

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 – 13th – 18th September 2026

Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden

Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers

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

For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

Last Saturday was a clear September morning. An autumnal deep blue sky with a smattering of white cloud. Northumberland looked magnificent, as the parish pilgrimage departed from Gilesgate to Holy Island the day after the Feast of St. Cuthbert. For some it was their first time. We had a packed coach with a one or two seats free.

After a pleasant journey of prayer, laughter and a very relevant quiz presented by Barbara and Maria, we arrived soon after the tide had departed. Ahead of the brave lay the slippery trek across the causeway, followed by the ritual, almost religious, feet drying. This prepared us for a short coffee break, or picnic for the hungry. We were all ages from a baby a few months old carried by Brazilian mother, Larissa, to the evergreen Dorothy Wilson...all bare-footing through the surprisingly warm Lindesfarne water.

The sky was stunningly clear. In the background we heard the familiar welcome sound of the seal colony. That haunting sound echoing the plaintiff chants of the ancient monks and their lonely but distinct calls Gods glory in this sacred space-an estimated 6000 seals make their home here.

Our pilgrims Mass in St. Aiden's Chapel was prepared for us by Sister Tessa, who has served many celebrations. Our Eucharistic celebration was followed an hour later by the parish of St Cuthbert, North Shields, led by Fr. Chris Hughes. Always a pleasure to catch up with Chris.

Continued over/.....

Angela Boyle, former head of St Joseph's, was one of Fr Chris's pilgrims and always speaks glowingly of her connection with our parish and school.

It is hard to fathom how Durham City sprang from the removal of the earthly remains of St. Cuthbert from this small insular location. It took over 100 years to do journeying from this small island to settle on the peninsula that is now Durham Cathedral.

We left Holy Island with sadness but well fortified physically, and spiritually, and anticipating our traditional Fish'n Chips at Seahouses.

Sadly, our chief organiser, Barbara Reilly-O'Donnell fell victim of the slippery slopes of the wet Causeway and now nurses a very bruised ankle. Thanks again Barbara for your organising a great day-despite your mishap. And thank you all for journeying by coach and by car. These are very important events of coming together at both parish, and partnership levels.

Feast Days

Monday, 14 th September	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
Tuesday, 15 th September	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday, 16 th September	Ss Cornelius Pp and Cyprian Bp, MM
Thursday, 17 th September	St. Robert Bellarmine Bp, D/St. Hildegard of Bingen V, D
Saturday, 19 th September	St. Theodore of Canterbury Bp, D/St. Januarius Bp, M

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Maureen Milsom
Josephine Lyons	Christina Reid
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison
Mary Crilley	Sheila Wressel
Sigrid Peyerimhoff	Rita Harrison
Amanda Hyland	

Anniversaries:

Lily Dodds	Eugene Rebello
Ellie Wilson	Mary Bowes
Carmel Nolan	Arnold Shepherd
Brian Fletcher	



Forthcoming Funerals

Patrick Hanley whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St. Godric's** on **Tuesday, 15th September at 10.00am**, followed by burial in South Road Cemetery.

Robin Humphrey, whose Funeral arrangements have not been confirmed at this time.



We welcome Margot Iris Young into our parish community as she receives the Sacrament of Baptism after our 10.30am Mass this Sunday, 13th October.

St Francis of Assisi - Patron of Ecology

At **7.30pm** on **Tuesday 22nd September**, the Franciscan Friary is holding its third seminar for the Year of St Francis.

Br. Paul will speak about why St. Francis was named the patron saint of ecology and what we can learn from him.

First Holy Communion Preparation

The Year 4 pupils in our parish primary schools will soon begin their journey of preparation to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist. Our staff in school provide excellent formation for the children and the preparation is further enhanced by support from the parish.

If you feel you have the skills to become a parish catechist, working with small groups of children aged between 8 and 9 years, and are able to commit to after-school sessions, once per month, in either **St. Joseph's Catholic Primary** in Gilesgate, or **St. Thomas More Catholic Primary** in Belmont, please speak to Fr Colm in the first instance. Please note, anyone undertaking this voluntary role will be required to complete an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.



Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for September 2026 Ss. Godric & Bede

St Bede's red mission boxes / donations will be collected by sponsors in the usual way during September. Please bring those for St Godric's to Sunday Mass on 13th, 20th, or 27th September. They will be collected, emptied and returned to church.

A big thank you for your continued support through your prayers and kindness.

Parish Coffee Morning – this Monday, 14th September. It will take place in St. Bede's Room in St. Godric's School immediately after the 9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion.



All proceeds are for Women in India. Everyone welcome.



Thank you so much to the family who kindly lent me a pair of shorts during the pilgrimage to Lindisfarne on Saturday, 5th September.

They are in Marjorie's office for safe keeping. Dorothy Wilson

St Joseph's - Hospitality After 10.30 Sunday Mass - Help Needed!!

We would be grateful for some additional volunteers to provide tea and coffee after 10.30 Mass on Sundays. Currently there are only a couple of regular volunteers and with holiday commitments in the near future we will need the following Sundays covered, 20, 27th September, 4th and 11th October.

All provisions of tea, coffee, milk and biscuits are available in kitchen at the back of church and all that is needed is to switch on the hot water boiler and you are ready to go.

If you can help either speak to Graham after 10.30 Mass or put your name down on the rota on the noticeboard at the back of church.

Thank you in advance for your help.



Macmillan Coffee Morning – Wednesday 23rd September 10.45am

Coffee mornings are normally held at St Joseph's Church each Wednesday after morning Mass, donations are totally optional and any funds raised are allocated local charities. All parishioners and the wider local community are always welcome to come along and enjoy a good chat and refreshments.

Wednesday 23rd September will be dedicated to Macmillan Cancer Support Please come along and join us to support this if you can.

Save the Date: SVP Fish and Chip Outing

The SVP are going to Colman's at South Shields for a fish and chip lunch on **Tuesday, 6th October.**



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

If you would like to go, please put your name on the sheet at the back of church. Transport will be provided, leaving St. Joseph's at approximately 11.30am.

Fr. Marc Lyden-Smith: Faith and Football

What lies at the heart of a football club? In this compelling and uplifting new book, a Catholic priest and Premier League club chaplain takes readers on a fascinating journey into the soul of the beautiful game. Drawing on years of pastoral experience among players, managers, staff and supporters, Father Marc Lyden-Smith reveals the human stories that unfold both on and off the pitch. From the dedication of club employees and coaching teams to the passion of fans and the bonds that unite communities, this book explores football as far more than a sport - it is a source of identity, belonging and hope.

With unique reflections on football's connection to the saints, the intensity of local rivalries, and the remarkable rise of women's football, the author offers fresh insights into the values, challenges and inspirations that shape the modern game.

Warm, engaging and thought-provoking, this is an essential read for football supporters, people of faith, and anyone interested in the power of sport to bring people together. Available from the Cathedral bookshop in Newcastle for £7.95. They can deliver if you call them on 0191 2316040.



Heritage Open Days – St. Godric's

Please note that the church will be open for visitors on the following dates and times:

Friday 11th September 11.00am-1.30pm and 3.30-5.00pm

Saturday 12th September 11.00am-1.30pm and 3.30-5.00pm

Friday 18th September 11.00am-1.30pm and 3.30-5.00pm

Saturday 19th September 11.00am-1.30pm and 3.30-5.00pm

Pie and Pea Supper

The Little Sisters of the Poor are holding a Pie and Pea Supper on Wednesday 7th October at 7pm at St Joseph's Home.

Tickets cost £8 and are available from St. Joseph's on 0191 2731279.

Care for Creation

Children of the parish are invited to make illustrations of the Beauty of Creation, during this Season of Creation, when Pope Leo asks us to celebrate St Francis' 800th anniversary.

Please bring your pictures (up to A4 size) to church and we will plan to make a beautiful display. Thank you. (*Care for Creation Group*)

Tips for sustainable living

Water is our most precious gift. We assume it will always be available, and we've doubled the amount of water we use daily per person in the last fifty years. Currently, however, we're using water faster than nature can replenish it. If we all embraced water-saving devices for shower heads and toilet cisterns, however, knocked one minute off our shower-time, tried to reuse water where possible, for example for watering plants, we could cut the shortfall we face by nearly one billion litres of water a day. *(Care for Creation Group)*

Parish School News



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

Tuesday 15th September at 3.30pm
we have a 'Meet the Teacher Event' in school. This is a great opportunity for parents to meet

their child's teacher and learn all about our school.

Tuesday 15th September at 6pm in St. Joseph's Church, all Year 4 children and their families are invited to attend the first meeting for the First Holy Communion programme.

Wednesday 16th September, Years 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

Thursday 17th September at 2pm, we will be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning in the school hall to raise funds for Macmillan cancer support. Together we can help people living with cancer from diagnosis, through their treatment and beyond. Any donations of cakes or biscuits would be greatly received to help us make this event a great success.



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

We have had another lovely week in school, with everyone continuing to settle

in well. We are especially pleased that our new Nursery children have now joined us and are becoming part of our St Godric's family.

This week, we held our Curriculum Evening, during which parents were given an overview of the curriculum their children will be studying in each class this year. Thank you to everyone who attended.

A reminder that there will be a meeting at **St. Joseph's Church at 6.00pm on Tuesday** for parents of baptised Catholic children in Year 4 who would like their child to prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

Mass Intentions for the Week

13 September 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 12 September	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pete Donnelly and Harry Curran
Sunday 13 September	9.00am Robin Humphrey 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am The sick of the Parish
Monday 14 September	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 15 September	NO EXPOSITION THIS MORNING 10.00am Requiem Mass of the late Patrick Hanley	NO MASS
Wednesday 16 September	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am St. Joseph's Yrs 3 & 4 in attendance
Thursday 17 September	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am	NO MASS
Friday 18 September	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am World Peace
Saturday 19 September	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Vocations to the Priesthood
Sunday 20 September	9.00am Frank and Bernard McGoay 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Raymond Sweeney 1 st Anniversary

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 13	Mon 14	Tue 15	Wed 16	Thurs 17	Fri 18	Sat 19	Sun 20
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	9.15am and 12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm