

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 Newsletter – 14th December 2025 The Third Sunday of Advent

Parish Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden

Parish Secretary: Marjorie Towers 07483 369 561

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday,
8.30am-4.00pm

Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully - 01388 818 544/
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(Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital
who would like a visit)



A Candle of Joy

In winter's hush, the shadows fade,
A rose-hued flame begins to braid
Its warmth through hearts that long have yearned,
For promised light, for hope returned.

The barren branch begins to sing,
The desert blooms, the bells all ring,
For in the stillness, whispers grow—
“The One you seek is near, you know.”

Not yet the manger, not yet the star,
But joy breaks in from realms afar;
A holy laughter fills the air,
For Love Himself will soon be there.

So lift your eyes, let gladness rise,
Through Advent's watch, through waiting skies;
The candle's glow, a gentle sign—
The dawn is near, the Light divine.



Prayers – please keep in your prayers

Kitty Trainor	Ann Close
Mary Armstrong	Syd Inglis
Sheila Owens	Liz Murray
Margaret Nancarow	Veronica O'Reilly
Danny McCann	Marek Earnshaw
Rose Simpson	Nigel Anthony Cunningham
John Barrett	Emma Turnbull

Anniversaries

Ned Shaw	Christopher Kelly
Janet Anderson	Maureen Coulthard
Ted Lord	Susan Gleason
Paul Smith	Barry Thomas



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to Pat Quigley and family on the sad loss of her daughter Joanne. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time.
Requiescat in pace

Forthcoming Funeral

Mark Shaw, Friday 19th December in St. Joseph's at 12.00pm followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

2026 Ordo and Northern Catholic Calendar – now on sale.
Ordo £8.00, NCC £4.00



Festive Coffee Morning

Please join us for a festive themed coffee morning at St Joseph's after 10am Mass on Wednesday 17th December.

Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw: On Sunday 21st December 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 for the last Sunday of Advent. All are very welcome to join us for the service.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



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

As we approach our final week of the term, we look forward to lots of celebrating - Christmas parties, lunch, rock concert and a special Christmas Mass.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone within our parish community for your continued support and prayers. We are truly grateful for the strong partnership we share. We wish all our families and parishioners a blessed and peaceful Christmas and look forward to all that the new year will bring.



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

The children and staff of St. Thomas More School are attending Mass at St. Joseph's Church on Friday, 19th December at 10:00am.

As we journey through Advent, this is a wonderful opportunity to come together as a parish family, preparing our hearts for the joyful arrival of Christ at Christmas. Your presence would make this celebration even more special—we would love to see you there!



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

On Wednesday 17th December the children will enjoy their Christmas party in school at 1pm. Lots of fun and festive games with sweets and treats provided by the school. Children can come to school in their party outfits.

On Friday 19th December the children will be attending church for our End of Term whole school Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

To our parents and school community, we would like to thank you all for your continued support throughout our school year. Your encouragement, involvement, and kindness mean so much to our wonderful school.

We wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



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

A celebration of joy, jingles and harmony

We are looking forward to our Advent Concert this Tuesday 16th December at St. Joseph's Church.



Wednesday, 24th 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, 25th December

St. Godric's 9.00am Christmas Day Mass

St. Joseph's 10.00am Christmas Day Mass

Friday, 26th December

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

DON'T FORGET

THIS
Sunday 14th December 3-4pm

St Joseph's Church

Parish Christingle

Bring your own orange

to make your own Christingle at our craft table in the Jubilee Room (Everything else will be provided in church) then join us for the lighting of the Christingles and prayers at 3:30pm. All welcome.

Our third Advent Charity Soup Lunch will be hosted by the SVP this coming **Friday 19th December**. Everyone welcome



CANCELLED - Pre-Christmas St. Godric's Church cleaning.

Due to unforeseen circumstances we are sorry but we have had to **cancel church cleaning** on Tuesday 16th at St Godric's.



There will be a Christmas coffee morning this **Monday 15th December**. It will take place immediately after the 9.15 Service of the Word and Holy Communion in St Bede's Room in St. Godric's School. All proceeds are for Women in Need in Nagpur, India. Everyone is very welcome.

Many thanks to all who have supported this charity this year.

Journey in Faith

The last meeting of 2025 will take place on Thursday 18th December at 7.00pm.



Youth Group News & Upcoming Dates

We are so grateful to everyone who has helped our youth group get off to such a joyful start! Our young people have loved coming together—playing games, making crafts, sharing delicious food, and simply enjoying each other's company.

As we step into the new year, we're excited to keep building this welcoming space. We have planned some activities, but we'd also love to hear your ideas and suggestions. Together, we can make this a place where our youth feel at home, grow in friendship, and celebrate their faith.

♥ Feel free to share your thoughts with us at durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com—and come join the fun!

A Weekly Reflection and Daily Readings for Advent 2025

Advent is a time of preparation and to reflect, and hold onto, the messages of hope, peace, joy and love which God promised to us in the birth of Christ Jesus. Members of our Diocesan Writing Team offer this Advent resource to help guide a daily space for reading of the Scripture, reflection and prayer. In it you will find a reflection based on the theme of each week of Advent and an easy-to-follow reference to the readings for each day. The reflections are available to view and download on the homepage of the Diocesan website - www.diocesehn.org.uk.

Youth Led Mass

This Sunday, 14th December, St. Leonard's will lead a youth-led Mass in St. Joseph's at 10:30am.

Also, please note that our **Parish Confirmation Programme** is collecting expressions of interest. Please email www.sacramentofconfirmation2025@gmail.com and we will respond before Christmas to share further information.

The first session will be held on 7th January 6-7pm in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's in Gilesgate. This session should be attended by those wishing to receive the sacrament and a parent. Further dates and expectations will be shared at that session. Please ensure you email to express interest so we can prepare for accurate numbers attending.

CHARITY CHINA SALE – Saturday, 20th December 11 am – 3pm

Are you expecting extra guests at Christmas? Do you want to brighten your table? Charity china sale on behalf of **Mary Ward Loreto UK** working against Human Trafficking in Albania. Large serving dishes, dinner plates, teapots etc. Come and see. If you have china to sell, for charity, contact Mary McHugh 07947664124 before 18th December.

Friends of the Holy Land - This year more than ever, the small Christian Community in the Holy Land need the emergency assistance provided by the Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) to survive a period of increasing practical and emotional hardship. This emergency assistance focuses on providing aid and essential medication and help with everyday essentials such as water and energy poverty. A collection will be taken at all Christmas masses and the proceeds sent immediately to FHL for relief as soon as possible.

200 CLUB – RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS



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 150 homeless people who visit St Vincent's each week.

Existing Members - Annual subscription is still £12 per number and is due in January. Members wishing to renew, should put their subscription, cash or cheque made payable to '**SVP 200 Club**', in an envelope clearly marked with their name and put it in the box which will be at the back of both churches and will remain there for a few weeks.

New members - If you wish to join the 200 club please complete a **registration form** which can be found beside the boxes. Once completed enclose it in the envelope with your subscription (£12 per number) and place in the box. When 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 with your name and address.

If you can't comply with the above system, please contact Janet or Judith for further advice. 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

From the Diocese

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A Monthly Tip for Sustainable Living

Brits use 227,000 miles of wrapping paper every year. Opt out of glittery, un-recyclable paper this Christmas and opt in to brown paper, recycled and recyclable paper, scrap paper you've decorated, or even fabric wrapping using Furoshiki folding. (You can learn easily on YouTube how to gift wrap with fabric, scarves or even tablecloths using the Furoshiki technique).

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 13 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Tony Bannister Belle Blakey and Nance Thompson Anniversary
Sunday 14 December 3 rd Sunday of Advent	9.00am Thomas and Lucy Hunt 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Thomas and Maureen Coulthard Fr. Colum Adamson and Brian O'Connor 3:00pm Parish Christingle
Monday 15 December	NO MASS OR SERVICE	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 16 December	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am - Johnny McBride Birthday Remembrance and John McBride Anniversary	NO MASS OR SERVICE
Wednesday 17 December	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am - Mary and Jim Goodwin and Missionaries of Charity Worldwide
Thursday 18 December	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am St. Francis Friary	NO MASS
Friday 19 December	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am - St. Joseph's Whole School Mass Special Intention (LS) and Peter and Catherine McLoughlin 12.00pm Funeral Service of the late Mark Shaw
Saturday 20 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pauline Inglis, Louise Birney, Anthony Farmer and in thanksgiving for 20 years of marriage
Sunday 21 December 4 th Sunday of Advent	9.00am George and Susannah Michiels 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am John and Mary Ellen Clark and deceased members of the Harland and Crawford Families

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 14	Mon 15	Tue 16	Wed 17	Thurs 18	Fri 19	Sat 20	Mass Sun 21
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	9.15am	10.00am Requiem Mass 7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm