

**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: 07483 369 561  
EMAIL: [durham.martyrs@dioceseln.org.uk](mailto:durham.martyrs@dioceseln.org.uk)  
WEBSITE: [www.durhammartyrs.co.uk](http://www.durhammartyrs.co.uk)  
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

*Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers*

**Parish Newsletter**  
**21<sup>st</sup> December 2025 – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**The Fourth 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)

And So This is Christmas....and what have you done? The challenge of John Lennon earths us away from the glitz and sentimentality that can be a feature of this time of year. As a parish, dare I suggest that actually we have done a quite lot. Sure, there is, and always will be, much more to be done.

Besides the numerous parish groups of selfless decency, we had some very special events that stick out. Our quarterly International Meals are always a stand out. It continues to bear witness that so many from different backgrounds and cultures (and different religions, we hope soon) can sit together and enjoy our differences.

“Look around at those you love, slow down, and remember to chew.”

The Parish Fayre Day was a great success. Outreach to the local communities has become the norm for this annual (we hope) event. The annual parish retreat in Keswick continues to nourish and we look forward to the next in February. I'm highlighting special events, but these gatherings, plus our daily worship and Sunday assemblies are a sign that the latest statistics indicating a revival of church attendance would seem to be true. So parents and grandparents among you take heart if your kids don't come. 'Come and see', is all we can say.

We will indeed welcome back so many of our friends and relatives at Christmas.

Continued over/...

Can I add here that I'm both amazed and heartened by how many of you have said how much you miss Christmas at St Leonard's.

And on the subject of schools, can I wish all our schools staff a peaceful and well deserved break. Changing times for them as academic achievement and some parental expectations which border on the hallucinatory, add to pressure that I hope you all get relief from at this time. Still on the subject of schools I'm presuming, hoping, you all received the cake hampers from our parish BOP Group (Young parents and friends) as an acknowledgment of all your efforts ?

### Feast Days

Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	St. John of Kanty P
Friday, 26 <sup>th</sup> December	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Saturday, 27 <sup>th</sup> December	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Sunday, 28 <sup>th</sup> December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> December	St. Thomas Becket Bp M
Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> January	Mary The Mother of God
Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen Bps, DD
Saturday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Tuesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January	The Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> January	The Baptism of the Lord

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	
Mary Armstrong	Ann Close
Sheila Owens	Rose Simpson
Margaret Nancarrow	Veronica O'Reilly
John Barrett	Marek Earnshaw
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	EmmaTurnbull

Anniversaries: 22 December – 12 January

<b>December</b>	
Kath Brown	John Boyes
Joan Bennett	Peter McLoughlin
Joe Fewster	John Shaw Junior
Doreen Haggerty	Vince McPartlin
Norman Wilson	Kitty Tisdall
Louise Birney	

January	
Eileen Ingleby	John & Winnie Muldowney
George Armatage	Lily Parry
Pamela Neill	Rafete Meqa
Joseph Owens	Nancy Edgerton
Paul Hann	Kieron Shaw
Frank Crawford	Margaret Madden
Tom Oliver	Joe Watson



**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to Pat Quigley and family on the sad loss of her daughter, Joanne Fryer. Her Funeral Service will be held at St. Joseph's on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 12.00pm, followed by cremation. *Requiescat in pace.*

### Northern Catholic Calendar

The 2026 edition of the NCC is now available for sale at the back of each church – price £4.00.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish office will close at 4.00pm on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January.



Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December

St. Joseph's 5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

**Preceded by readings and carols at 4.30pm**

St. Godric's 7.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

**Preceded by readings and carols at 6.30pm**

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

St. Godric's 9.00am Christmas Day Mass

St. Joseph's 10.00am Christmas Day Mass

Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> December

St. Godric's 10.00am St. Stephen's Day Mass

**Journey in Faith** – will resume on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7.00pm. The topic will be Catholic Social Teaching, All welcome.

# Youth Group News

Thank you to all who have helped our youth group to get off to such a joyful start! As we move into the New Year we're excited to keep building this welcoming space together. 📧 Share your ideas at [durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com)—and join us on these dates in 2026: Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25 (*YMT visit!*), May 30, Jun 27, Jul 25.

☀️ *All young people are welcome—bring a friend!*



## Parish Christingle

Thank you to everyone who supported our Parish Christingle last Sunday. We had a lovely turnout of children and their families. We watched a video about what each part of the Christingle represents before making our own.

We moved to the body of the church where they were lit. The children then read some prayers to conclude the afternoon.

Thank you to everyone who attended. We are excited to see you next year. More photos can be viewed on our website.

## 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.



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. To make a donation directly to the SVP please click the following link:

<https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/page/134642/donate/1>

Thank you, once again, for your generosity.

## 200 CLUB – RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions for January 2026 - December 2026 are now due, before the January draw. The annual cost is still £12 per number and cheques should be made payable to SVP 200 Club.

Could members please put subscriptions, cash or cheque, in an envelope with your name and address and place them in the box at the back of church. Thank you.

*All profits from this enterprise go to the SVP food bank in Newcastle so members not only have the opportunity of winning a prize in the monthly draw but, more importantly, will be helping to provide emergency food parcels for needy families and hot meals for the hundreds of homeless people who visit St Vincent's each week.*

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.



### **Durham Martyrs' Lunch Club**

Last Wednesday we enjoyed our last Lunch Club before Christmas. We now have a break before meeting again on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

This is our opportunity to say a huge THANK YOU to all who keep us going, our drivers, our kitchen ladies and of course the wonderful guests who make it all worthwhile!

We always have room for more guests and helpers. Just let Pat or Kathleen know! In the meantime, have a wonderful Christmas break, full of love and blessings. See you in January!

Love and God bless Pat ( 07943016225 ) and Kathleen (07759130837)

### **Justice and Peace Group**

Many thanks to parishioners who supported the recent Soup Lunch for Cafod, Raffle for Cafod at the Christmas Fayre and who have made donations for coffee after Mass at St. Godric's. Your generous support has allowed us to send £200 to Cafod.

### **A token of appreciation**

We are so thankful for the work all staff in our schools do to look after the young people of our Parish. Working in education is an incredibly tough sector and we have been privileged to hear of some of the challenges facing our staff currently.

To thank all who work in our school communities, on Monday, we sent little 'THANK YOU!' care packages to each of our Parish schools. These small gifts of appreciation do not even begin to express our gratitude but we thank you sincerely for all you do. From The Parish of the Durham Martyrs



### **From the Diocese**

#### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

**31<sup>st</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

*Celebrating 100 years since the First Diocesan Pilgrimage*

Bookings are now open for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We travel on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July and return on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August. 2026 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the first Diocesan Pilgrimage took place led by Bishop Joseph Thorman.

If you would like to book, or for further information, please contact Tangney Tours, our Tour Operator by going to their website <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle/> or by calling 01732 886 666.

### **Safeguarding Administrator**

Supporting the Safeguarding team, the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are looking for a consummate administrative professional who handles sensitive information with the utmost discretion and confidentiality. Similarly, you'll be a person who has an eye for detail recognising the need for accuracy and precision.

Salary scale - £26,000 to £27,768.

If you are interested in applying for this 12 month Fixed Term Contracted Safeguarding position, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Bernadette Aquino HR Business Partner at [Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:Bernadette.aquino@diocesehn.org.uk)

Please note the Diocese cannot accept CV's and as such to be considered for the position you must request our Applicant Pack and then complete and return our Application Form.

The closing date for applications is 09:00am Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 although we reserve the right to close the position early.

### **Administrator - YMT**

Supporting the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and our small, dedicated team, we are looking for an Administrator to cover a period of Maternity Leave.

Responsibilities include:

- Providing efficient administrative and operational support to the YMT team.
- Managing correspondence, records, and calendars.
- Coordinating bookings, logistics, projects and event administration.
- Handling financial tasks including invoicing, payment tracking, and reporting.

Please note this role is subject to an Enhanced DBS check and YMT cannot accept CVs. You must complete our Application Form, available as part of the Applicant Pack. If you are interested, please get in touch to request an Applicant Pack by emailing Annie Leaver, Head of Human Resources at [annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk)

The closing date for applications is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### **Durham Churches Together**

Durham Churches Together New Year's Eve Service, Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December, will be held at the Cathedral at 5.30pm,

Join the musical procession Procession - to the Cathedral – it leaves the Market Place at 5.00pm. Alternatively, make your own way to the Cathedral in good time for the 5.30pm start.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

21<sup>st</sup> December 2025

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 20 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Louise Birney, Pauline Inglis, Anthony Farmer and in thanksgiving for 20 years of marriage
Sunday 21 December 4 <sup>th</sup> of Advent	9.00am George and Susannah Michiels and Helen Villis	10.30am John and Mary Ellen Clark and the Harland and Crawford Families
Monday 22 December	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 23 December	Colin and Estelle Wild	NO MASS
Wednesday 24 December	7.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas	5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
Thursday 25 December Christmas Day	9.00am The Nativity of the Lord	10.00am The Nativity of the Lord
Friday 26 December	10.00am The Feast of St. Stephen Mass	NO MASS
Saturday 27 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Special Intention (LS) and Cecilia O'Neill
Sunday 28 December	9.00am Chris Laing	10.30am Ernest and Elsie O'Connor and John and Winnie Muldowney Anniversaries

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 21	Mon 22	Tue 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27	Sun 28
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	9.15am (Christmas Eve) and 10.0pm (First Mass of Christmas)	10.00am	10.00am	9.15am	10.00am (No evening Mass)

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 27 December	NO MASS	5.30pm – Vigil Mass Special Intention (LS) and Cecilia O'Neill
Sunday 28 December	9.00am Chris Laing	10.30am Ernest and Elsie O'Connor and John and Winnie Muldowney Anniversaries
Monday 29 December	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 30 December	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Joanne Fryer	NO MASS
Wednesday 31 December	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Norman Wilson Anniversary and James and Dorothy Sweeney
Thursday 1 January	NO MASS	NO MASS
Friday 2 January	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Saturday 3 January	NO MASS	5.30pm – Vigil Mass Intentions of Mary Crilly and Family and Audrie Walsh Anniversary
Sunday 4 January	9.00am Joanne Fryer	10.30am The Hayden Family

*St. Cuthbert's*

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31	Thurs 1 Jan	Fri 2	Sat 3	Sun 4
10.00am (No evening Mass)	NO MASS	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



*Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> January  
to  
Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January  
2026*

	St. Godric's	St. Joseph's
Monday 5 January	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 6 January EPIPHANY	9.30am - Exposition 10.0am Jayson Ramos	NO MASS
Wednesday 7 January	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese
Thursday 8 January	9.30am - Exposition 10.0am World Peace	NO MASS
Friday 9 January	NO MASS	9.30am Exposition 10.00am Ryszard Menzel
Saturday 10 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Phil Casey and John Doyle Anniversary
Sunday 11 January	9.00am Vocations to the Priesthood	<b>10.30am</b> Liam Hayden

*St. Cuthbert's – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January*

Mon 5 Jan	Tue 6 EPIPHANY	Wed 7	Thurs 8	Fri 9	Sat 10	Sun 11
NO MASS	12.15pm and 7.00pm	NO MASS	NO MASS	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am & 6.30pm