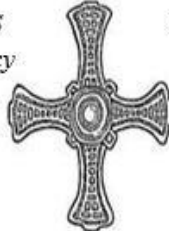


**The Parish of the Durham Martyrs**  
*Incorporating the Churches of Our Lady of Mercy  
& St. Godric, St. Joseph and St. Bede*

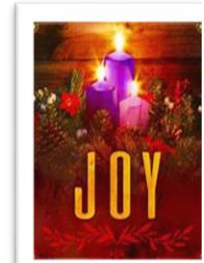
*Parish Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden*



TELEPHONE: 07391 529 827  
EMAIL: [secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com](mailto:secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com)  
WEBSITE: [www.durhammartyrs.co.uk](http://www.durhammartyrs.co.uk)  
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

*Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers*

**Parish Newsletter**  
**17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**  
**The Third Sunday of Advent**



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

Christmas is upon us. Much to reflect on in these uncertain times. Thank God we are back to normality after so much disruption. Sadly, the Christmas Mass is unable to return to the normality of Mass in St Leonard's because of the Raac problems. We are fortunate having the Capuchins now, which helps me greatly as we return to 4 Masses at Christmas.

The Journey in Faith is picking up pace now and I would encourage anyone thinking of becoming Catholic, or simply wishing to enrich their own understanding of Faith, to join us on a Thursday night.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas, and dare one hope for a peaceful New Year. Thank you all for your support over the past year, which has been a constant readjustment to normality, or should I say; a new norm. I hope that you have an opportunity to meet up again with Family and friends over the festive period.

“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”  
Hamilton Wright Mabie

## The Meeting by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

After so long an absence  
At last we meet again:  
Does the meeting give us pleasure,  
Or does it give us pain?  
The tree of life has been shaken,  
And but few of us linger now,  
Like the Prophet's two or three berries  
In the top of the uppermost bough.

We cordially greet each other  
In the old, familiar tone;  
And we think, though we do not say it,  
How old and grey he is grown!  
We speak of a Merry Christmas  
And many a Happy New Year;  
But each in his heart is thinking  
Of those that are not here.

We speak of friends and their fortunes,  
And of what they did and said,  
Till the dead alone seem living,  
And the living alone seem dead.  
And at last we hardly distinguish  
Between the ghosts and the guests;  
And a mist and shadow of sadness  
Steals over our merriest jests.

## Feast Days

Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December	St. Peter Canisius P, D
Saturday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	St. John of Kanty P
Tuesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> December	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Wednesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> December	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> December	The Holy Innocents MM
Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> December	St. Thomas Becket Bp
Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup> December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> January	Mary Mother of God
Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen Bps, DD
Wednesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Most Holy Name of Jesus
Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January	The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January	The Baptism of the Lord

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Meg Dixon	Yvonne Reid
Ken Riddle	Jared Howarth
Joe Watson	Francesca Camilerni
Sheila Owen	Nicola Dawson
Breda Gallagher	Ian Hamilton
Tom Oliver	Brian Harland
Sean Casey	

Anniversaries: 17 December – 7 January

Jim Robinson	Susan Gleason
Paul Smith	Louise Birney
Joan Bennet	Peter McLoughlin
Joe Fewster	John Shaw Junior
Doreen Haggerty	Vince McPartlin
Norman Wilson	Kitty Tisdall
Eileen Ingleby	John & Winnie Muldowney
John Willis	Una Pattison



We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Hilda Reader who passed away this week. Her Funeral Service will take place at St. Godric's on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> January at 10.00am followed by burial at South Road Cemetery.

Forthcoming funerals next week

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December – Michael Wilkinson, Durham Crematorium, 12.30pm

Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December – Sheila Bell, Requiem Mass, St Joseph's, 10.00am

*Requiescant in pace*



### Coffee Morning

There will be a Christmas coffee morning this **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** in St. Bede's Room in St Godric's School. It will take place immediately after the 9.15 Service of the Word and Holy Communion. All proceeds will go to Women in Need in India. Everyone is very welcome.

## Northern Catholic Calendar and Ordo

The 2024 edition of the NCC is now available for sale at the back of each church. Ringbound NCC's are £3.50 and flat - £3.00. Ordos to follow and are £7.00.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish office will close at 12.30pm on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December and re-open at 9.00am on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January.



Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December morning

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December evening

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> December

St. Joseph's 5.00pm Vigil Mss

St. Godric's 9.00am Mass

St. Joseph's 11.00am Mass

St. Joseph's Vigil Mass of Christmas, 5.00pm

St. Godric's Vigil Mass of Christmas, 7.00pm

Preceded with readings and carols at 6.30pm

St. Godric's 9.00am Christmas Day Mass

St. Joseph's 10.00am Christmas Day Mass



### Parish Christmas Trees

The children from our 3 parish primary schools would like to invite you to write a prayer intention on the back of a star, beautifully decorated by every child in school. The stars will be available at the back of both churches from this weekend.

Please write your intention and leave the star at the back of church, these stars will be put on to the Christmas trees in church, all will remain in our thoughts and prayers especially over this Christmastide.

'We pray you find love, peace, faith, and hope. May God truly be the light in our darkness. May the light of Christ set us forth on a pilgrimage to encounter truth. And may your Christmas, regardless of faith tradition, be filled with peace and joy.'

The Liturgy Team and friends.

### Concerts at St. Godric's

There have recently been two very successful concerts in St. Godric's Church. On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December the Durham University Chamber Choir performed Advent Antiphons by Pawel Lukaszewski and Bob Chilcott. Last Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, The Durham Singers performed music that explored the wonder and mystery of the birth of Jesus. Thanks are due to parishioners who supported the two concerts in a variety of ways.

## News from the SVP

### Date for the Diary

The SVP will be holding their annual Christmas Party on **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> January** in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's from 12.00 noon. There is a list at the back of both churches for you to put in your name and a contact number if you would like to attend. Alternatively, you can contact Margaret White on 3869437 or any member of the SVP.



### *Christmas Party*

### SVP Sudan Appeal

For a number of years we have appealed for your support in relieving the suffering of mothers and babies in a war torn country. Through the generosity of people like you, 700 children are fed nutritious meals each week at feeding stations. 2800 adults have been trained on our vocational training schemes over the past 5 years. In addition, 13000 people have received medical treatments provided by our medical centres a year.



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

If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause please make out a cheque payable to 'SVP Sudan Appeal', put it in an envelope, with your name on the front, and give it to Chris Brennan or any other SVP member. Thank you, once again, for your generosity.

### 200 CLUB – RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

*Annual Subscriptions are still £12 per number and are due for renewal in January.*

**If you are an Existing Member** - please put your subscription in an envelope, clearly marked with your name, and put it in the box which is at the back of both churches and will remain there for a few weeks. Cheques should be made payable to '**SVP 200 Club**'.

**New members** - If you wish to join the 200 club please complete a **registration form** (these can be found beside the boxes) and enclose it in an envelope with your subscription (£12 per number) and place in the box. Once registered, you will be sent a membership card with your '200 Club' number.

**Cancellations** – members wishing to cancel should ring either Janet 07854507485 or Judith 07932951394 or place a note in the box stating your name and address.

Can I take this opportunity on behalf of The Tyne Central Council President and his Board, to thank you all for your past and hopefully future support for this very worthwhile cause.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, God Bless. Janet

# TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL – 200 CLUB

## RESULTS – December 2023

1 <sup>st</sup> (£100)	No. 188
M. Scott	Our Lady of Lourdes, Wallsend
Mrs. Mary Thomas	St. Joseph's, Birtley
2 <sup>nd</sup> (£50)	No. 103
Mrs. Abbey Hughes	Parish of the Durham Martyrs
Ian Bennett	St. Edwards, Whitley Bay

*With many thanks for your continued support*

### Support Fund

It is perhaps timely to remind our parish community that the Parish Support Fund still continues to operate. Applications are welcome even if you have applied in the past. The procedure remains the same - applications to be sent to the Parish Secretary at [secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com](mailto:secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com) or addressed to her at the Parish Office, and you can contact her on the parish mobile **07483 369 561**. If any refugees from Ukraine come to live in our parish applications would be welcome from them.

**Durham Martyrs' Lunch Club** has enjoyed another successful term, hitting the headlines with our award for being Local Heroes. We couldn't do that without our lovely guests, the super kitchen staff at St. Joseph's School and of course our volunteer drivers and kitchen helpers from the Parish. Our numbers continue to increase as we welcome those who live alone and would like to enjoy a hot meal and good company.

We enjoyed Christmas Lunch on Wednesday this week and we're taking a break until January 10<sup>th</sup> 2024. If you would like to join us as a guest or a very welcome volunteer, or just to find out more, contact Pat Conway 07943016225 or Kathleen Murray 07759130837.

THANK YOU to everyone on our team for your magnificent efforts! Christmas blessings to all!

**Community Carol Service - Carols by Candlelight – St. Cuthbert's Church, North End, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 4.00pm.** It should be a really lovely occasion of candlelit carols, readings and prayers said by various different members of the community from different walks of life (including pupils from St. Leonard's Catholic School, and reps from Durham County Council, the University, Hospital, Durham Churches Together), and we are hoping it should be a good opportunity to bring everybody together (we will also be taking a charity collection for the work of Durham Women's Refuge).

It would be lovely to see you there if you can make it! *See poster.*

## Come and See

### Priestly Vocation Discernment Evenings 2024

Men aged 18+ who think God may be calling them to serve in our Diocese are invited to come and explore their vocation with the Diocesan Priestly Vocations Team. Meetings start on 9<sup>th</sup> January and continue each month until December.

See the posters/flyers at the back of church and for more information, please call the vocations Promoter on 012087 299012, or email [vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk)

### Youth Ministry Conference – February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

This Youth Ministry and Practical Theology Conference is YMT's first conference since the COVID-19 pandemic and we look forward to gather with youth ministers, catechists, clergy, teachers, staff and volunteer co-workers from across the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and beyond! The theme for the conference is "Investing in the Fearlessness of Youth", inspired by a quote from Pope Francis' letter, *Christus Vivit* (Chapter 7 no. 233). We hope you can join us for this Youth Ministry Conference.

We are looking forward to welcoming keynote speaker, Reverend Professor David Wilkinson, Director of Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, an international project based at St John's College, Durham, who will explore how we can engage young people in the Gospel when we live in a world of science. We are also pleased to welcome back David Wells, international speaker, best-selling author and friend of YMT, to guide us to reflect on our theme.

Booking is now open and you can either email [nsalkeld@ymt.org](mailto:nsalkeld@ymt.org) or book online here: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam). Online booking will apply booking fees. For more information about the conference visit [www.ymt.org/ymt-conference](http://www.ymt.org/ymt-conference)

### Vacancies – Opportunities to work at the Emmaus Village

The Emmaus Village, home for the Youth Ministry Team, hosts all the residential retreats led by YMT for our Diocesan Primary and Secondary Schools. It also offers catering and hospitality to the biggest gathering of Catholic Schools, the YMT Summer Festivals, students named it "God Camp". With this we are looking for an **Assistant Catering Coordinator and Kitchen Technician**, who will help our catering team deliver this valuable service to all the groups that come to the Emmaus Village.

If you or someone you know, wants to be part of the YMT team, please contact [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org) or click the link [www.ymt.org/vacancies](http://www.ymt.org/vacancies) for more information with regards to our vacancies.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 16 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pauline Inglis Deceased members of the Hennessy Family and Jim and Mary Bygroves
Sunday 17 December 3 <sup>rd</sup> of Advent	9.00am George and Susannah Michiels	11.00am Deceased members of the Kelly Family and Kelly Nicola Dunne
Monday 18 December	NO MASS	9.15am Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 19 December	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Colin and Estelle Wild and Paul Smith Anniversary	NO MASS
Wednesday 20 December	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am - St. Joseph's Whole School Mass Ward and Dunne Family
Thursday 21 December	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Sr. Anne McCarthy RSCJ	10.00am Requiem Mass of the late Sheila Bell
Friday 22 December	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Peter McLoughlin Anniversary and John Peat Birthday Remembrance
Saturday 23 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Mary Louise Birney and John Connolly
Sunday 24 December	9.00am World Peace	11.00am World Peace
Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve Vigil	6.30pm – Readings and Carols 7.00pm – Vigil Mass of Christmas	5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
Monday 25 December	9.00am Christmas Day Mass	10.00am Christmas Day Mass

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 17	Mon 18	Tue 19	Wed 20	Thurs 21	Fri 22	Sat 23	Sun 24
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15	9.15am	9.15am	10.00am (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent) and 10.00pm (First Mass of Christmas)



*Mass Intentions for the Week*

26<sup>th</sup> December 2023



	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Tuesday 26 December Feast of St. Stephen	10.00am Priest's Intention	NO MASS
Wednesday 27 December	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am The Oliver Family
Thursday 28 December	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Catherine Ibbs	NO MASS
Friday 29 December	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am James and Dorothy Sweeney
Saturday 30 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Anthony Farmer
Sunday 31 December New Year's Eve	9.00am Vocations to the Priesthood	11.00am John and Winnie Muldowney Anniversaries and Norman Wilson Anniversary
Monday 1 January New Year's Day	NO MASS	10.00am Eucharistic Service

*St. Cuthbert's – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December*

Mon 25	Tue 26	Wed 27	Thurs 28	Fri 29	Sat 30	Sun 31
10.00am	10.00am	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am (No evening Mass)

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



*Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January  
to  
Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> January*

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Tuesday 2 January	9.30am - Exposition 10.0am World Peace	NO MASS
Wednesday 3 January	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Priest's Intention
Thursday 4 January	9.30am - Exposition 10.0am Victims of war and conflict	NO MASS
Friday 5 January	10.00am Funeral Service of the late Hilda Reader	9.30am - Exposition 10.0am Deceased Priests of the Diocese
Saturday 6 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Anthony Farmer
Sunday 7 January EPIPHANY	9.00am The sick of the Parish	11.00am The sick of the Parish

*St. Cuthbert's – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January*

Mon 1 Jan	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thurs 4	Fri 5	Sat 6	Sun 7
10.00am	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am & 6.30pm