

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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Sunday, 8th October 2023 – 27th Sunday of the Year
Parish Newsletter
A Day of Special Prayer for Prisoners and their Dependants

Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden
Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544/0191 3332183
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

Congratulations to the Capuchin Community at Tenter House on the Feast of St. Francis. Last Wednesday we celebrated the Feast Day with Mass at St. Joseph's with an excellent homily on the life of St. Francis by Fr. Peter, Dominican and resident at Tenter House whilst studying at the Centre for Catholic Studies.

Our next Baptism Course takes place this Monday, 9th October. Can I ask parents attending to familiarise themselves in the life of the church their child is being baptised into. I would ask this especially of parents who do not attend Mass regularly. The Mass (Eucharist) is central to our religious faith. It's the essence of what we believe as Catholics. It is also (should be) pivotal to understanding the role of a Parish Community.

And still on Mass attendance, our numbers continue to slowly return to pre-Covid numbers. The virus is still out there, but we can't allow our fears to dictate the important positives gained by gathering as a people, especially at a spiritual and mental level. Again, can I ask for more volunteers in all areas of parish life. We have a great set of volunteers already, but more would be very welcome.

We sadly lost Dave Simpson this week. Dave, a quiet man, lived alone and got great comfort being collected by a parish volunteer every Wednesday and brought to our Lunch Club. May he rest in peace.

We hope to begin again our Journey in Faith Programme. If anyone is interested, please contact me, or the parish secretary.

Feast Days

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday, 9 th October | St. John Henry Newman P |
| Tuesday, 10 th October | St. Paulinus of York Bp |
| Wednesday, 11 th October | St. John XXIII Pp |
| Thursday, 12 th October | St. Wilfrid Bp |
| Friday, 13 th October | St. Edward the Confessor, King |
| Saturday, 14 th October | Ss. Callistus I Pp, M |

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Meg Dixon | Yvonne Reid |
| Joe Watson | Jared Howarth |
| Sheila Owen | Francesca Camilerni |
| Ken Riddle | Nicola Dawson |
| Breda Gallagher | Ian Hamilton |
| Marjorie Carey | Monica O'Connor |
| | |

Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Bob Collinson | Joe Lane |
| Fred Tromans | James Lyons |
| Margaret Galloway | George Addison-Smyth |



Sympathy - we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Henry Allott. His funeral arrangements have not been confirmed at this time.
Requiescat in Pace.

COUNTERS NEEDED – WEEKLY COUNT

Dear Parishioners – Since the onset of COVID the number of people willing to count the collections each week has dropped from 24 members to 10 and we are trying to recruit more parishioners who would be willing to help with this important task making it less onerous for all concerned.

The count is done at St. Joseph's on either Sunday after 11 a.m. Mass or on Monday morning - the day and time is decided upon by each individual who would then be placed in a group counting at the requested time. At present there are only 2 members in each team and it takes approximately 2 hours – less if there is no second collection. Obviously more hands make lighter and shorter work.

The rota is very flexible and if any date does not suit it is possible to swap your turn with another counter on the rota. All newcomers will join existing groups to learn the counting procedures.

We really need more volunteers so if you are able to help your priest and Parish please let me know - details below. Many thanks and God Bless.
janichols@hotmail.co.uk tel. 0191 3843992.

FOOD SAFETY & HYGIENE

The Chief Environmental Health Officer for Durham County carried out an inspection of St Joseph's kitchen assessing the food safety & hygiene practices of the Volunteers who are involved in the preparation & serving of food for Parish events.

I'm delighted to report that a Hygiene Rating of 5 has been awarded. This is the highest grading and all involved in catering activities should be very proud. Keep up the good work.

October Edition of the Northern Cross

This edition includes a full page interview with Bishop Stephen, who agreed to have a one-to-one interview with Emma, the editor of the Northern Cross. Read it in the October edition on sale now.

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Administrator, Department for Education, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, permanent. Closing date: 10th October.

Cleaner, St Charles, Gosforth – part-time, permanent. Closing date: 11th October, Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Prisoners' Sunday – is the National Day of Prayer and Action for prisoners and their families. Prisons Week is an Ecumenical week of prayer for prisoners, their families, prison staff, victims of crimes etc. The daily prayers are available on 'Prisons Week' website at https://www.prisonsworld.org/wpcontent/uploads/PW2023_LEAFLET_WEB.pdf.

St. Cuthbert's collect toiletries and food packs for women released from Low Newton. The items which they need are listed on the poster. They can be left in the box at the back of St. Cuthbert's church, or you can give them to Marjorie, who will liaise with St. Cuthbert's re collection. This year we also appeal for craft materials for children attending Friday Family Visits at Low Newton. Activities are provided by Nepacs staff and volunteers to make visits as happy and relaxed as possible. Supporting family contact helps during difficult times and is important in reducing the risk of reoffending. Again, they can be delivered to St. Cuthbert's, or given to Marjorie.

Craft items requested - Canvasses – medium sized (to do handprints of mother and child), plastic scissors (no metal at all); Assorted buttons – for button art; Coloured Card – A4 / Various stickers/ Tissue paper – all colours; Sharpie Pens / Biro pens / Sellotape / Double sided Sellotape; Ready mixed paints (child friendly), Glue Sticks / glue spreaders / Colouring books / Tracing books.

CAFOD - Laudate Deum - Responding to Pope Francis' call to all people of goodwill on the climate crisis

'The world sings of an infinite love, how can we fail to care for it?' (*Laudate Deum #65*)

Pope Francis has today, on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, published [Laudate Deum: to all people of good will on the climate crisis](#), his new Exhortation on the environment, a [follow up](#) to his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

The Pope says that "climate change is one of the principal challenges facing society and the global community" (*Laudate Deum #3*) and warns that the "world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing the breaking point" (#5).

I would like to thank you for holding collections for our [Family Fast Day appeal](#) in your parish this week. Our appeal highlights the terrible impact of the climate crisis, telling the story of Meera, whose home in Pakistan was swept away by extreme flooding last year. Flooding that was an example of the extreme weather phenomena that Pope Francis calls "palpable expressions of a silent disease that affects everyone" (#5).

We pray that, inspired by the example of St Francis of Assisi and encouraged by *Laudate Deum*, we will always strive to care for and protect our common home.

For your diary: We are hosting an [online event](#) on Thursday 12th October at 7pm to reflect on what Pope Francis' *Laudate Deum* means for us. Please do join us and share this [invitation](#) with others.

Best wishes, Peter Lazaro, Cafod



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL – 200 CLUB RESULTS – October 2023

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 st (£50) | No. 177 |
| K. Minihan | Our Lady of Lourdes, Wallsend |
| Vera Duffy | St. Joseph's, Birtley |
| 2 nd (£25) | No. 55 |
| M. Summers | All Saints, Lanchester |
| C. Reid | Parish of the Durham Martyrs |

Thank you for your continued support.

Holy Island Camp

Holy Island Vinnies Camp is looking for new helpers to help in their kitchens on Holy Island. The Camp runs holidays for many of our Catholic Schools in the North East during the months of April to July and then September to November, but relies on volunteers to do caretaking duties and kitchen helpers to wash up, serve meals and help prepare light meals, salads and sandwiches etc for the groups staying on site. Commitment can be as little as a few days a year or more if you are able to and willing!

Anyone who is thinking they might like to volunteer in 2024 could also contact Barbara Taws via BarbaraT@svp.org.uk to find more information about Camp and the process of becoming a volunteer. We hope to see you soon!

The Choral pilgrimage 2023

The Sixteen, the world-renowned choir conducted by Harry Christophers, is performing at Hexham Abbey on Friday 13th October at 7.30pm. The programme is celebrating the legacy of one of choral music's most treasured composers, William Byrd, and also includes the world premieres of two beautiful works by Dobrinka Tabakova.

We'd also love to see some of you at our Choral Workshop, which takes place in Newcastle at The Sage on Sunday 15th October at 11am. More information can be found on our website.

The details can be found here for the concert: <https://thesixteen.com/event/the-choral-pilgrimage-2023-hexham/> and here for the workshop; <https://thesixteen.com/event/choral-workshop-newcastle/>. See posters at the back of church.

Mass Intentions for the Week



8th October 2023

| | St Godric's | St Joseph's |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Saturday 7 October | | 5.00pm Vigil Mass Bob Collinson Anniversary |
| Sunday 8 October | 9.00am Rose Carr Anniversary | 11.00am Joe Lane Anniversary |
| Monday 9 October | NO MASS | 9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 10 October | 9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Trudie Jones Birthday Remembrance | NO MASS |
| Wednesday 11 October | NO MASS | 9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Mary Malyan |
| Thursday 12 October | 9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Kevin Royal Anniversary | NO MASS |
| Friday 13 October | NO MASS | 9.30am 10.00am World Peace |
| Saturday 14 October | NO MASS | 5.00pm Vigil Mass Philip Gibson Birthday Remembrance |
| Sunday 15 October | 9.00am Victims of war and persecution | 11.00am Deceased priests of the Diocese |

St. Cuthbert's

| Sun 8 | Mon 9 | Tue 10 | Wed 11 | Thurs 12 | Fri 13 | Sat 14 | Sun 15 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|--------|----------|---------|--------|-----------------------|
| 10.00am and 6.30pm | NO MASS | 12.15pm | 7.00pm | 9.15am | 12.15pm | 9.15am | 10.00am and 6.30pm |