

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



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Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers

Parish Newsletter – 6th – 11th September 2026 **23rd Sunday of the Year**

Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden

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

For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

Bro John: there will be an opportunity for all to thank, and bid farewell, to Bro John this Sunday after the 9.00am Mass.

Do join us for a cup of tea/coffee in the John Boste Room at St Godric's. We will follow same at St Joseph's the following weekend in the Jubilee Room after the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's. Those in charge of the usual teas and coffees in both churches, please take note.

Also, we will have a retiring collection for a charity, or charities, of Bro John's preference after all Masses, the weekend of the 12/13th September.

The parish pilgrimage to Holy Island takes place this Saturday. It seems appropriate that Dan Snow followed the footsteps of St. Columba last Tuesday on BBC 4.

Those travelling on Saturday to Holy Island might find it particularly worth revisiting. You can access it on BBC iPlayer.

Welcome back to school staff and pupils.

Just received the sad news of the death of Jane Wilcockson's husband, Robin, after a brave fight against cancer. Our deepest sympathies and prayers are with you, Jane and family.

Some reflections by Wendell Berry, American poet and author, who died this week aged 92:

I take literally the statement in the Gospel of John that God loves the world. I believe that the world was created and approved by love, that it subsists, coheres, and endures by love, and that, insofar as it is redeemable, it can be redeemed only by love.

I believe that divine love, incarnate and indwelling in the world, summons the world always toward wholeness, which ultimately is reconciliation and atonement.

HOW TO BE A POET:

Sit down. Be quiet.

Breathe with unconditional breath the unconditioned air.

Shun electric wire.

Communicate slowly.

Live a three-dimensional life;

stay away from screens.

Stay away from anything that obscures the place it is in.

There are no unsacred places;

there are only sacred places and desecrated places.

Accept what comes from silence.

Make the best you can of it.

Of the little words that come out of the silence

THE ONLY SUFFICIENT ANSWER:

The only sufficient answer is to give up the animosity and try forgiveness, to try to love our enemies and to talk to them and (if we pray) to pray for them. If we can't do any of that, then we must begin again by trying to imagine our enemies' children who, like our children, are in mortal danger because of enmity that they did not cause.

Feast Days

Tuesday, 8 th September	The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday, 9 th September	St. Peter Claver P
Saturday, 12 th September	The Most Holy Name of Mary

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Maureen Milsom
Josephine Lyons	Christina Reid
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison
Mary Crilley	Sheila Wressel
Sigrid Peyerimhoff	Rita Harrison
Amanda Hyland	

Anniversaries:

Alex Morgan	Ken Haswell	Mary Morgan
Mary Hughes	Kevin Corrigan	John Atkinson
Margaret Crawford	Helen Rebello	John Wood
Anne Reid	Louis Rebello	John Carter



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late **Patrick Hanley** whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Godric's on Tuesday, 15th September at 10.00am, followed by burial in South Road Cemetery.

.. and also to the family and friends of the late Robin Humphrey who died this week. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time, *Requiescant in pace*.

St. Godric's Church Cleaning

Please note that there will be a cleaning session after the 10.00am Mass at St. Godric's next Tuesday, 8th September. New volunteers always welcome.

St Francis of Assisi - Patron of Ecology

At 7.30pm on Tuesday 22nd September, the Franciscan Friary is holding its third seminar for the Year of St Francis.

Br. Paul will speak about why St. Francis was named the patron saint of ecology and what we can learn from him.

First Holy Communion Preparation

The Year 4 pupils in our parish primary schools will soon begin their journey of preparation to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist. Our staff in school provide excellent formation for the children and the preparation is further enhanced by support from the parish.

If you feel you have the skills to become a parish catechist, working with small groups of children aged between 8 and 9 years, and are able to commit to after-school sessions, once per month, in either **St. Joseph's Catholic Primary** in Gilesgate, or **St. Thomas More Catholic Primary** in Belmont, please speak to Fr Colm in the first instance.

Please note, anyone undertaking this voluntary role will be required to complete an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Assisted Suicide Bill

MP's will vote at the Second Reading of the Assisted Suicide Bill in the House of Commons on **11th September**. *Not Dead Yet* have provided postcards you can send to your MP to ask them to vote NO at this Second Reading.

Please take action now and collect a red and white postcard from the back of church, fill out your details, add a stamp and post it to your MP,

Season of Creation, 1st September-4th October

During the Season of Creation we give thanks for all that God has made, repent for the damage we have caused and commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth, our common home. "If we take up this task with humility and faith," says Pope Leo, "we will become collaborators in God's work of renewal. We will move, slowly but surely, from desert to garden, from division to communion, and from violence to peace. " (Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation)

Care for the world and for the poor will be reflected during this season in our liturgical celebrations, in our children's liturgy, in tips for sustainable living, and in a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing, a film which deals with the climate crisis and the actions we can take.

(Care for Creation Group)



Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for September 2026 Ss. Godric & Bede

St Bede's red mission boxes / donations will be collected by sponsors in the usual way during September. Please bring those for St Godric's to Sunday Mass on 13th, 20th, or 27th September. They will be collected, emptied and returned to church.

A big thank you for your continued support through your prayers and kindness.

Parish Coffee Morning – Monday, 14th September. It will take place in St. Bede's Room in St. Godric's School immediately after the 9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion.



All proceeds are for Women in India. Everyone welcome.

The Wednesday Lunch Club begins again this week on Wednesday, 9th September
We are looking forward to welcoming friends old and new!



Come and enjoy good company, good conversation and a friendly atmosphere.

If you haven't been before, come and try it...find out what brings our regulars back each week! Lifts can be arranged if needed.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

For more information please contact either Pat Conway 07943 016 225 or Kathleen Murray 07759 130 837.



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL

200 CLUB

Results – September 2026 Draw

1 st (£50)	No. 75
Mary Sim	Sacred Heart & St. Cuthbert's, Amble
Frances Thompson	St. Joseph's Birtley
2 nd (£25)	No. 198
Kate Edwards	All Saints, Lanchester
Pauline Percival	Our Lady of Lourdes, Wallsend

Thank you for your continued support

Ushaw Flower Festival

Our fantastic Flower Festival returns next month with a brand-new theme: Experience the Sound of the North East.

Discover spectacular floral displays inspired by the region's rich musical heritage, as the historic buildings of Ushaw are transformed with colour, creativity and imagination.

Join us from **Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 September 2026, 10am–4pm** - find out more below!

Experience the Sound of the North East

From iconic artists to unforgettable songs, this year's festival brings the sounds of the North East to life through stunning floral design.

For more information, go to www.ushaw.org

Invitation to “People’s Emergency Briefing” Screening in Spennymoor

Location: St. Charles Church, Tudhoe DL16 6JY

Date: Friday 18 September 2026

Time: 6:30pm -8:30pm (refreshments from 6.00pm)

Eventbrite Booking link to reserve a place : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/peoples-emergency-briefing-tudhoe-spennymoor-tickets-1993138462796?aff=oddtcreator>

The film features footage from last November's National Emergency Briefing, bringing together leading UK experts in climate science, food security, health, economics, national security and nature.

It presents a calm, evidence-based overview of how the climate and nature crisis is affecting everyday life in Britain - and what the science says about risks and responses.

Trailer: <https://youtu.be/9tLUnWHkGG4?is=FAItfWduNjaa6dMq>

The initiative is explicitly non-partisan, non religious. It is supported by a wide range of organisations, including the Church of England, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales, National Trust, WWF, the Royal Meteorological Society and many others.

See posters at the back of each church.

Parish School News



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

The children have returned to school with smiles on their faces and kindness in their hearts.

May they continue to grow in faith and trust in God's love.



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

It was wonderful to welcome all our children back to school

for the start of another exciting school year.

Our Wednesday Eucharistic Services have resumed and Y6 will join the Parish next Wednesday for a 9am start.



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

A very warm welcome back to all our St. Thomas More children and families. We are delighted to begin a new

academic year together and look forward to the many opportunities, achievements and special moments that lie ahead.

Staff changes - Mrs Smith joins us as the teacher for our youngest Nursery and Reception children and will be supported by Miss Simpson.

Mrs Hartley, who many families will know as Miss Spence. She married during the summer break, and we offer our warmest congratulations and best wishes. She will be teaching our Year 1 and Year 2 class.

Mr Pickup will be teaching Year 3 and Year 4 during Mrs Belton's absence.

Finally, we extend a warm welcome to Miss Hogan, who joins our staff team as our new lunchtime supervisor.

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 5 September	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Ken Drane
Sunday 6 September	9.00am Special Intention (HK) 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Brian O'Connor
Monday 7 September	NO MASS	NO MASS OR SERVICE
Tuesday 8 September	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am Mary Crilly 95 th Birthday Celebration	NO MASS
Wednesday 9 September	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Peter & Catherine McLoughlin St. Joseph's Yrs 5 & 6 in attendance
Thursday 10 September	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am John Caulfield	NO MASS
Friday 11 September	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese
Saturday 12 September	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pete Donnelly and Harry Curran RIP
Sunday 13 September	9.00am Robin Humphrey 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am The sick of the Parish (Baptism after Mass)

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 6	Mon 7	Tue 8	Wed 9	Thurs 10	Fri 11	Sat 12	Sun 13
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm

**The above Mass times may not be accurate at time of printing.
Please check St. Cuthbert's website.**