

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: secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com
WEBSITE: www.durhammartyrs.co.uk
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers

Sunday 25th February 2024 Parish Newsletter



Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden
Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818544/01913332183
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

We had an excellent turn out at last Saturday's parish meeting. Thanks to all for your participation. We are at least moving in the right direction and this has not been another 'talking shop'.

We hope to take it to the next stage by developing ways forward. We will bring prayer to bear on this process at the Parish Retreat this weekend.

Excellent Film Night and discussion last Thursday on the film 'The Old Oak'. An improved screen (still not as it could be), and the presence of a group of Syrian friends, enhanced the evening. Again, an excellent turnout. Thanks to all.

There is a Liturgy meeting next Wednesday. We'd be delighted by any ideas you might have for Liturgy generally, and especially for Easter.

Do You Want to Fast This Lent?

Fast from hurting words
and say kind words,
Fast from sadness
and be filled with gratitude,
Fast from pessimism
and be filled with hope,
Fast from worries
and trust in God,
Fast from pressures
and be prayerful,
Fast from bitterness
and fill your heart with joy,
Fast from selfishness
and be compassionate to others,
Fast from grudges
and be reconciled,
Fast from words and be silent, so you can listen.

MichelleDeRusha.com

--Pope Francis

Feast Days

Tuesday, 27 th February	St. Gregory of Narek
Friday, 1 st March	St. David, Patron of Wales

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Meg Dixon	Yvonne Reid
Sheila Owen	Jared Howarth
Ken Riddle	Francesca Camilerni
Breda Gallagher	Nicola Dawson
Sean Casey	Betty Eccles
Brian Harland	Helen Tumelty
Halusia Good	Sheila Wressell
Bill Harris	Margaret Robinson
Tony Twomey	Cud Hall
Lorraine Scullion	

Anniversaries

Doreen Power	Anne-Marie Melvin
Sheila Wilkinson	Cassie Childs
Jack Bradley	Mary Lennon
Cara Armstrong McKay	Patricia Grainger



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Margaret Mary Smith, whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Joseph's on Wednesday, 6th March at 10.00pm, followed by burial in Muggleswick Church Cemetery, Consett.

.....and also to the family and friends of the late James Brian Bowes, whose Funeral Service will take place at St. Godric's on Friday, 8th March at 11.00am, followed by cremation in Durham.

Funerals this week

Mary Hails, Durham Crematorium, Wednesday, 28th February at 2.00pm

Wendy Clough, Durham Crematorium, Friday, 1st March at 1.00pm

There will be a coffee morning this **Monday, 26th February** in St. Bede's Room in St Godric's School. It will take place immediately after the Service of the Word and Holy Communion which starts at 9.15am. All proceeds are for Women in Need in India. Everyone welcome.



*The
Season
of
Lent*



Stations of the Cross will commence at 7.00pm and will alternate between St. Godric's and St. Joseph's.

All services will conclude with the distribution of Holy Communion.

Date	Church	Group
23 rd February	St. Joseph's	SVP
1 st March	St. Godric's	Liturgy Group
8 th March	St. Joseph's	Inclusive Church
15 th March	St. Godric's	Sanctuary 21
22 nd March	St. Joseph's	Justice and Peace

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches - 12.00-1.00pm at St. Joseph's

Grateful thanks to the groups below who will be hosting our Lenten Charity Lunches.

Date	Group
23 February	St. Joseph's School
1 March	Justice & Peace
8 March	Durham Food Bank & Laurel Avenue Community Centre
15 March	SVP
22 March	Bereavement Support Group

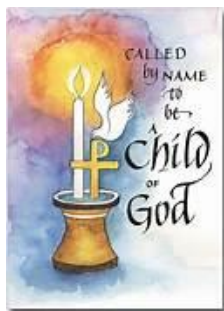
Br. John's Lenten Faith Sharing Meetings for Easter at the Friary

These will take place on three Monday evenings from 7.00-8.30pm

26th February 'The Human Condition'

4th March 'Our Personal Vocation'

11th March 'God's People in the Making'



Parish Spring Baptism Programme

The Spring Baptism Programme will take place on Monday, 4th March at St. Joseph's from 6-9pm. All parents wishing to have their child/children Baptised in the parish must attend one of our Programmes. If you would like to enrol, please contact Marjorie.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal - Friday 23rd February

Please return your donating envelopes this weekend, 24th/25th February.

You can also donate online by visiting www.cafod.org.uk/lent

Liturgy Group Meeting – Planning for Easter

A meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, 28th February at 7.00pm in the Don Bosco Room at St. Joseph's.

There will be a particular focus on music, and all members of the parish music groups are invited to attend.



Homelessness Support

Thank you from Sanctuary 21 for the generous donations at the Lenten Lunch last week. Your support is greatly appreciated.

St. Leonard's School Petition to Parliament

The parents, with Mary Foy, have organised a petition to keep pressure on the government to formalise mitigating circumstances for students taking exams this year in RACC affected schools.

The petitioners, therefore, request that the House of Commons urges the Department for Education to bring forward legislation to ensure that the Secretary of State for Education can provide the pupils at St. Leonard's Catholic School mitigating circumstances for their exams this year, and all those who suffer similar circumstances.

Blank forms can be found at the back of church. You can add your name to the form before or after Mass or take it home and return your completed forms to church - there is a box at the back - and these will be collected by one of the school parent groups.

Guidelines for completing the form -

Instructions from the Office of Mary Kelly Foy MP – St. Leonard's Petition Guidance. The petition text must not be altered, the document must be printed as it is supplied, or it will not be accepted in Parliament. Black ink preferable.

Hard copies are also available from the Office of Mary Kelly Foy MP, Moor Chambers, 26 Front Street, Framwellgate Moor, DH1 5EJ – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 10am-12pm or 1-3pm.

Signatories can be from anywhere in the country, if you have family or friends elsewhere who'd like to sign it please encourage them to do so. If you'd like some pre-paid envelopes so people can return copies of the petition to Mary's office direct, please let Emma know – emma.heenan@parliament.uk or 07474 020 000.

The deadline for gathering signatures will be Saturday 16th March this will allow Mary's team time to compile the full hardcopy document for Mary to take to Westminster on the morning of 18th March with the view to present it that week – prior to Easter.

Mary is planning a market stall in March which parents are welcome to come along to so we can gather more signatures. Save St Leonard's posters etc are very welcome to be displayed on her stall. Mary is also taking copies of the petition on all campaign sessions, she and the team will be pushing it everywhere possible. Signatures cannot be added online, this is a hardcopy only petition (Parliamentary rules for this type of petition).

Save the Date

On **Sunday 10th March** we'll be having our first **International Lunch of 2024**. You are all welcome to attend it at **St. Joseph's after the 10:30 am Mass**. Feel free to bring some food to share and be ready to enjoy it with our lovely parish community. For more information feel free to join the WhatsApp group <https://chat.whatsapp.com/CQvZ7yZUI8N2BaSggdft7W/>

Finchale Partnership Synod meetings: We're holding a series of meetings to talk about some of the issues raised in the summary document from the Synod Assembly in Rome last October. The third meeting will be this **Sunday 25th February at 2.30pm**, at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham, and the subject will be '**Structures and Decision Making**'.

From the Diocese

Lenten Day for Families

Catholic Mothers and the Carmelite Friars invite you to a Lenten Family Day at St. John Vianney's, West Denton on Saturday 9th March, beginning with 10am Mass and followed by a short talk, opportunity for Confession, a soup lunch, children's activities and social time.

All ages and families welcome. For more information email:

catholicmothersne@gmail.com *See poster at the back of church.*

From Durham Churches Together - St. Oswald's Institute, Church Street, Durham

Tuesday 27th February, 7.00-8.30pm

Public Meeting: - A talk based on Peter Shambrook's book "Policy of Deceit: Britain and Palestine 1914-1939".

Also at St. Oswald's Institute – "World Day of Prayer Service" composed by women of Palestine on **Friday, 1st March, at 10.30am**. All are welcome at both events.

Right to Life UK

Please support the campaign to reduce the abortion time limit to 22 weeks in England and Wales. If you would like to support this campaign, you can:

Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment -

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law.

Take action: Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment! *See poster.*

Mass Intentions for the Week

25th February 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 24 February		5.00pm Vigil Mass Hannah Mary Drane Anniversary
Sunday 25 February	9.00am Peace in the World 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Alf Carr Anniversary Austin Flynn Birthday Remembrance Anne-Marie Melvin Anniversary
Monday 26 February	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word ad Holy Communion
Tuesday 27 February	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Special Intention (DF) and In thanksgiving for a 90 th Birthday Celebration (MR)	NO MASS
Wednesday 28 February	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Cassie Childs Anniversary
Thursday 29 February	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am The health of Debbie	NO MASS
Friday 1 March	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Rita and Billy Hoole and Wendy Clough
Saturday 2 March	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Peter Watts and a Special Intention (LS)
Sunday 3 March	9.00am Doreen Barrett (SVP)	10.30am Fr. Peter Smith and Anne Miller (Roundwood, Ireland)

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 25	Mon 26	Tue 27	Wed 28	Thurs 29	Fri 1 March	Sat 2	Sun 3
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7,00pm	9.15am	12.15pm (Service of Word & Holy Communion)	NO MASS	10.00am and 6.30pm