

**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: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – Palm Sunday and Holy Week



**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 818 544/0191 3332183

(Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit)

For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

This is such an important time in our Christian calendar. It is getting down to the basics of our Faith. There is nothing sentimental, as Christmas can be. It's a look at our belief in the light of the apparent chaos in a world today. Revisit Chanel 4 News on Thursday evening and witness the utter devastation felt by a young Iranian woman. "Why is the world allowing this...", she weeps in front of her decimated apartment block. And so, I hope your participation in the Triduum helps give perspective to so much suffering. Please join us as we celebrate the Light of Christ coming into such darkness.

Great numbers are making commitment to both Faith and Church globally and nationally. We too are fortunate this Easter. Jeff, Garreth and Sharon have been scrupulously participating in our Journey in Faith over the past six months and we are absolutely delighted to have been a part of that journey together. They have fully shared in the many topics on church life. They have brought their own personal experiences and insights to these discussions. We have all learned. Thank you to our many speakers who contributed so excellently to their respective topics.

Continued over/.....

We met as Parish Council (Core Group for now) and prepared the forthcoming questionnaire for you to answer. We feel this is the best opportunity to give each of you a voice. The minutes of the meeting will be read at all Masses in due course. Thanks everyone for your contributions to all facets of our Parish Life: our liturgical celebrations, our outreach to the housebound, our wonderful teachers in all four schools.

A new beginning for St Leonard's after Easter, which will be so important to our future parish Mass celebrations. Put Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> July into your diary for a very special Mass. Can I wish you all a Blessed and very Happy Easter.

“Christmas and Easter can be subjects for poetry, but Good Friday, like Auschwitz, cannot. The reality is so horrible it is not surprising that people should have found it a stumbling block to faith.”

*W.H. Auden*

**Prayers** – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Ian Baillie
Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Sheila Owens	Danny McCann
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Rita Harrison
Mary Wright	Anthony Gibson
Josephine Lyons	Robin Humphrey
Tom Kimmit	

**Anniversaries (29 March – 17 April)**

Katherine Harrington	Arron Grant
Vincent Reid	Sheila Collinson
Jenny Clough	Stanley Young
Roger Charlton	Margaret Crawford
Cud Hall	Sarah Makepeace
Annie Thompson	Catherine Bell
Veronica Kelly	Michael Oliver
Clare Kenniford	Elizabeth Birney
John Cammiss	Roland Edgerton

**Forthcoming Funeral** – The **Funeral Service** of the late Margaret White will take place on **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April** at 1.00pm in **St. Joseph's**, followed by cremation in Durham at 2.00pm. *Requiescat in pace.*



The parish office will be closed from **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** at 12.30pm until **Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April** at 8.30am. The next parish bulletin will be over the weekend of **18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> April**.

### Eucharistic Services in St. Bede's Chapel

There will be no service on **Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>** (Easter Monday).

Services will resume **Wednesday April 8<sup>th</sup>** at 9 00am and continue as usual on **Mondays & Wednesdays** at 9. 00am

### Chrism Mass

**Bishop Stephen** will celebrate the **Chrism Mass** on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April** at 11am at **St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle**. All are welcome to attend this annual **Diocesan Mass**.



### Children's Liturgy – St. Joseph's

The Liturgy Team usually take a break during school holidays. However, they are going to hold **Children's Liturgy on Easter Sunday** as a Scavenger Hunt has been arranged.

We're going to run children's liturgy up to and including **Easter Sunday** this year. We'll then take a break for the next two weeks (**12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April**).

### Easter Mass/Services

Day	Date	Time	Church
Mini Triduum	1 <sup>st</sup> April	2.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	7.00pm	St. Godric's
Good Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	3.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	St. Joseph's
Easter Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00am 10.30am	St. Godric's St. Joseph's

**Celebration of the Mini Triduum** – a celebration of the Mini Triduum for the sick and housebound has been organised for the Wednesday of Holy Week – 1<sup>st</sup> April. This will take place at 2.00pm in St. Joseph's Church, followed by a 'Celebratory Tea' in the Jubilee Room provided by the SVP. If transport is required, please complete the form at the back of both churches.

## **GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS IN THE MARKET PLACE AT 11.30**

This is a *Durham Churches Together* Annual Event, lasting no more than 1 hour.

Help is required for a few small tasks, e.g. giving out leaflets. If you would like to help, please contact Br. John.

### **Diocesan Parish Strategy**

In his recent pastoral letter, Bishop Stephen invited parishes to listen to the Holy Spirit and to one another, asking, 'Where is God calling us to grow, to change, and to become more missionary.' In response to this, our diocese asked each parish to reflect on how we worship; hand on the faith; serve one another and build our community. The parish core group has reflected on these areas and during Mass on the weekends of 11/12 April and 18/19 April all parishioners will also be invited to respond and look forward in hope. All responses will then be collated and shared with our diocese so that together we can shape the path ahead. Please give some consideration to these areas so that you can share your thoughts in April.

## **Parish School News**



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

### **St Leonard's Sixth Form Retreat to Ampleforth**

**On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March** our

Year 12 pupils joined the 4 other secondary schools across the Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust on a day retreat to Ampleforth Abbey. Joined by Fr Bede, students took part in 4 sessions looking at the history of Ampleforth and reflecting on what is on their 'spiritual radar'. Students had the chance to go on their Emmaus walk as well as ask thought-provoking questions to Fr Bede. We hope everyone on the retreat took away the message that they're deeply loved and prayed for by those around them.



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

We would like to say a huge thank you to all the friends and families who joined us for our

Easter event in school on Friday. Your support and involvement made the celebrations truly special for the children. As we enter Holy Week, we will be taking time to reflect on the journey of Jesus. It is a special time for prayer and coming together as a school community to deepen our understanding of faith, hope, and love. Below are our events in Holy Week:

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm**, Year 1 and 2 would like to invite friends and families into school to join us for Palm Sunday Celebration of the Word.

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2.30pm**, Year 3 and 4 would like to invite friends and families into school to join us for The Last Supper Celebration of the Word.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2.30pm**, Year 5 and 6 would like to invite friends and families into school to join us for The Garden of Gethsemane Celebration of the Word.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2.30pm**, we will gather together as a whole school for The Crucifixion Celebration of the Word. Following this Celebration, we will break up for the Easter holidays and return to school on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**.



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

As we approach Easter, and spend Holy Week in school, we have some very special

activities taking place. Firstly, once again, we encourage our families to create an 'Easter Garden' at home and then bring it into school to be judged. We always have a wonderful uptake on this activity and some beautiful, unique, Easter Garden interpretations.

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, we welcome families to join us for The Stations of the Cross, in our school hall. We hope this special Celebration of the Word will help us, as Christians, to grow in our faith - as we embark on a spiritual pilgrimage, through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.

In Class 2 we will be welcoming some visitors from the RNLI - Royal National Lifeboat Institution - to deliver some learning on safety at sea and how the RNLI save lives. We look forward to welcoming our guests on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Lots of spring and Easter crafts and activities will be taking place in our classroom environments, too. What an egg-citing and action-packed Holy Week.



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

As we enter Holy week, we have lots planned in school, including a Year 1 trip to the Life Centre, an Early Years visit to the library and a

whole School decorated egg competition. Or Y6 children will be leading us in Stations of the Cross at 2.30pm on Thursday, in the school hall. Parishioners are welcome to join us. “



Thank you to all who came to the lanterns of hope event last Sunday. It was lovely to see the community coming together to celebrate hope and love. We are all looking forward to seeing you at the next sessions, and at the Easter celebrations. Everyone is welcome.

## Note From the Bereavement Group



Over the past year, our group has kept in contact with bereaved families by way of visits, phone calls, Christmas Cards, prayer leaflets and once again this year, Easter cards.

On Easter Sunday, we will also light a parish candle in our churches to represent our prayers for those who have suffered any kind of grief and loss during the year since March 2025. Our annual 'Celebration of Lives' Mass will take place on **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June at 10.00am in St. Joseph's**. No invitation needed - all are welcome.



### Durham Martyrs' Walking Group – April 2026

Our next walk will be the popular 'Bluebell Walk' through Houghall Woods on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April**.

The varied walk will take us through attractive woodland (hopefully filled with bluebells!), open areas and riverbank. The route is a distance of 3.1 miles, all well walked, but some of the paths in the woods are uneven with a number of steps.

It can also be muddy in places.

The walk starts at **10.30 am** at the end of Houghall Lane (small parking area or parking available amongst trees at The Pump House). Refreshments available at Pump House Tea Rooms afterwards.



**BAPTISM** – we welcome into our parish community brother and sister Asher and Lily Butler, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism after our 9.00am Mass at St. Godric's on **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April**.

**LUNCH CLUB** - Our final **Lunch Club** before Easter was **Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**. The Mini Triduum will be in Holy Week, on 1<sup>st</sup> April, then we will start again on **Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April**. Wishing all our guests and helpers a happy and holy Easter. Looking forward to seeing you all again soon. New guests are always welcome - as, of course, are new helpers! Pat and Kathleen.

### Save the Date

'Churches Together'. Please contact Br. John if you would like to take part in a kind of ecumenical Retreat Day on Holy Island on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

### Advance notice of Benefits Talk Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm

Do you know how much State Pension you qualify for or when this is payable? Do you know about Personal Independence Payments, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance or Carers Allowance? If any of this information is useful to you, or someone you care about, come along to the presentation at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May to find out more.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

29<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Holy Week

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 28 March	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Vigil Mass Olga Kenna, and Dorothy Coggins
Sunday 29 March PALM SUNDAY	9.00am Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	10.30am Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Monday 30 March	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 31 March	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am In thanksgiving to Our Blessed Mother	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion (Final One)
Wednesday 1 April	2.00pm - Mini Triduum St. Joseph's Church	
Thursday 2 April HOLY THURSDAY	7.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Godric's	
Friday 3 April GOOD FRIDAY	3.00pm The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ at St. Joseph's	
Saturday 4 April HOLY SATURDAY	7.00pm Easter Vigil Mass at St. Joseph's	
Sunday 5 April EASTER SUNDAY	9.00am St. Godric's	10.30am St. Joseph's

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 29 Palm Sunday	Mon 30	Tue 31	Wed 1 April	Thurs 2 Holy Thursday	Fri 3 Good Friday	Sat 4 Easter Vigil	Sun 5 Easter Sunday
10.00am and 6.30pm	No Mass	12.15pm	7.00pm	7.00p.m Mass of the Lord's Supper	3.00pm Celebration of The Passion	8.30pm Easter Vigil	10.00am (No evening Mass)

# Mass Intentions for the Week

6<sup>th</sup> April 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Monday 6 April	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 7 April	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Colin and Estelle Wild	NO MASS
Wednesday 8 April	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am World Peace 1.00pm Funeral Service of the late Margaret White
Thursday 9 April	9.30am- Exposition 10.00am Vocations to the Priesthood	NO MASS
Friday 10 April	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am James and Mary Goodwin
Saturday 11 April	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Ray Elliot Anniversary and Belle Blakey
Sunday 12 April 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.00am Birthday Remembrances of Elizabeth, Alf and John Hanley	10.30am Roger Charlton 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary, Annie and Arthur Binks Birthday Remembrances and Maeve Swayne

## St. Cuthbert's

Mon 6	Tue 7	Wed 8	Thurs 9	Fri 10	Sat 11	Sun 12
No Mass	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm

# Mass Intentions for the Week

13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Monday 13 April	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 14 April	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Ena and John McBride	NO MASS
Wednesday 15 April	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese
Thursday 16 April	9.30am- Exposition 10.00am World Peace	NO MASS
Friday 17 April	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Victims of War and Conflict
Saturday 18 April	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Les and Nora Finlay and Michael Hannon (Illness)
Sunday 19 April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter	9.00am Margaret White	10.30am In thanksgiving for prayers answered and deceased members of the Harrington, Lennon and March families

St. Cuthbert's – please see website for current Mass times this week