

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@diocesehn.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.durhammartyrs.co.uk
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers



Parish Newsletter – 9th November 2025

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Remembrance Sunday

Parish Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden

Parish Secretary: Marjorie Towers 07483 369 561

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm

Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully - 01388 818 544/0191 3332183

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

The poem below was written by one of our parishioners – James Gilman – and has been used in services at Durham Cathedral and elsewhere. It has also been accepted by the British Army and the Royal Navy for use in military bases around the world and has been added to the Royal British Legion's list for possible use in future National Remembrance Services. A wonderful achievement.

THE POPPIES PRAYER

The poppies fall.
Their crimson tears
Like shrapnel, piercing every heart
Of those who mourn the dying blood
Enshrouding friend and foe alike
On Flanders Field.

So scour our conscience
With your flood
Till we ensure that never more
Shall nations let Death's bloody dance
Seduce the souls of friend and foe.

Like Flanders Field

Feast Days

Monday, 10 November	St. Leo the Great Pp D
Tuesday, 11 November	St. Martin of Tours Bp
Wednesday, 12 November	St. Josaphat Bp, M
Saturday, 15 November	St. Albert the Great Bp, D



Prayers – please keep in your prayers:

Kitty Trainor	Ann Close
Mary Armstrong	Syd Inglis
Sheila Owens	Liz Murray
Margaret Nancarow	Veronica O'Reilly
Danny McCann	Marek Earnshaw
Rose Simpson	Nigel Anthony Cunningham
Joy Kitching	

Anniversaries

Anne Bell	Craig Mackerness
Joe Hirst	Sharon Oliver



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Jason Basa Ramos whose Funeral Service will take place at Durham Crematoriums on 13th November at 10.00am. *Requiescat in pace*

... and also to the family and friends of Phil Casey who died this week

Laudato Si' Group

7.30pm Monday 17th November in the Franciscan Friary.

Every month we meet to discuss how we as a parish can better care for Creation, our common home. New members welcome.

Church Cleaning at St. Godric's

Please note that the cleaning session scheduled for next Tuesday, 11th November has been cancelled.

PARISH SCHOOL NEWS



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

This week the children took part in Other Faiths Week as part of our Come and See Religious Education curriculum. The focus was on Judaism and the children explored how Jewish people show their faith in God through worship, family life and celebrations.

Next week, we will be celebrating Anti-bullying Week. This will start with Odd Socks day on Monday, when children and staff are invited to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us unique. The theme for the week is 'Power for good' - we are all reminded to use our power for good; to speak out support others and make respectful, powerful choices.



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

On Monday 10th November we will be celebrating the start of Anti- Bullying week in school. Odd Sock Day is an annual event that marks the start of Anti - Bullying week and the children can wear mismatched odd socks to celebrate individuality and to promote kindness.

On Wednesday 12th November the children in Year 5 and 6 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

On Friday 14th November it is a non uniform day and a donation of a bottle for our Christmas Fayre would be greatly received. We thank you always for the generosity and support we receive to help support the events we have in school.



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

Some of our oldest children enjoyed making some lanterns, for the Parish of the Durham Martyrs, in school this week. The lanterns will be used in a procession from St. Leonard's to St. Godric's Church on Saturday 8th November and then will be displayed during Durham's Lumière Festival.

In school next week, all our classes are looking forward to performing a dance in order to raise some pennies for the Children in Need Charity. This will take place on Friday 14th November. We hope our families can join us - to cheer us on!



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

It is a pleasure to share with you the outcome of our recent **Catholic School Inspection**. It is a credit to the entire community – families, students, staff and our parishes – to be graded 'Outstanding' across all areas. When you read the report, which is now available online, you will see that it is the students that bring a strong sense of joy and vibrancy to the St. Leonard's community. One of the most profound lines of the report from a comment by one of our students: *"This school has made me become a better person."* Whilst we do not know which student said this, we do know that everyone - teachers, support staff, families and students - have all taken their part in building such a powerful and transformative school community.

We look forward to our next youth led Mass at St Joseph's, sharing our thanks and joy with our local parish.

Journey in Faith

On Thursday 13th November, Journey in Faith will be led by Br. John. The theme will be Prayer. Please come along if you would like to learn more about our Faith. For further information speak to Marjorie in the parish office, 07483 369 561

Lumière

St. Godric's will be open from 5pm-8pm on Thursday 13th, Friday 14th, and Saturday 15th November for the Lumière. Our parish children will be lighting up the church with their lanterns of light, and we look forward to seeing you there.



Memorial Sunday - our annual Memorial Sunday Mass will take place on **Sunday 23rd November** at St. Joseph's at 3.00pm. All families of deceased parishioners who have been bereaved during the past year will receive a personal invitation from Fr. Colm to come along and light a candle in remembrance of their loved ones. Fr. Colm will light

three larger candles (one for St. Joseph's, one for St. Godric's, and one for St. Bede's Chapel) which represent the deceased members of the wider parish and our families and friends. These will be lit at every Mass until Christmas. Please come along to the Mass and join us for seasonal refreshments in the Jubilee Room afterwards. Everyone welcome.



We have the lantern procession this Saturday, starts 6:30 at St. Leonard's. We'll walk to St. Godric's and will put the lanterns there to be displayed during Lumière. The next session will be Saturday 22nd November and we will be making Christmas crafts to be sold at the Christmas Fayre.



Parish Community Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 29th November, in St. Joseph's Church at 10.30am-12.30pm

Preparations are now underway for our second Christmas Fayre. We are looking forward to a festive morning when we can enjoy time together and with our wider community.

Thank you to everyone for your continued generous donations towards our community Christmas Fayre. Next weekend, **15th/16th November** we are seeking Fancy Goods/Gift Sets. There is a box at the back of Church for you to place your donations in.

The parish is grateful for all continued support in making our Christmas Fayre special.



Also, please spread the word Santa will be attending and looks forward to meeting children in the community Ho! Ho! Ho!

Prayer for the COP30 climate summit

God of blessings,
the universe sings of your glory.
Deepen our gratitude for all you have made
and awaken in us a renewed commitment
to care for the earth and each other.
Inspire world leaders at COP30,
with openness to listen to those most affected by climate change
and with courage to act urgently and wisely,
so that our common home may be healed and restored
and all people, and generations to come, may delight in it.
Amen

CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas

This Christmas, give your loved ones something exceptional and life changing. Buying CAFOD's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters and brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards, each representing a gift of hope, inspired by real people and real needs. Cards can be sent by post, as an eCard, or printed at home. Purchase World Gifts and other gifts such as Advent calendars and jute bags at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk or pick up a catalogue in church.



Advent Soup Lunches – many thanks to the following:

5th December, Justice and Peace Group
12th December, Youth Group
19th December - SVP

Save the Date

The SVP will be holding their annual Christmas Party on **Saturday, 6th December** in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's from 12.00 noon. There is a list at the back of both churches for you to put in your name and a contact number if you would like to attend, and also indicate whether you would like a lift.



Christmas Party

We would be grateful to the parish for any donations of raffle prizes.

DECEMBER CONCERTS



Friday 5th December 7.30pm - Durham University Chamber Choir

“ O Radiant Dawn “ - The performance features music by MacMillan, Alain, Marsh and Park.

Thursday 11th December 7.30pm - Dunelm Consort and Players - “ The Messiah “

Ways of Giving to support the Parish – in the Work it does and to maintain its Buildings
By Standing Order or Envelope or Cash on the Collection Plates or the Fourth Option of Giving by Debit or Credit Card using the electronic giving plates at the back of each Church or online via the Parish Website. Donations may be able to be gift aided .

To set up a Standing Order or for Internet Banking:

HSBC Bank Account – Durham Martyrs Parish

Sort Code – 40 34 45

Account No – 51179306

Occasionally it may happen that a donation is incorrectly made - eg that too high a donation is made - and it is not realised until sometime afterwards. If you find you have made an error with your donation please contact Fr. Colm in confidence and we will correct it.

Carbon Literacy Training – North East Churches Acting Together

Three online sessions will examine the science of climate change, our own personal carbon footprints, and what we can be doing together as churches. The course can lead to Carbon Literacy Certification (cost £15) for those who choose this option, it will be free for those who do not wish to obtain certification. The course will run 7 – 9pm on Wednesdays November 19th and 26th and 14th January. To express an interest, please email minnie.fraser@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Retreat 2026 - Castlerigg Manor, Keswick, CA12 4AR

Friday 27th February - Sunday 1st March 2026

The cost of the retreat is £130 per person. This includes all meals, accommodation and some light snacks throughout the weekend. Transport is not included. To book your place on the retreat, please use the link on the parish website or contact Katie to receive the link directly to your device. <https://forms.gle/PHgJw426XU7UuA7T7> Payment for the retreat can be made in full (£130) or in two instalments of £65. Payment in full must be made by January 23rd 2026. Payment can be made to the following account: Katie Flood - 04-00-03 – 86557453 - Monzo Account

When completing a payment please use the reference *NameKeswick26*. Single/en suite rooms cannot be guaranteed due to limited availability but we make every effort to provide suitable alternatives where needed. For more details or if you have any questions, contact Katie on 07807 935066.

From the Diocese

Administrator – Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Salary Scale £30,000 to £31,855 FTE

Supporting Father Shaun Purdy, our Lourdes Pilgrimage Director, we are looking for our first permanent Lourdes Administrator and as such the successful applicant will play a pivotal role in setting the standard and enabling us to support the delivery of a high-quality pilgrimage.

For further information see: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>

For an Applicant Pack please email Annie Leaver, Head of Human Resources, at annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

St. Mary's Cathedral, Parish Secretary - Vacancy

Role: Parish Secretary

Salary: £10,537.80 per annum

Hours: Part-time 15 hours per week

Location: St Mary's Cathedral, Clayton Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4HH

How to apply: Please visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/vacancy/parish-secretary-16/>

Closing date: 12:00 pm 19 November 2025

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - Candlelight Procession

The Parish of Christ the King will be holding a Candlelight Marian Procession on Sunday 7th December at 5.30pm for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. We will begin in front of the pavilion in Heaton Park before heading towards St. Teresa's Church while praying the Rosary. We will conclude with Sung Vespers and Benediction in Church. For more information see poster on notice board or email Fr Jonathon at christtheking.newcastle@diocesehn.org.uk

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 8 November	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Philip Gibson Anniversary and a Special Intention (SL)
Sunday 9 November Remembrance Sunday	9.00am Special Intention (DT) and Frank and Bernard McGoay 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Rev. Peter Smith and T. J. Lindsay (Dublin)
Monday 10 November All Souls	NO MASS OR SERVICE	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 11 November	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am - Mary Kathleen Foster, and Vince McPartlin Birthday Remembrance	NO MASS OR SERVICE
Wednesday 12 November	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am The People of Ukraine
Thursday 13 November	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Special Intention (DF) The Holy Souls and Deceased members of the McBride Family	NO MASS
Friday 14 November	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am The sick and suffering of the Parish
Saturday 15 November	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey, Deceased members of the Hennessy Family and Jim and Mary Bygrovs
Sunday 16 November	9.00am Deceased members of the McGinley Family 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Brian O'Connor and John Quinn Anniversary

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 9	Mon 10	Tue 11	Wed 12	Thurs 13	Fri 14	Sat 15	Sun 16
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm