

The Parish of the Durham Martyrs
*Incorporating the Churches of Our Lady of Mercy
& St. Godric, St. Joseph and St. Bede*

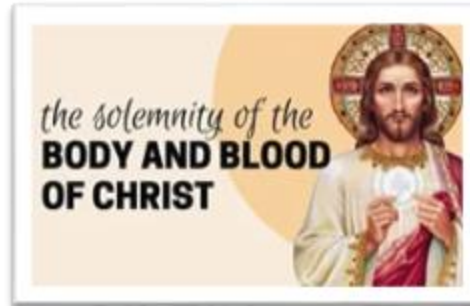
Parish Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden



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

Parish Newsletter
Sunday 22nd June 2025



The Feast of Corpus Christi this weekend is a time to reflect on the importance of the Eucharist in our lives. It is also a time which offers me the opportunity to thank all our Eucharistic Ministers for their support and dedication especially to bringing the Eucharist to the house bound. Our Ministers will renew their commitments at all Masses this weekend.

We welcome Bishop Stephen to our parish this week for the celebration of the sacrament of confirmation on Tuesday evening. They are a great group of young people and how they have taken their preparation very seriously. We need you to maintain contact with the parish. Those who have been welcomers have been a real blessing. A special thanks to Sarah and Ciaran for being there for them, and for the many hours of hard graft, not forgetting Marjorie, the silent third member of the team.

We look forward to our Parish Picnic, our trip to Holy Island. Weather like this would be a bonus.

Continued over/.....

My mind goes back to another memorable parish trip to the West of Ireland. Most of the pilgrims will always recall our very eventful boat trip. One glowing memory for me was celebrating Mass on the island of Inishbofin.

Fr. Tony King joined us and explained the two plaques each side of the sanctuary showing the photos of young men and women from this tiny island who had left Inishbofin to become priests and nuns throughout the world. Two blood sisters in particular who went on to become Dominican nuns, and who were the first white people allowed into the townships in South Africa, and at the height of political unrest. This display with Fr Tony's historical overview and in such beautiful surroundings made our final hymn more poignant.

That final hymn was In Christ Alone, and though small in number, we sang with gusto. But, it was the accompanying organ that rang out above everything else that remains encased in my memory. We were fortunate to have an exceptional musician with us on that trip. Geoff Foxall lifted the rafters in that historic church on that small island as I imagine it has never been lifted before.

Sadly, Geoff's brother John, also a fine musician, died this week. With the loss of his close friend, Helen Tumilty, this has been a difficult time for Geoff. Our prayers are with you Geoff and never forget how, in your quiet humble way, you played an exceptional hymn in the most unlikely of settings.

Inishbofin on a Sunday morning.

Sunlight, turfsmoke, seagulls, boatslip, diesel.
One by one we were being handed down
Into a boat that dipped and shilly-shallied
Scaresomely every time. We sat tight
On short cross-benches, in nervous twos and threes,
Obedient, newly close, nobody speaking
Except the boatmen, as the gunwales sank
And seemed they might ship water any minute.
The sea was very calm but even so,
When the engine kicked and our ferryman
Swayed for balance, reaching for the tiller,
I panicked at the shiftiness and heft
Of the craft itself. What guaranteed us —
That quick response and buoyancy and swim —
Kept me in agony. All the time
As we went sailing evenly across
The deep, still, seeable-down-into water,
It was as if I looked from another boat
Sailing through the air, far up, and could see
How riskily we fared into the morning,
And loved in vain our bare, bowed, numbered heads.

From Seeing Things by Seamus Heaney

Feast Days

Monday, 23 rd June	St. Etheldreda, Abbess
Thursday, 24 th June	The Nativity of John the Baptist
Friday, 27 th June	The Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday, 28 th June	The Immaculate Heart of Mary/ St. Irenaeus

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Ann Close
Veronica O'Reilly	Mary Armstrong
Sheila Owens	Margaret Nancarrow
Freda March	Ann Childs
Danny McCann	Liz Murray
Syd Inglis	Marek Earnshaw

Anniversaries

Joan Humble	Shaun Magill
William Curry	



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the following families:

Hilda Leonard and family on the loss of her husband, Fred.

Louise Harrison and family on the loss of her son, Paul, who died in Peru. He will be repatriated to Belfast and his Requiem Mass will be held in St. Thérèse of Lisieux Church, Somerton Road. There is no date confirmed at this time.

Dominica Moran and family on the loss of her sister, Marie McGinley.

... and to Geoff Foxall, close friend of the late Helen Tumilty, whose brother John Foxall died recently.

Requiescant in pace.

Parish Confirmation Mass

Our Confirmation Class of 2025 will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Stephen Wright on **Tuesday, 24th June, at 6.30pm in St. Joseph's Church.** Please keep them in your prayers.



The Sacrament
of Baptism

Forthcoming Baptisms

The following children will receive the Sacrament of Baptism during June:

Robin Aithwaite – 22nd June, St. Godric's, during Mass

Izzabella and Lucian Davey – 29th June, St. Joseph's, after Mass

School News from our Primary Schools

St. Joseph's

The children in Year 1 and 2 will be gathering in the school hall on **Monday 23rd June at 3pm** for a **Celebration of the Word**. All are welcome to attend.

We would also like to invite everyone to join us for a **Celebration Assembly** on **Friday 27th June at 3pm** in the school hall.

St. Thomas More

St. Thomas More's Feast Day is this **Sunday 22nd June**. Our children will help lead this Mass, please come along if you can.

St. Godric's

St. Godric's school summer fair will take place on the school field on **Sunday 29th June, 12 noon until 3pm**. There will be lots of stalls and activities to enjoy including tombolas, toy and book stalls, lawn games, jewellery and plant stalls, inflatables, delicious food options and more.

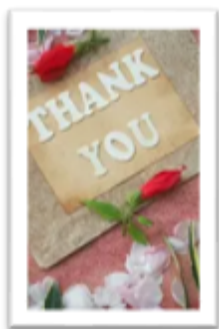
Parishioners, friends and family are all welcome. For any more information, please contact friendsofstgodrics@gmail.com.

Parish Bookkeeper Required

After many years of professional service Janet Nichols has decided to step down from the voluntary role as parish book-keeper.

We now need to seek a replacement from within the Parish and anyone who is interested in taking on this role please contact Fr Colm. A brief description of the role is available on request from the Parish Secretary and Janet will happily assist in handing over the role.

On Behalf of Mary Ward Loreto UK grateful thanks are received for the donation of £200 from the Justice and Peace Group of the Parish. This will help anti-trafficking work in Albania. Sr Imelda Poole IBVM says - "I have fond memories of meeting the parishioners of Durham Martyrs when I have visited Durham. You have been loyal supporters of the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation in Albania which works to prevent Human Trafficking and Exploitation and to help victims to be rescued, restored and rehabilitated". www.marywardloreto.org



Summer Parish Baptism Programme Postponed

The summer Baptism Programme has been postponed due to insufficient interest at this time. It will be offered in autumn. The date will be **29th September**.



Anyone wishing to join the programme please contact Marjorie, Parish Secretary who will ensure they complete the necessary form prior to participating.



The Way of Creation - Via Creationis - the Friary garden 29th June 2025

The friars invite you to the first meeting of, 'The Way of Creation' of prayer and meditation on the book of Genesis which will take place in the Friary garden. We will meet at the Friary for tea & coffee at 4.15 pm after Exposition, and then move into the garden.

The Via Creationis happens regularly in many parishes across the world following Pope Francis encyclical *Laudato Si*. Like the Stations of the Cross, the Way of Creation is a series of seven meditations and prayers. We will reflect on aspects of creation and the suffering it endures at the hands of human destruction. We will pray for the redemption of creation and reflect on what we can do to save it.

Save the Date – Sunday, 6th July, 11.30am-2.30pm



More information will be available next weekend, 28th/29th June –

Watch this space!

Save the Date – Saturday, 13th September

Save the date!

Saturday 13 September 2025

Parish 'Pilgrimage of Hope' to Lindisfarne.

More details to follow



Volunteer Fire Wardens

We are required to have a number of fire wardens to cover weekend masses at both churches. The role is primarily to ensure that all members of the congregation are able to safely leave the church in the event of a fire.

There is no need to have any experience, training will be given. It is intended to hold a fire evacuation practice in the coming months.

There is no formal rota for fire wardens, it is just an agreement to assist at any Mass if required. If you can help please contact John Wells (St. Godrics) - johnwells2911@gmail.com or Dennis Bradley (St. Joseph's) - d.bradley400@btinternet.com

Cleaner Required – St Charles, Gosforth

The Diocese is looking to appoint a cleaner for 5 hours per week: Mondays 7–9am and Wednesdays 12–3pm.

For more information and to apply, please visit:

www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies

or contact HR Department on 0191 243 3301.

Mass Intentions for the Week

22nd June 2025

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 21 June		10.00am Celebration of Life Mass 5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey, and Fr. Peter Kelly
Sunday 22 June	9.00am Fred Leonard, and The Parish Confirmation Team and the Class of 2025 Candidates	10.30am The Parish Confirmation Team and the Class of 2025 Candidates
Monday 23 June	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 24 June	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am World Peace	6.30pm Confirmation Mass with Bishop Stephen
Wednesday 25 June	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Ian Henderson (SVP)
Thursday 26 June	9.30am- Exposition 10.00am Betty and John McGuinness 70 th Wedding Anniversary	NO MASS
Friday 27 June	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Christopher Godbolt (SVP)
Saturday 28 June	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pio Mangion
Sunday 29 June	9.00am Susannah Michiels Anniversary 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Rev. Peter Smith

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 22 Corpus Christi	Mon 23	Tue 24	Wed 25	Thurs 26	Fri 27	Sat 28	Sun 29 Ss. Peter & Paul
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am And 6.30pm