

**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 Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers*

## Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Parish Newsletter

**Parish Priest** Fr. Colm Hayden  
**Parish Secretary:** Mrs. M, D. Towers  
**Office hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm  
**Hospital Chaplain** Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544/0191 3332183  
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

The Pentecost Novena is important. It's the culmination of our journey through Lent and Easter. Much has happened since we last had a "parish" event whereby we could renew our Faith commitment in this way.

The Acts of the Apostles clearly show that this commitment was pivotal to the growth of this small group of Christians. It seems something similar is prompting our journey post-Covid. More and more I'm hearing how everything has changed since the pandemic. We have all changed. Perhaps this is an opportunity for us to give more stability to our own uncertain world.

"The answer is that God does send thunderbolts – human ones. He sends in the poor in Spirit, the meek, the mourners, the peacemakers, the hungry-for-justice people. They are the way God wants to act in this world. They are more effective than any lightning flashes or actual thunderbolts. They will use their initiative; they will see where the real needs are and go to meet them. They will weep at the tombs of their friends. At the tombs of their enemies. Some of them will get hurt. Some may be killed. That is the story of Acts, all through.

There will be problems, punishments, setbacks, shipwrecks, but God's purpose will come through. These people, prayerful, humble, faithful, will be the answer, not to the question "Why?" but to the question "What?" What needs to be done here? Who is most at risk? How can we help? Who shall we send? God works in all things with and through those who love him."

*N.T. Wright, God and the Pandemic: A Christian reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath*

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One of the challenges facing us as a Parish Community is the reluctance/fear of some to renew their commitment to volunteer.

We have been and are blessed with a strong group of volunteers who are re-joining the different ministries they held pre-pandemic. Thank you to all who have volunteered to be welcomers especially. This task is not as onerous as it might seem. Its most important function is that smiling face of welcome, especially to the stranger.

Can I remind Readers/Lectors especially, that there will be a workshop soon to support you.

We have improved the sound system at St. Joseph's recently. If there is a difficulty in hearing, especially via the loop system in either church, do please let me know. Thanks.

### Feast Days

Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> May	St. John de Avila P, D
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Ss Nereus and Achilles MM/St. Pancras M

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Meg Dixon	Bernard and Yvonne Reid
Joe Watson	Jared Howarth
Sheila Owen	Francesca Camilerni
Mark Farrell	Nicola Dawson

Anniversaries:

John Pickles	



### Date for the Diary

Pentecost Novena – St. Joseph's

16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> May and 22<sup>nd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> May (sessions to be held at St. Joseph's at 7.00pm)

Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> May (Pentecost Sunday) – Benediction following Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at St.

Godric's, 3.00-4.00pm.

**Eucharistic Services** - that there will be no Eucharistic Service in St. Bede's Chapel on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Wednesday service is as normal. There **will be** a Eucharistic Service at St. Joseph's on 8<sup>th</sup> May at 9.15am.

### **Fundraising - St Joseph's Primary School Mini Vinnies**

Our Mini Vinnies have been learning about homelessness in our city. After a visit from a parishioner who volunteers at Sanctuary 21, they would like to raise some money to support the charity - they learned that just 50p buys a warm meal for a homeless person. Over the coming weeks, they are aiming to fill a jar with 5p coins to pay for as many meals as possible. If you are able, please put your 5p coins into the jar at the back of church. The Mini Vinnies thank you for your support.



### **Celebration of Life Mass**

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May, the Bereavement Support Group will hold the Celebration of the Lives of Loved Ones Mass at 10.00am in St. Joseph's.

We hope that you will be able to join us to remember our loved ones and lay a flower in their memory. We will be serving refreshments afterwards in the Jubilee room and would love to see you all.



**Save the Date - Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2.00pm**  
**SVP Summer Party for the elderly of the parish.**  
More information to follow.

**Thank you** to those who helped with the cleaning at St. Joseph's during Lorraine's recent illness. It was much appreciated and we are very pleased that Lorraine is now recovered and back at work.

Congratulations to Katie Flood who has been appointed as 'Youth and Lifelong Formation Officer' for the Diocese of Leeds.

She will take up her new duties at the end of June and we wish her well.



### **Something different: The Knitted Bible**

The Knitted Bible has been produced by a team of knitters from an enterprising and ordinary church in Hartlepool (St. George's United Reform Church). It provides 35 scenes from the Bible with colourful backdrops and knitted figures.

The knitted Bible is on display at St. Mary Magdalene, Belmont, from 2-4pm every Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoons from 3<sup>rd</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May. All are welcome. Refreshments available on Saturdays. *See poster.*

### **Minsteracres Retreat Centre**

#### **Retreat on a Journey with the Northern Saints**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May**

Spend a week at Minsteracres following in the footsteps of the Northern Saints such as Aidan, Cuthbert, Oswald, Hilda and Bede. Find out about their spirituality and motivation, early Celtic spirituality and visit the iconic places where they lived out their faith. Includes visits to Holy Island, Bamburgh, Durham and Hadrian's Wall.

For more information, cost and booking, please go to: <https://minsteracres.org> or telephone 01434 673248.

### **From the Centre for Catholic Studies**

#### **(i) Ushaw Lecture Series**

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 6.00pm at Ushaw.

#### **'The Forgotten Women of the Catholic Literary Revival'**

Dr Bonnie Lander Johnson (Cambridge University)

All are welcome. Help with transport is available. Please register at: <https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com>

#### **(ii) Holy Name Lecture Jesmond Festival Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 11am**

**Professor Eamon Duffy FSA FBA KSG** has been a frequent broadcaster on radio and television and is making a welcome return to **Holy Name Church in Jesmond** to give an entertaining and informative lecture about a period and subject which will be new to most audiences.

**“Fr Robert Hugh Benson - the most famous Catholic Priest in Edwardian England - and his extraordinary family.”**

Fr. Benson's father was Archbishop of Canterbury while one brother wrote "Land of Hope and Glory" and the other, the Mapp and Lucia novels.

The lecture takes place in Holy Name Church, 7, North Jesmond Avenue, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3JX. Nearest metros are Ilford Road and West Jesmond. There is on street parking. All are welcome!

**(iii) Catholic History Day in York, on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023.**

The event takes place from **10.30am at The Bar Convent, 17 Blossom St, York YO24 1AQ**. There are three talks scheduled for the day, including one by Helen Knight, a CCS graduate:

- **Sr. Patricia Harris CJ:** “The Bar Convent and Nineteenth Century Catholic Education in York”
- **Fr. David Lannon:** “Candidates and Pupil Teachers in Salford Diocese from 1873 to 1902”
- **Helen Knight:** “Secondary Schools for Catholic Girls – the response to government requirements from 1900”

**Tickets cost £17.50 per person** (£8.50 for students) and include tea and coffee. Lunch is available to buy in the café – please call 01904 464 910 to reserve a table. There is the opportunity to visit the Bar Convent exhibition for an extra £6 per person (£4 concessions), and all attendees are welcome to join us for Mass at 4.30pm.

**\*\*Please note that rail strikes are planned for that day, which may impact your travel plans.\*\***

**If you have any further questions or would like to book, please contact Judith Smeaton on 01904 704 525 or [judith.smeaton@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.smeaton@btinternet.com)**

**Please note:**

The Wednesday morning Mass at St. Joseph's on 10<sup>th</sup> May  
has been replaced  
with a Service of Word and Holy Communion at 10.00am

# Mass Intentions for the Week

7<sup>th</sup> May 2023

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 6 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pauline Inglis Birthday Remembrance
Sunday 7 May	9.00am Brian O'Connor and Gloria Hughes Anniversary  3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	11.00am Margaret and William Oliver
Monday 8 May	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 9 May	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Estelle Wild Anniversary	NO MASS
Wednesday 10 May	NO MASS	10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 11 May	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Mary H and Derek C who are sick	NO MASS
Friday 12 May	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Fr. Terry Watson
Saturday 13 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Catherine King
Sunday 14 May	9.00am Margaret Taylor	11.00am Fr. Jim Keenan

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 7	Mon 8	Tue 9	Wed 10	Thurs 11	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14
10.00am and 6.30pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	12.15pmpm	NO MASS	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm