

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@diocesehn.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.durhammartyrs.co.uk
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers

Parish Newsletter

15th February 2026 – 6th Sunday of the Year

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)

The Season of Lent is upon us again.

Lent: Lent is a much-needed mentor in an age obsessed with visible, measurable, manageable, and tweetable increase, for it invites us to walk with Jesus and His disciples through darker seasons that we would rather avoid: grief, conflict, misunderstanding, betrayal, restriction, rejection, and pain. Then Easter leads us in celebration of salvation as the stunningly satisfying fruit of Jesus' sacred decrease.

Alicia Britt Chole.

Do keep an eye to the bulletin for Lenten activities.

We have our international meal this Sunday.

A Parish Council Meeting took place last Tuesday, 10th. Minutes will be published asap.

BOP group met the following evening Wednesday, 11th. Two representatives from Diocesan Pastoral Team joined them to discuss possible useful links between Diocesan plans and parish regarding greater involvement of Young People especially . Lively.

Feast Days

Tuesday, 17 th February	Seven Founders of the Servite Order Rel
Wednesday, 18 th February	ASH WEDNESDAY
Saturday, 21 st February	St. Peter Damian Bp, D

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



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

Anniversaries:

Laurence Holmshaw	Norman Wright
Catherine & Edward Shaw	Mina Buchanan
Marianne Mortemore	



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Thomas (Sonny) Hardy who sadly died during the week. A provisional date for his Requiem Mass is Wednesday, 11th March at 10.00am followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery. This will be confirmed next week.

Requiescat in pace,

The Funeral Service of the late Tony Twomey will be held at St. Joseph's on **Friday, 27th February at 11.30am**, followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.
Requiescat in pace.

Baptism – we welcome into our parish community Flora Jean Marley who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism **this Sunday, 15th February**, after the 10.30am Mass at St. Joseph's.



Congratulations to Lucy Venyo and Alasdair Anderson as they celebrate their marriage at **St. Godric's Church** next **Saturday, 21st February at 11,30am.**

The
Season
of
Lent



18th February - Ash Wednesday Masses and the Distribution of Ashes will be at St. Joseph's at 10.00am and St. Godric's at 7.00pm

Sunrise Services

Sunrise Services will commence on **Thursday, 19th February** at 7.30am in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's, and take place every Tuesday and Thursday morning throughout Lent.



The final service will be on **Tuesday, 31st March**.

Journey in Faith – Thursday, 19th February at 7.00pm. The topic will be the 'Sacrament of Matrimony'. All welcome.



There will be a parish coffee morning this **Monday 16th February**. It will be held in St. Bede's Room in St Godric's School immediately after the 9.15am Service of the Word and Holy Communion.

All proceeds are for Women in Need in India. Everyone is very welcome.

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches

Date	Group
20 th February	SVP
27 th February	
6 th March	Justice and Peace
13 th March	
20 th March	Youth Group
27 th March	Bereavement Group



TICKETS NOW ON SALE

All are welcome to our Parish St. Patrick's Ceilidh

14th March 7pm-10pm in St Joseph's School Hall

Brilliant Ceilidh Band 'North by North East'.

£5 Adults. £2.50 Children. Tickets available after all weekend Masses.



Movie Club – Tuesday 24th February Jubilee Room 2pm

DOWNTON ABBEY The Grand Finale (PG) - All are welcome to our screening of the cinematic return of the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s.



Light refreshments will be served and don't forget to bring a cushion !

Lenten Reflection Resources

Lenten resources are available on the homepage of the [diocesan website](#). This includes *We Dare to Ask* which is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the theme of our Baptismal Vocation. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. Please consider joining with others this Lent to use *We Dare to Ask*, as we prepare to renew our baptismal promises at Easter. The booklet, which includes a foreword by Bishop Stephen, is available to view and download now.

For Holy Week, members of our diocesan writing team will prepare a set of daily reflections based on the readings from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. This collection of *Daily Reflections for Holy Week 2025* will be made available shortly before Holy Week on the diocesan website.

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day Collection, Friday, 27th February

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10, or scan the QR code which links to the donation page. Donating envelopes will be available in church over the weekend of 21st/22nd February.



Care for Creation (Laudato Si') Group

7.30pm Monday 23rd February in the Franciscan Friary.

Every month we meet to discuss how we as a parish can better care for the world that God has given us. All welcome.

Parish School News - On Monday 16th February, the Mini Police will be in school working with Year 5 and 6 to achieve their Commissioner's' Gold Shield. On **Tuesday 17th February** the children will enjoy a Pancake Day Celebration for lunch. On



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

Wednesday 18th February, the Whole School will be attending **Ash Wednesday Mass** in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

On **Friday 20th February** we would like to invite friends and families to the end of term **Celebration Assembly** in the school hall at **2.30pm**

As we come to the end of this half term, we would like to take a moment to thank everyone for their continued support, encouragement and contribution to our school. This term has been filled with learning, growth and lots of memorable experiences for our children and we look forward to the next term.



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

During Children's Mental Health Week, we took time to reflect on the many ways we belong — to

God's family, to our families at home, and to our school family — recognising how each one surrounds us with love, support, and a sense of being truly valued.'

Friends of St. Godric's - St. Godric's school will be holding a **coffee morning in the school hall** from 9am on **Friday 20th February** to raise money for Team Solan, a County Durham based charity that helps to improve the quality of life of children and adults who have been affected by a cancer diagnosis or bereavement. Parishioners are welcome for a cuppa and a chat. Cake donations (nut free) on the day are very welcome! For more information, please contact friendsofstgodrics@gmail.com.



Our next meeting will take place on **28th February**, right after the **5:00 pm Mass at St Joseph's**. This time we'll be playing games, share food together and also we'll be making lanterns, as we've been invited to help create them for the upcoming **Lanterns of Hope** event at **Crook Hall Gardens**. On the 28th we'll be making the lanterns at RT minds, we'll all go together from St Josephs. And on **22nd March** those who made lanterns are invited to join the event from 5:30 pm. In order for us to plan and to give you all the details we will be grateful if those planning to attend can send us a message to durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com Looking forward to seeing you there.

International lunch - We are looking forward to see you at our Parish International Lunch, this Sunday, 15th February. A joyful celebration of the many cultures that make up our community. Join us for an afternoon of friendship and delicious food.

Confirmation Group 2026 - The group's preparations are going very well and they have completed 2 of their 6 sessions. Please can parents of those preparing ensure they check their emails regularly as this is the only channel of communication between Catechists and parents.



There are regular informative emails shared and if you have any queries or concerns, these should be communicated via this email address as both Catechists and Fr. Colm monitor the account: sacramentofconfirmation2025@gmail.com

Parish Handbook - We have new versions of the Parish Handbook and Parish Information Leaflet for 2026. You will be able to find these on the Parish Website and there are copies on the noticeboards of our churches.

Purple Radio

Purple Radio, Durham University Student Radio, will be recording in St. Godric's Church between 10.00am and 5.00pm on Saturday 7th March. Contact Joe Hughes



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

TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL 200 CLUB Results – February 2026

1st (£50)	No. 55
Marie Lindsey	St. Bede's, Jarrow
Rachel McMillan	All Saints, Lanchester
2nd (£25)	No. 81
S. Ahern	Our Lady of Lourdes, Wallsend
Jackie Metcalfe	Ss. Mary & Joseph, Newton Aycliffe

Thank you for your continued support

Thank you - SVP Sudan Appeal

Thanks to your generosity I have sent off cheques and donations totalling £845 to the SVP Sudan Appeal. Thank you once again for your kindness. *Chris Brennan*

Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw: You are invited to join us for Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at 4pm this Sunday 15th February. Please note that this is not a concert performance, but an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church. All are welcome to join us for the service, and no ticket is required.

Mass Intentions for the Week

15th February 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 14 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Joanne Fryer and Rosie Francesca Braithwaite
Sunday 15 February	9.00am Joanne Fryer 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Hugh and Sibby Conway 3.00pm First Holy Communion Information Mass
Monday 16 February	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 17 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Joanne Fryer and Mary & Joseph Ward	NO MASS
Wednesday 18 February 7.00pm	ASH WEDNESDAY MASS	10.00am –ASH WEDNESDAY MASS (St. Joseph's Whole School attending)
Thursday 19 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Margaret Tudor	NO MASS
Friday 20 February	NO MASS	10.00am Service of Word & Holy Communion
Saturday 21 February	11.30am Marriage Service of Lucy Venyo and Alasdair Anderson	5.00pm Vigil Mass Deceased members of the Hennessy Family and Jim and Mary Bygroves, and In thanksgiving for support received
Sunday 22 February	9.00am Special Intention (BDF) 3.00-4.00 – Exposition	10.30am Alf Carr Anniversary and Deceased members of the Barrett and Conway Families

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 15 Feb	Mon 16	Tue 17	Wed 18 ASH WED	Thurs 19	Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	9.15am	12.15pm and 7.00pm	NO MASS	5.30pm	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm