

***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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Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

*Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers*

## **Parish Newsletter**

### **25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year**

**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)

There is a kind of listening with half an ear that presumes already to know what the other person has to say. It is an impatient, inattentive listening, that despises the brother and is only waiting for a chance to speak and thus get rid of the other person.

This is no fulfilment of our obligation, and it is certain that here too our attitude toward our brother only reflects our relationship to God.

It is little wonder that we are no longer capable of the greatest service of listening that God has committed to us, that of hearing our brother's confession, if we refuse to give ear to our brother on lesser subjects. Secular education today is aware that often a person can be helped merely by having someone who will listen to him seriously, and upon this insight it has constructed its own soul therapy, which has attracted great numbers of people, including Christians. But Christians have forgotten that the ministry of listening has been committed to them by Him who is Himself the great listener and whose work they should share.

We should listen with the ears of God that we may speak the Word of God.

*Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*

## Feast Days

Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Ss. Timothy and Titus Bps
Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> January	St. Angela Merici V
Wednesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> January	St. Thomas Aquinas P, D
Saturday, 31 <sup>st</sup> January	St. John Bosco P

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Emma Turnbull
Mary Armstrong	Ann Close
Sheila Owens	Rose Simpson
John Barrett	Veronica O'Reilly
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Marek Earnshaw
Mary Wright	John Doyle
Mary Dennis	Danny McCann

## Anniversaries:

Ethel Craggs	Harry Eccles
Esther Newcombe	Fiona Hunter
Eric Sutton	Veronica Pereira
Emily Gibbons	Ann Richardson
Mary Theresa Milbourne	Joseph Maxwell Hannigan
Philip James Hunter	Charles Elder
Frank Roebuck	Ian Hart
Phyllis Hanley	Mary Murphy
Paul Reeves	



**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Joseph John Jackson whose Funeral Service will take place at St. Joseph's. The date and time are not yet confirmed.

... and also to the family and friends of the late Philip Gibson, whose Funeral Service will be held at St. Joseph's on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February at 12.00pm followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

## Forthcoming Funerals

The Requiem Mass of Dorothy Coggins will take place on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> January in St. Josephs at 12.00pm, followed by cremation.

**Journey in Faith – Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7.00pm.** The topic will be Our Lady. All welcome.



*Hearty Soups*  
for Lent

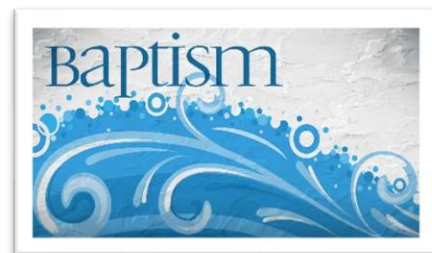
**Lenten Charity Soup** - Dates will be: 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February, and 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> March. Three slots have now been booked.

The slot on **20<sup>th</sup> February** has been taken by the **SVP**, the **6<sup>th</sup> March** will be the **Justice and Peace Group**, and the **Youth Group** will host a lunch on **20<sup>th</sup> March**.

This leaves 27<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March.

## Baptism Programme

The Spring Baptism Programme will take place on **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at St. Joseph's from 6.00-9.00pm**. Please contact the Parish Secretary for more information in the first instance.



## Parish School News



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

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, the children in Year 5 and 6 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and

friends are welcome to attend.

We would like to thank all of the families, friends and people in our local parish community who attended The Mini Vinnie Brew Day event. The children were excited to share their plans with everyone and we truly appreciate your presence and support.



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

Year 4 enjoyed their visit to Segedunum.

Next Friday, year 5 are at New College Durham to take part in a basketball festival.



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

Communion enjoyed their first after-school club, led by John Hayton. We would like to thank John for his dedication and willingness to support our children – they absolutely loved their first session.

This week, our children preparing for their First Holy

Mr Hunt warmly invites parishioners to join us for our Family Friday Celebration of the Word on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January at 2:45pm.

Finally, our lunchtime clubs continue to be a huge success. Children are choosing to spend their free time enjoying activities such as chess and debate, and the enthusiasm has been wonderful to see.



The family of the late Joanne Fryer wish to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, prayers and Masses received during their recent bereavement. Special thanks also to Fr. Colm for his support.

Donations from the funeral (church and crematorium) and Bede Lodge Social Club totalled £803.58, which has been donated to St. Cuthbert's Hospice.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our first session of 2026 **this Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January after the 5pm Mass**. This time we're planning to have a campfire! Details will be confirmed as soon as possible. To allow us plan the session and to send you the details, could those planning to attend please send an email to [durhammartyrparishyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:durhammartyrparishyouthgroup@gmail.com)



**International lunch:** Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next international lunch planned for **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February, after the 10:30 Mass at St Joseph's**. Let's celebrate together the richness our diverse community brings to our Parish.

**Gift Aid** - I have recently received the annual Gift Aid statements from the Diocese and I am aiming to deliver them over the next few weeks. If you need your statement earlier please let me know and I will get it to you as soon as possible.

You can email me at [EstherRobson@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:EstherRobson@diocesehn.org.uk) or call me on my mobile 07969 528874.



– to everyone who contributed in any way to my recent birthday celebrations – cakes, gifts, flowers, cards and prayers. It was a wonderful occasion,

Kathleen

## **Safety Alert - St. Godric's Church – Upcoming Maintenance Work**

### **St Godric's church upcoming maintenance work safety alert**

- **On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January** the path along the north side of the church to and from the car park will be closed whilst scaffolding is being erected.
- The scaffolding will remain in place until scheduled dismantling on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February**. On those two days the footpath will again be closed until the work is completed.
- **After Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January and before Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February** access along the path underneath scaffolding boards will be permitted even when investigative work is being carried out on the roof above, but please take extra care if using the path during that period for Tuesday and Thursday services.

- Car park users on any of the four days when the path is closed can access the church either by the rear door if keyholders or via the cobbled Back Tenter Terrace and the main door, but bear in mind that contractor vehicles may also be in the car park on those days and throughout the whole period of works so space may be limited.
- Access to the church via the main access path and the main door will be available as normal throughout the whole period, though it may be necessary at times during the working week for a contractor vehicle to be parked on the approach path.
- It is anticipated that the majority of attendees, particularly on the three Sundays, should not be inconvenienced but all are advised to take extra care.

### **Lourdes Pilgrimage – Youth Section Reminder**

A reminder that bookings for the Youth Section of the Lourdes Pilgrimage will close on **31<sup>st</sup> January**.

If you, or you know any young people in your parish that are interested in joining us, please get in touch as soon as possible to secure a place. For more information or to register interest, please email: [evie.rea@ymt.org](mailto:evie.rea@ymt.org)

### **Diocesan Vacancies**

**Role:** Cleaner

**Salary:** £3,276.00 per annum

**Hours:** Part-time 5 hours per week

**Location:** Sacred Heart, Great North Road, North Gosforth, NE3 5EB

**How to apply:**

Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/cleaner-sacred-heart-north-gosforth/>

**Closing date:** 12:00 pm, Friday, 30 January 2026

**Role:** Parish Secretary

**Contract:** 18 months' fixed term

**Salary:** £10,537.80 pro rata per annum

**Hours:** Part-time 15 hours per week

**Working Pattern:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday (5 hours per day. Start & finish time to be negotiated during interview).

**Location:** Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Village Lane, Washington, Tyne & Wear, NE38 7HS

**How to apply:** Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-17/>

**Closing date:** 12:00 pm, Tuesday 03 February 2026

# Mass Intentions for the Week

25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 24 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Margaret Graham and Olga Kenna
Sunday 25 January	9.00am The intentions of Eamonn McDonald  3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Cassie Childs and David Elliot Birthday Remembrance
Monday 26 January	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 27 January	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Joanne Fryer (SVP)	NO MASS
Wednesday 28 January	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am – Margaret Nancarrow St. Joseph's Yrs. 5 and 6 attending
Thursday 29 January	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Alan Sweeney and Fiona Hunter Anniversary	NO MASS
Friday 30 January	NO MASS	12.00pm Requiem Mass of the late Dorothy Coggins
Saturday 31 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Thomas and Audrey Loughlin and Gerald and Mary Lennon
Sunday 1 February	9.00am Deceased members of the SVP 3.00-4.00 – Exposition	10.30am World Peace

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 25	Mon 26	Tue 27	Wed 28	Thurs 29	Fri 30	Sat 31	Sun 1 Feb
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm