

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



TELEPHONE: 07483 369 561
EMAIL: durham.martyrs@dioceseln.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.durhammartyrs.co.uk
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers

Parish Newsletter – 6th April 2025 5th Sunday of Lent

Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
Parish mobile: 07483 369 561
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544/0191 3332183
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

A lovely evening was had at St. Joseph's by all at the open event for altar servers. Thanks to all who organised. What a joy to see so many gathered round the table and sharing in food and chat. And well done parents for supporting by your presence. Philip and Jonathan went through the practicals.

We continue our drive to bring the message of Easter to the younger age groups, especially with activities at our parish masses.

Film nights, teas/coffee after Mass on Wednesdays are efforts to use the facilities available for being a welcoming community. More in the pipeline.

We will celebrate the life of St. Godric with an evening of traditional songs and reflections, as we approach the Saint's feast day in May. Date to be confirmed soon. Godric was a great lover of pilgrimage especially the Camino and Jerusalem. A writer of sacred music. Much to anticipate.

A great evening of music was had by all at Elvet Methodist to bid farewell to Mr G-B, with tributes from past and present teachers and students of St Leonard's, with odd world renowned soprano thrown into the mix in. Well done Matt.

We continue our Lenten journey with soup lunches on Fridays and Station of the Cross on Friday evenings. Thanks to the efforts of the many groups in the parish for giving of yourselves. And thanks also to the many who have made themselves available for Ministries over Easter Week. Don't forget the Holy Week Penitential Service on Tuesday 15th at St Godric's.

“Catholics do not enjoy Confession - heaven preserve us from those who do! - but they prefer it, humiliating as it is, to endless, dulling soul-ache and progressive demoralization of character and personality.

Kneeling in a confessional to tell a shameful tale is almost as an attractive prospect as sitting in a dentist's chair; but it is sometimes even more necessary. Like a bad tooth, sin must be extended or the consequences are bound to be disastrous, as the average sinner instinctively recognizes.

The instinct of spiritual self-preservation warns him of the need to find a safety-valve to enable him to "let off steam" safely. He feels a paramount need to obtain relief of mind, to unburden his misery and get it off his mind by telling someone about it. Instinctively he looks around for a prudent friend in whom he can confide.”

*Alfred Wilson,
Pardon and peace*

Please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Tony Twomey
Ann Hourican	Jean Smith
Mary Armstrong	Ann Close
Sheila Owens	Margaret Graham
Margaret Nancarrow	Veronica O'Reilly
Freda March	Judith McLean
Ann Childs	Christopher Godbolt
Aella May Berry	Izzabella Davey
Frances Openshaw	Bo Wood
Danny McCann	Rita Harrison

Anniversaries

Margaret Pallister	Melinda Adey
John Haggerty	Ray Elliot
Mary Horsman	



Forthcoming Funeral – The Requiem Mass of the late Maureen Harris will take place at St. Godric’s on Thursday, 10th April, followed by burial in South Road Cemetery. *Requiescat in pace.*

Journey in Faith

The final meeting of Journey in Faith will take place at St. Joseph's on Thursday, 10th April, at 2.30pm.

Baptism Programme

The Spring Parish Baptism Programme will be held this Monday, 7th April from 6.00-9.00pm in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's.



There will be a Parish Easter Coffee Morning this Monday 7th April. It will take place 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 India.

Everyone is very welcome.

A note from Br. John

As you know, CAFOD supports parishes to answer the call to care for our common home and stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.

We would like to get involved with the CAFOD LIVE SIMPLY programme and to invite you to a meeting in the Friary this **Monday, April 7th** at 7.30p.m. Br. John.

Church Cleaning – St. Godric's

Next Tuesday 8th April is our monthly church cleaning session at St Godric's after 10 o'clock Mass. It will be the last one before Easter. As ever, everyone is welcome for whatever time you feel able to spare. Thanks to everyone.



The Season of Lent

Sunrise Services – St. Joseph's

Sunrise Services will take place at St. Joseph's on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7.30am throughout Lent.

Penitential Service – there will be a parish Penitential Service at St. Godric's on Tuesday, 15th April at 7.00pm

Stations of the Cross

The final Friday evening Stations of the Cross this year will take place on Friday, 11th April, at St. Joseph's, led by the Local Community Group.

Please note there will be a youth-led **Stations of the Cross, on Good Friday in St. Joseph's at 10.00am** which will be young-child friendly and we hope to see lots of families there.

Charity Lenten Lunches

The final Lenten Charity Lunch of this year will be held on Friday, 11th April at St. Joseph's, hosted by the Bereavement Support Group.

Easter Services and Masses

Day	Date	Time	Church
Holy Thursday	17 th April	7.00pm	St. Godric's
Good Friday	18 th April	3.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Saturday	19 th April	7.00pm	St. Joseph's
Easter Sunday	20 th April	9.00am 10.30am	St. Godric's St. Joseph's

Celebration of the Mini Triduum – a celebration of the Mini Triduum for the sick and housebound has been organised for the Wednesday of Holy Week – 16th April This will take place at 2.00pm in St. Joseph's Church, followed by a 'Celebratory Tea' in the Jubilee Room provided by the SVP. More information to follow.

Lego Prayer Station – St. Joseph's Church

There is a Lego prayer station set up in the porch of St Joseph's Church. All our children and young people (and young at heart!) are invited to place a brick of Lego on the baseboard as they pray for their intention. Please do not remove other bricks as these are someone's prayers.

If you wish you can write your name or your intention on the sheet next to it so others can join you in praying. Let's see what we build together as we talk to God.



Retiring Collection this weekend 5th/6th April

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030.

We have some CAFOD green Family Fast Day envelopes left over, and these can be re-purposed for an emergency collection. Please indicate on the envelope that you are giving to Myanmar.

You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

Forthcoming Events at Ushaw

Vespers (Evening Prayer) for Palm Sunday at Ushaw: On Sunday 13th April 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 for Palm Sunday. All are very welcome to join us for the service.

The Passion for Change is an exhibition at Ushaw, a spiritual and artistic project which aims to raise awareness and stimulate action on environmental and social justice issues, through artworks and texts. The exhibition connects the Passion of Christ with the suffering of all living things in our world, and can be used as an alternative version of the Stations of the Cross. There will be an opportunity to pray this Alternative Stations of the Cross together on Thursday 10th April at 3pm. No ticket is required.

Children's Liturgy Easter Sunday, St. Joseph's

We would love this to be an opportunity for all of the children within the parish to come together to celebrate Easter.

Those who attend Mass at St Godric's, St Joseph's or those who don't usually attend either are welcome to come with their families and spend a couple of hours having fun, eating cake, making friends and celebrating the special day together.

We would be grateful if any cake donations be brought to St Joseph's church on Easter Saturday or Easter Sunday either before or after Mass.



Please RSVP stjosephsinternationalgroup@gmail.com



Durham Martyrs' Walking Group - April 2025

Our next walk will be the popular 'Bluebell Walk' through Houghall Woods on **Saturday 26th April**. (a week later than usual due to Easter).

The varied walk will take us through attractive woodland (hopefully filled with bluebells!), open areas and riverbank.

The route is a distance of 3.1 miles, all well walked, but some of the paths in the woods are uneven with a number of steps. It can also be muddy in places.

The walk starts at **10.30 am** at the end of Houghall Lane (small parking area or parking available amongst trees at The Pump House).

For those who would like a longer walk meet at St Joseph's car park at 9.45 am and we will walk down to Houghall via Old Durham and Maiden Castle. (this would add approximately another 3 miles to the walk). It would be very helpful if you could let Marjorie know if you plan to join us so that we know who to expect and where you are joining the walk.

LOURDES

We have decided to postpone our Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The cost in 2026 was more than we anticipated so we are looking at less expensive options which are closer to home.

Thank you to those of you who expressed an interest in Lourdes. Our meeting next week has been cancelled.

Durham Singers, Passiontide Concert

Come and join the Durham Singers at our Passiontide concert on Saturday, 12th April, 7.30pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel, Ushaw.

The programme offers rich musical reflections on the story of the passion and culminates in the northern première of The Crucifixion by Tom Edney, with is based on the seven last words from the Cross.

Tickets online at

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/durhamsingers>

From the Diocese

We have not produced our series of Diocesan Lenten Reflections in its usual format this year, as the Year of Jubilee is making space for a different reflection writing opportunity entitled 'Scripture of Hope'. Our Diocesan Writing Team look forward to sharing these resources with you in the coming weeks.

Members of our writing team have, instead, produced a shorter set of reflections based on the daily readings throughout Holy Week. These reflections are now available to view and download on the diocesan website <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>.

Assisted Dying Bill

The Third Reading vote is expected to take place in Parliament on Friday 25th April, the Second Reading vote having taken place in November 2024.

There is a very helpful website that sets out all the relevant arguments & evidence against the introduction of this profoundly problematic law. Have a look at information from "Anscombe Bioethics Centre" from Oxford: <https://www.bioethics.org.uk/educational-resources/resources-on-eas/>

There are some postcards at the back of church. If you haven't already, please take one, complete your details, affix a stamp and send it to your MP.

Mass Intentions for the Week



6th April 2025

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 5 April	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Les & Norah Finlay Anniversary, Anthony Farmer and Liam Hayden Anniversary
Sunday 6 April	9.00am Sheila and Charles Vasy 3.00pm-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Ray Elliot Anniversary, and Birthday Remembrances of Annie Whitehead and John Quinn
Monday 7 April	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 8 April	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Special Intention (JB)	NO MASS
Wednesday 9 April	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am John McDonough (SVP) and Aella May Berry
Thursday 10 April	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Requiem Mass of the late Maureen Harris	NO MASS
Friday 11 April	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Mark Osborne (SVP)
Saturday 12 April	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey and Steve Allison
Sunday 13 April PALM SUNDAY	9.00am Cecilia Pinkney 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Roger Charlton

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 6	Mon 7	Tue 8	Wed 9	Thurs 10	Fri 11	Sat 12	Sun 13 PALM SUNDAY
10.00am and 6.30pm	No Mass	11.00am Requiem Mass of the late Joan Grady	7.00pm	9.15am	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm