

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 – 14th June 2026 11th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

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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

Sent Two by Two

Bare feet on the road, dust rising slow,
the air thick with the scent of bread and olives;
a sparrow darts from fig to fig,
its wings a hymn no temple taught.
They carry no purse, no spare cloak—
only the weightless wealth of peace,
and the strange authority of mercy
that makes the blind lift their heads to light.
In every doorway, a choice:
to open, or to turn away.
Yet even the closed heart
cannot keep the kingdom from drawing near.

Bread for the Journey

The fields are wide with whispering grain,
each stalk a psalm in the wind's soft hand;
the sun spills gold on the furrowed plain,
and mercy walks across the land.
The Shepherd calls with a voice like rain,
drawing the weary from dust and stone;
He binds the wounds, He lifts the lame,
and claims the lost as His very own.
The harvest waits, yet the workers few—
still, love will send them, heart to flame;
to speak of skies forever new,
and heal in the Healer's holy name.

Feast Days

Saturday, 13 th June	The Immaculate Heart of Mary
Tuesday 16 th June	St. Richard of Chichester Bp
Friday, 19 th June	St. Romuald Ab
Saturday, 20 th June	St. Alban, First Martyr of England

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Maureen Milsom
Josephine Lyons	Robin Humphrey
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison
Mary Crilley	Marion Ridley
Sigrid Peyerimhoff	Sheila Wressell
Syd Inglis	

Anniversaries:

Violet and Jack Dooner	Robert Burn
Michael Stoker	John Shaw Senior
Mark Farrell	Fred Leonard



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Gerard Shaw, whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Joseph's on **Friday, 3rd July at 10.00am.**

Forthcoming Funeral – the late Peter Lawrence, whose Funeral Service will take place at Durham Crematorium on **Thursday, 18th June at 11.30am.**

There will be a Parish Coffee Morning this **Monday 15th June.** It will take place immediately after the **9.15** Service of the Word and Holy Communion in St Bede's Room in St Godric's School. All proceeds are for Women in Need in Nagpur India. Everyone is very welcome.

... and a coffee morning also after the **10.30am Mass** at St. Joseph's on **Wednesday, 17th June.** All Welcome,



Thank you to all who joined last Sunday's International Lunch. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Corpus Christi in our lovely parish community.

SAVE THE DATE- We plan to celebrate the Youth Group's 1st birthday with a camping trip. The money we raised from the breakfast fundraiser will help to go towards funding this on 19-20 September at Moorhouse Adventure Centre. More details to follow.

The next youth group is taking place on the day of the Significance Festival Saturday 27th June <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1H3KkJ3bhW/> As this is such a special event, we would really love for our young people and their families to join us in attending this family friendly event instead of our usual arrangements.

More details will follow, so look out on the parish and youth group social media, as well as in the bulletin in the coming weeks. We hope you can join us!

“Young people have so much to give to our society and our world and I want to give them every opportunity to develop their potential. Through the projects SIGNIFICANCE will support, young people will be inspired to reach high and achieve their best.” Fr Dermott Donnelly

Holy Mother, The Church - women's faith group - will meet again on **18th June**, with the final session being on **25th June** in the Don Bosco Room at 7.30pm

Franciscan Seminar Series 2026

The second of the three seminars will take place at the friary on **Tuesday, 23rd June at 7.00pm**, for approximately one hour. Everyone welcome.



Save the Date – on **Tuesday, 30th June**, the SVP will be holding a Summer Tea Afternoon in St. Joseph's Jubilee Room at 2.00pm.

If interested, please sign the lists at the back of each church and tick if transport is required.

Celebration of the Lives of Loved Ones Mass

On Saturday 27th June, 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.



Benefits Talk at St Joseph's Church on Thursday 2nd July 2026 at 2pm

If you missed the Benefits Talk in May, there is another chance on 2nd July 2026. The people who came along in May did not expect to be claiming anything but most of them went away to check their entitlements. One person was going to check their eligibility for Attendance Allowance; some people went on to check their National Insurance Contribution Record and request a Forecast of how much their State Pension will be.

Other people were checking their eligibility for Income Tax Allowances including Marriage Allowance. The talk will also cover such areas as Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payments, Pension Credit and Carers Allowance. Come along on Thursday 2nd July to find out more.

Cafod – Tackle the Global Debt Crisis - on behalf of half of the **Cafod Justice and Peace Group**, I would thank so many of you who have signed the Cafod Petition to cancel unjust debts - in inflated interest rates- being paid to huge wealthy companies by some of the poorest countries in the world.

Today (Friday) I have counted up 284 signatures and I know we have online signers as well. Thank you for all your concern, and being prepared to sign. The petition will be open all summer for online signatures and we hope every parish will supply many.

Frances Armstrong

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) - Join the Fightback Day

Since 29th April 2026, self-induced abortion is now permitted in England and Wales. This is a dark and difficult time for the pro-life movement and there is now no law under which a woman can be prosecuted for carrying out her own abortion.

SPUC is asking for you to show your support by joining their campaign to defend unborn babies and their mothers.

As a first step, please fill out one of the postcards at the back of church, and SPUC will send you an action pack detailing all the different ways you can get involved.

Please put your completed postcard in the box supplied.

Parish School News



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

St Leonard's 90th Anniversary

St. Leonard's opened its doors for the first time on 26th August 1936, and this summer the school will celebrate its 90th anniversary. We will have a year of celebrations including events for parents, pupils and staff. We would like to begin the anniversary year though with an opportunity for former staff members to tour the new building. If you would like to book a place, please use the information below.

Former Staff Tour: Wednesday 26th August 2026 - 10am-12noon. To book a place please [use this link](#) or use the QR code below.



The children who will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 13th June will take an important step in their faith journey. Through prayer, preparation and learning, they will have received the Eucharist for the first time, deepening their relationship with God and becoming more active members of the Church community.



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

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On Monday 15th June, Year 1 and 2 will be visiting The Botanic Gardens in Durham as part of their curriculum learning.

On Tuesday 16th June, EYFS will be visiting Hall Hill Farm to take part in activities and outdoor learning in and around the farm.

On Wednesday 17th June, Year 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

Also on Wednesday 17th June, Year 6 will be attending a Cluster Leavers Transition Event at St Thomas More Primary School Belmont. Lunch will be provided with a BBQ.

On Thursday 18th June, we will be hosting a Somone Special Celebration for Father's Day event in the school hall at 2.00pm . We look forward to welcoming everyone into our school.

On Friday 19th June, KS2 will be visiting Durham Cathedral as part of their History and Art curriculum. The children will be back at school for the end of the day



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

On Saturday, 6th June, our Year 4 children celebrated their First Holy Communion,

with some receiving a special blessing. It was a prayerful and meaningful morning, with families gathering together to support the children as they took this important step in their faith journey. We continue to keep them in our prayers.

On Friday, we welcomed Year 4 parents, carers and our parish prayer sponsors into school for a service of thanksgiving. It was a reflective gathering with a lovely sense of community, followed by refreshments and time to be together. We are grateful to everyone who joined us and supported the children so warmly.

Our Year 1 children have also been amazing this week as they completed their Phonics Screening Check. They showed great determination and confidence, and we are so proud of the wonderful readers they are becoming!

On Wednesday, we were delighted to meet the parents of children who will be joining our Nursery in September. It was a positive and welcoming meeting, and we look forward to these families becoming part of the St Godric's family.

Next week in RE, we will be learning about other faiths, with a focus on Islam. We look forward to welcoming a visitor into school who will share their experiences and help the children deepen their understanding and respect for different faith traditions.

On Friday 19th, our Friends of St. Godric's will be hosting a whole-school coffee morning in the hall. These gatherings are always popular and offer a lovely chance for parents and carers to catch up. If you are able, please bring cakes to contribute — and we hope the children will be able to pop in for a treat as well.



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

We look forward to celebrating our First Holy Communion children this Saturday, 13th June. Our

children have been wonderfully prepared through the Sacramental Preparation Programme by their class teacher, Miss Telford, and our marvellous catechist, John Hayton. We are so grateful to John for all the time, love, and dedication he has given to St. Thomas More - and our First Holy Communion children - throughout the year. We warmly invite the children's peers and their families to join us at Mass as we celebrate Matthew, Albie-Jack, May, Natalia, Ava-Grace, John, Francesca, Lennox, and Ariana as they receive the Sacrament for the first time.

We have a busy week ahead at St. Thomas More next week. The week will kick off with our *St Thomas More's Got Talent* auditions on **Monday, 15th June**.

On Tuesday, 16th June, our youngest children in Class 1 will be visiting Hall Hill Farm — always an exciting and fun-filled outing!

On Thursday, 18th June, we look forward to hosting our annual Sports Day. The children always anticipate this event, and we are delighted to welcome our families and supporters to join us from 1:30 pm, when our wonderful Friends of St. Thomas More PTA group will be hosting our summer fair. We cannot thank this group enough for their hard work, support, and dedication in making this event truly special - and we are always on the lookout for additional volunteers!

Young Adults Group – St. Cuthbert's

We're starting a Young Adults Group at St. Cuthbert's, Durham. The group is for people in their 20s and 30s, to explore their faith and their life as Catholics and we hope that it will be a place of prayer and friendship. There will be an Introductory meeting, to talk about what you would like from a Young Adults Group, and to plan. The introductory meeting will be at 7pm on Thursday 25th June at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham. Please do come along! If you are interested but can't come to the meeting, contact Margaret Doyle on margaretdoyle1066@sky.com

Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw: This **Sunday 14th June 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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

14th June 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 13 June	NO MASS	10.00am First Holy Communion Celebration 5.00pm Vigil Mass Jim Darby (Recently deceased) and Mary Booth (1 st Anniversary)
Sunday 14 June	9.00am Special Intention (JM) 3.00-4.00pm - Exposition	10.30am Hugh Clark, Paul Smith and Ken Herbert 3 rd Anniversary
Monday 15 June	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 16 June	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am Peace in Ukraine	NO MASS
Wednesday 17 June	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am -St.Joseph's School Yrs. 3 & 4 attending Peace throughout the World
Thursday 18 June	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am James McGhee RIP	NO MASS
Friday 19 June	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Jim and Mary Goodwin
Saturday 20 June	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Margaret White and Joyce Grant
Sunday 21 June	9.00am - Canon Robert Spence Birthday Remembrance, and 40 days' anniversaries of Antonio Campo and Wilfrido Francisco 3.00-4.00pm - Exposition	10.30am Brian O'Connor John and Nuala Russell and Norman Wilson Birthday Remembrance

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 14	Mon 15	Tue 16	Wed 17	Thurs 18	Fri 19	Sat 20	Sun 21
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm