Wednesday' session in our Forest Area, with Mrs Knapper and Mrs Suzuki-Klasen, the last two weeks. Next week it will be reception and year 3's turn. We're so fortunate to have Mrs Knapper and Mrs Suzuki-Klasen support our children and their learning in our Forest Sessions - such a wonderful way to connect to nature, grow in confidence, explore and build on outdoor skills. We can't thank them enough for providing our children with this wonderful opportunity.

A number of talented pupils, in class 4, have had their writing selected and poems published in a 'Young Writers' Book. An amazing way to showcase their creativity, imagination and hard work. A big congratulations to everyone involved.

Finally, a big thank you to the parents and carers who attended our Multiplication Check and Phonics Screening Meetings, which were hosted by our knowledgeable staff, in preparation for the upcoming checks in June.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**(1) Parish of the Durham Martyrs annual pilgrimage to Lindisfarne**

**Saturday 5 September 2025**

More details to follow.

**(2) Keswick Retreat 2027**

We will once again be retreating at Castlerigg Manor in Keswick from **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2027**. Due to increased costs, the price of the retreat will be **£155 per person**. This includes all accommodation and meals.

If you are interested in joining the retreat or would like any further information drop Katie a message or give her a call on 07807 935066.

## **Westminster Assisted Suicide Bill has fallen**

The assisted suicide Bill has failed to pass all stages in the House of Lords. This means that Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill has fallen and will not become law!

This is a major milestone, but the battle is not over. Assisted suicide campaigners have said they are going to try to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session and use the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords.

*To find out more about this significant milestone and what comes next, visit:*  
<https://righttolife.org.uk/LeadbeaterBillFalls>

## Forthcoming Events at Ushaw

**Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw:** On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 4pm, please join us for Sung Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw. This is an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church. All are very welcome to join us for the service.

**Chapter & Verse is Ushaw's book group** which welcomes all readers who are interested in reading and discussing books about faith and religion. The group meets monthly to read a mix of fiction and non-fiction with a religious theme or connection. The next meeting of the book group is on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 1.30pm**. For this meeting we will be reading *Apologia pro Vita Sua* by John Henry Newman. Come along and join the conversation, even if you have not had time to read the book! No pre-booking is required, and the event is free with Ushaw membership or a day pass.

**Open for Prayer:** Ushaw's St. Cuthbert's Chapel is now open for silent prayer **every Tuesday morning from 9.30am to 10am**. This is an opportunity to pause and reflect in the prayerful atmosphere of the chapel before Ushaw opens to the public at 10am.

## Friends of the Holy Land

There will be Choral Evensong and prayers for the Holy Land at Newcastle Cathedral in St. Nicholas Square, Newcastle on **Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 5.30pm**.

Please contact the Cathedral at: [www.newcastlecathedral.org.uk/holy-land-prayers](http://www.newcastlecathedral.org.uk/holy-land-prayers) for more information and if you are planning to attend as refreshments will be served.

## THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING

Last November, 1,200 Faith leaders, MPs, Peers, Business Leaders and other key people, met at Westminster Central Hall for a land-mark briefing by top UK experts on the imminent risks of climate change and nature breakdown to our way of life. This was an 11th-hour wake-up call, and included practical ways still open to us of coping with these risks.

The Waddington Street United Reformed Church Eco Church Group is showing a film (just under an hour) based on this national briefing, with tea/coffee and discussion. There are 2 showings at Waddington Street URC. Please book a place on Eventbrite to be sure of a place, or simply turn up in good time:

**7 pm Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/screening-of-the-peoples-emergency-briefing-tickets-1987319242351?aff=oddtcreator>

**7 pm Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May:** [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/second-screening-of-the-peoples-emergency-briefing-tickets-1987356967187?aff=oddtcreator&keep\\_tld=true](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/second-screening-of-the-peoples-emergency-briefing-tickets-1987356967187?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true)

Please contact [charles.jolly13@btinternet.com](mailto:charles.jolly13@btinternet.com) if you have any enquiries.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 2 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Elizabeth Birney
Sunday 3 May	9.00am Joyce Grant 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am The Wright and Ward Family
Monday 4 May	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 5 May	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am Colin and Estelle Wild	6.30pm Confirmation Mass with Bishop Stephen Wright
Wednesday 6 May	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am – St. Joseph's Years 5 & 6 attending Sheila Owens 1.30pm – Funeral Service of the late Lynne Margaret Guy
Thursday 7 May	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Margaret Taylor	NO MASS
Friday 8 May	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Vocations to the Priesthood
Saturday 9 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey
Sunday 10 May 6 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am Gloria Hughes 10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	10.30am The Charlton Family

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 3	Mon 4	Tue 5	Wed 6	Thurs 7	Fri 8	Sat 9	Sun 10
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm