

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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Sunday 7th January 2024
The Epiphany of the Lord
Parish Newsletter

Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden
Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity, and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Thank you.

Sadly, the New Year began with the death of Tom Oliver. Tom hasn't been well for some time.

He was a wonderfully loyal supporter of the parish for many years. Our sympathies and prayers are with Tom's family.

Tim Gustafson – The Meaning of Myrrh

From the booklet 'Our Daily Bread'

Today is Epiphany, the day which commemorates the event described by the carol "We Three Kings of Orient Are" where gentle wise men visited the child Jesus. Yet they weren't kings, they weren't from the Far East (as Orient formerly meant), and it's unlikely there were three of them.

There were, however, three gifts and the carol considers each. When the Magi arrived in Bethlehem, "They opened their treasures and presented (Jesus) with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh" (Matthew 2:11). The gifts symbolise Jesus' mission. Gold represents His role as King. Frankincense, mixed with the incense burned in the sanctuary speaks of His deity. Myrrh, used to embalm dead bodies, gives us pause.

The fourth verse of the carol says, "Myrrh is mine, it's bitter perfume/breathes a life of gathering gloom;/ sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,/ sealed in the stone cold tomb." We wouldn't write such a scene into the story, but God did. Jesus' death is central to our salvation. Herod even attempted to kill Jesus whilst He was yet a child (v.13).

The carol's last verse weaves the three themes together: "Glorious now behold him arise;/ King and God and sacrifice." This completes the story of Christmas, inspiring our response: "Alleluia, Alleluia,/ sounds through the earth and skies."

Feast Days

Monday, 8 th January	The Baptism of the Lord
Thursday, 11 th January	St. Aelred of Rievaulx Ab
Friday, 12 th January	St. Benet Biscop Ab
Saturday, 13 th January	St. Hilary Bp, D

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Meg Dixon	Yvonne Reid
Joe Watson	Jared Howarth
Sheila Owen	Francesca Camilerni
Ken Riddle	Nicola Dawson
Breda Gallagher	Ian Hamilton
Sean Casey	Brian Harland

Anniversaries

Lily Parry	Kieron Shaw
Frank Crawford	Joseph Owens
Nancy Edgerton	Pamela Neill
Rafete Meqa	Paul Hann



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Tom Oliver, who died this week. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time.



We welcome into our Parish community Cade and Lea Cullen who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday, 6th January at St. Joseph's Church at 11.00am.

Journey in Faith: November 2023 – March 2024

Starting again on 11th January, we will run every Thursday at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room or the Don Bosco Room until 21st March.

Eucharistic Services - will recommence in St. Bede's Chapel on Monday, 8th January at 9:15 and also on Wednesdays during the school term.



Christmas Party

The SVP will be holding their annual Christmas Party **this Saturday, 6th January** in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's from 12.00 noon.



Oxfam Carol Sing - Many thanks to the parishioners who took part in our Carol Sing around Chester le Street pubs on Friday 15th December. We collected £450 for Oxfam.

Thank you from Sanctuary 21

A big thank you to parishioners who made Christmas donations to Sanctuary 21. Your support is greatly appreciated.

.... and also from the Capuchins

All of us at the Friary would like to say a big 'Thank you' for all your kind Christmas Greetings and gifts which we do very much appreciate, as well as all your other kindnesses throughout the year.

We would also like to reassure you of our prayers for all your intentions. These are included in the weekly Mass we celebrate in our Friary for all our benefactors.

Thanks again and may God Bless you abundantly throughout 2024.

Christmas Star Intentions

We would like to say how bringing our 3 parish primary schools together and our parish community has brought great joy to so many of us. Christmas is a reflective time, and it touches us all in many ways.

The stars will be placed at the back of each of the churches from Monday 8th January, The Baptism of the Lord, for those who wish to keep their star.

Our school communities will continue to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers.
Thank you,
The Liturgy Group.

Parish Council

The first meeting of 2024 will take place on Tuesday, 23rd January. If you would like any items to be added to the agenda, please send a note to Marjorie.

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the **following job vacancies:**

HR Adviser, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle/hybrid – part-time. Closing date: 16 January

HR Administrator, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle/hybrid – part-time. Closing date 16 January

Cleaner, St Anne, Darlington – part-time. Closing date 11 January

Cleaner, St Cuthbert, Durham – part-time. Closing date 18 January

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

Diocesan Holocaust Memorial Evening

Tuesday, 23rd January, 7.00pm

St. Mary's Catholic School, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE7 7PE

This year's theme – Fragility of Freedom

Guest Speaker – Mrs. Deanna Vander Velde

Booking is essential. Email: interreligious.relations@diocesehn.org.uk

Telephone: (0191) 243 3316

See poster

Change of Mass Time – Friday, 12th January

Please note that the Friday morning Mass
at St. Joseph's 12th January
has been moved to the earlier time of 9.00am

Mass Intentions for the Week



7th January 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 6 January		5.00pm Vigil Mass Anthony Farmer and Pauline Inglis
Sunday 7 January	9.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am Hugh and Sabina Conway
Monday 8 January	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 9 January	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am The sick of the Parish	NO MASS
Wednesday 10 January	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am James and Dorothy Sweeney
Thursday 11 January	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Vocations to the Priesthood	NO MASS
Friday 12 January	NO MASS	9.00am Audrie Walsh
Saturday 13 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass John Doyle Anniversary
Sunday 14 January	9.00am Frank Wilson Anniversary	11.00am Deceased members of the Conway and Barrett Families

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 7	Mon 8	Tue 9	Wed 10	Thurs 11	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14
10.00am and 6.30pm	9.15am	12.15pm Celebration of Word & Holy Communion	7.00pm	12.15pm Celebration of Word & Holy Communion	12.15pm Celebration of Word & Holy Communion	9.15am Celebration of Word & Holy Communion	10.00am and 6.30pm