

The Parish of the Durham Martyrs
*Incorporating the Churches of Our Lady of Mercy
& St. Godric, St. Joseph and St. Bede*

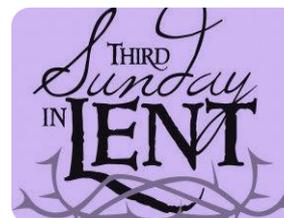
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Parish Newsletter – 9th March 2026



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Pope Leo's Message after the Angelus on Sunday, 1st March

Dear brothers and sisters!

I am following with deep concern what is happening in the Middle East and in Iran during this tumultuous time. Stability and peace are not achieved through mutual threats, nor through the use of weapons, which sow destruction, suffering, and death, but only through reasonable, sincere, and responsible dialogue.

Faced with the possibility of a tragedy of immense proportions, I make a heartfelt appeal to all the parties involved to assume the moral responsibility of halting the spiral of violence before it becomes an unbridgeable chasm. May diplomacy regain its proper role, and may the well-being of peoples, who yearn for peaceful existence founded on justice, be upheld. And let us continue to pray for peace.

Feast Days

Monday, 9 th March	St. Frances of Rome Rel
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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
Anthony Gibson	Robin Humphrey

Anniversaries:

John Blake	Vera Ratton
Sharon Minns	Fr. Charles Crilley
Thomas Reid	William Charlton
Aiden Bryden	Ken Riddle
Bill Harris	Helen Avery
Nellie Stoker	Jane Carter



Forthcoming Funerals

The Funeral Service of the late Thomas (Sonny) Hardy will be held on **Wednesday, 11th March at 12.00pm** in St. Joseph's, followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

The Requiem Mass of the late Teresa Armitage will take place on **Wednesday, 18th March at 10.00am** in St. Joseph's followed by burrial in South Road Cemetery.

Requiescant in pace.

The
Season
of
Lent



Sunrise Services 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.**



Church cleaning – St. Godric's – all are welcome to join the cleaning team next **Tuesday, 10th March, after 10.00am Mass.**

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches

Date	Group
13 th March	Sanctuary 21
20 th March	Youth Group
27 th March	Bereavement Group

Lenten Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7.00pm followed by Holy Communion



Date	Venue	Group
March 13 th	St. Joseph's	Youth Group
March 20 th	St. Godric's	Ecumenical Stations
March 27 th	St. Joseph's	Sanctuary 21
April 1 st – Good Friday	St. Joseph's – 10.00am	Confirmation Group

Easter Masses/Services

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

Could those Readers and Ministers who have not yet indicated their availability during Holy Week please email Marjorie over the coming week. Thank you to those who have been in contact.

Journey in Faith – Thursday, 12th March at 7.00pm and the topic is 'The Mass'.



TICKETS ON SALE

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

This coming Saturday, 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.

We would also be very grateful to receive donated items for our **Raffle**.

Parish School News



St Leonard's Catholic Secondary School

<https://stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com/>

On Friday 20th February members of our Faith in Action group walked to Melbury Court Care Home to spend the morning with some new friends. Our pupils worked hard to prepare prizes, activities, rehearsed a sing along as well as creating 'goodie bags' for every resident in the home. It was lovely to see our pupils putting their faith into action and spreading messages of hope and faith at the start of Lent. Photos can be found on our social media pages.

On Friday 20th February members of our Faith in Action group walked to Melbury Court Care Home to spend the morning with



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

<https://stjosephsgilesgate.bwcet.com/>

competition entries for World Book Day. It was a fantastic day, and it showed the creativity and imagination the children learn from reading. Everyone enjoyed celebrating books together.

We would like to thank all the children and families for the amazing costumes, outfits and Shoebox Story

The children in Years 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church at 10am on **Wednesday, 11th March**. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

On **Thursday 12th March at 9am** EYFS have a 'Stay and Discover Number' event. This is a parent and pupil session. Also, on **Thursday 12th March**, we are hosting a 'Somone Special Mother's Day Celebration' event in the school hall at 2.30pm. There will be a special performance from St. Joseph's School Choir. We look forward to seeing you all.



St Godric's Catholic Primary School

<https://stgodricsdurham.bwcet.com/>

It's been lovely to see everyone back in school after the half-term break, especially with a bit of sunshine to brighten the week! This Sunday at 9am, we welcome our children preparing for their First Holy Communion to Mass.

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Looking ahead, our next **Nursery Open Morning** will take place at 10am on Wednesday 11th March. If you or anyone you know has a child aged 3 or nearly 3, we'd be delighted to meet you. Our new Nursery cohort will join us after Easter.

Thank you to everyone who joined us last Saturday. We loved the games and lantern-making with RT Minds. If you made a lantern, please join us for the **Lanterns of Hope** event at **Crook Hall and Gardens** on **22nd March at 18:00**.



Email durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com to let us know you're coming so we can arrange tickets.

The next Youth Group meeting will be on **Saturday, 28 March**.

Children's Liturgy – St. Joseph's - The Children's Liturgy Team are planning another fun Easter celebration for the children again this year, along with tea and coffee for anyone else who would like to come along after Mass at **St. Joseph's on Easter Sunday** morning,



There will be crafts, games, a scavenger hunt and plenty of prizes. Also donations of cakes will be gratefully received. If you need further information or have any questions, please contact durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com

See the posters at the back of church.

Aid for Ukraine – Call for candles / Non-prescription medical supplies

In response to a recent appeal in Northern Cross for candles, candle wax, I am gathering candle stubs and redundant pascal candles from both churches.

Bandages and over the counter medical supplies are also needed. If you are able to donate any non-prescription medication, please pass it to Kathleen Murray at St. Godric's or myself at St Josephs. For safely reasons please do not leave it at the back of churches. Wagons are leaving the North East with donations for Ukraine on a regular basis.

Thank you,
Peter Thompson



Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for the month of March 2026 Ss. Godric and Bede

Red mission boxes / donations from St. Bede's will be collected by sponsors in the usual way during March.

Please bring those for St. Godric's to Sunday Mass on 8th, 15th, 22nd or 29th March. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity

Job Vacancy

Role: Retreat Facilitator - Location: Emmaus Youth Village, near Consett

Details: Planning events and activities, cross checking bookings and catering requirements, handling cash and dealing with invoices and payments. The successful candidate will be one of the main points of contact during residential weekends. The Youth Village welcomes thousands of young people each year through retreats, festivals, outreach, and diocesan initiatives. Our work continues to grow in both scale and depth, and it remains a vital expression of the Church's commitment to forming and accompanying the next generation.

Salary: £25,350

Closing date: 09:00 on Tuesday 17th March 2026

How to apply: Further information and Application Pack are available at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>

Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw: On Sunday 15th March 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. All are very welcome to join us for the service.

The Newman Association - ICONS

You are invited to The Holy Name Church Hall, Towers Avenue, Jesmond, NE2 3JX on **Tuesday, 10th March, at 2.30pm**. to hear Michael Porteous give a talk on Icons. As well as being Chair of the Newman Association Tyneside Circle, he is an iconographer who traditi has painted – or as is as traditionally said, witten – many icons. The talk will include an exhibition of icons both antique and by the speaker. What of Vlad Dracul, Rasputin, the Metatron, Mary Queen of Scots, the Four Holy Living Creatures and the obscure St. Adam of Bristol?

See poster.

Mass Intentions for the Week

8th March 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 7 March	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass John and Olive Doyle and Belle Blakey
Sunday 8 March 3 rd Sunday of Lent	9.00am Frank and Bernard McGoay, in thanksgiving for prayers answered and the Michiels and Condron Families 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Bernadette Kerins
Monday 9 March	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 10 March	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Colin and Estelle Wild	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
Wednesday 11 March	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am – Anita and Bill Nichols 12.00pm - Funeral Service of the late Thomas (Sonny) Hardy
Thursday 12 March	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Vince McPartlin	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
Friday 13 March	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Peace in the World
Saturday 14 March	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Peter & Catherine McLoughlin and Helen Avery Anniversary
Sunday 15 March 4 th Sunday of Lent	9.00am 3.00-4.00 – Exposition Vocations to the Priesthood	10.30am Rose Carr Birthday Remembrance, Victoria Garnham 15 th Anniversary and 50 th Birthday Remembrance, and Jim Pickering Anniversary

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 8	Mon 9	Tue 10	Wed 11	Thurs 12	Fri 13	Sat 14	Sun 15
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15	9.00am (Old Rite Missa Cantata)	10.00am and 6.30pm