

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

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Parish Newsletter
18th January 2025 – 25th January 2026
A DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR PEACE

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

Peace is...

Peace is the resulting action on an agreement to end a war.

Peace is the mutual laying down of weapons.

Peace is the worldwide cessation of armament production.

Peace is the reconciliation between adversaries.

Peace is the change of hearts and minds of people who wage war.

Peace is the smile of the refugee housed following exile from home.

Peace is the satisfaction in the face of a hungry child just fed.

Peace is the return to boyhood of a child soldier.

Peace is the respect for women and their equal rights as human beings.

Peace is the just, merciful and compassionate use of power by the powerful.

Peace is the empowerment of disadvantaged and marginalised people.

Peace is the healing arrived at through truth and reconciliation commissions.

Peace is the mutual respect of people of all faiths and none.

Help us, Lord, to continue to strive for peace in all of its forms.

Amen.

Trevor Stockton/CAFOD

Feast Days

Monday, 19 th January	St. Wulstan Bp
Tuesday, 20 th January	St. Fabian P, M/St. Sebastian M
Wednesday, 21 st January	St. Agnes V, M
Thursday, 22 nd January	St. Vincent Deacon, M
Saturday, 24 th January	St. Francis de Sales Bp, D

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Emma Turnbull
Mary Armstrong	Ann Close
Sheila Owens	Rose Simpson
John Barrett	Veronica O'Reilly
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Marek Earnshaw
Mary Wright	John Doyle
Mary Dennis	

Anniversaries:

Alan McNamee	Colin Armstrong
Robert Hann	Mary Murphy
Patricia Finn	Teresa Harrison
Bede Murray	Lena Ambuster
Arthur Binks	Joyce Pearson
Joe Lyons	Joyce Hadfield



Forthcoming Funerals

Margaret Nancarrow's Funeral Service will take place at St. Joseph's on Wednesday, 21st January at 1.00pm followed by burial in Shadforth.

The Requiem Mass of Dorothy Coggins will take place on Friday, 30th January in St. Josephs at 12.00pm, followed by cremation.

Baptism – we welcome into our parish community Amelie Elizabeth Peyton Ward, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday, 18th January, after the 9.00am Mass at St. Godric's.



Laudato Si' Group

7.30pm , this **Monday 19th January** 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.

Journey in Faith – will resume this **Thursday, 22nd January at 7.00pm**. The topic will be Catholic Social Teaching, All welcome.



Hearty Soups
for Lent

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches

Ash Wednesday falls on **18th February**, and I have already had one request for Lenten Soup Lunches. Dates will be: 20th and 27th February, and 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th March.

The slot on 20th February has been taken by the SVP. Please let me know if you or your group would like to book a slot.

A note from the Justice and Peace Group - There will be a **Holy Hour** with some prayers and readings for Peace, on **Peace Sunday, this Sunday 18th January, 3-4 pm** at St Godric's



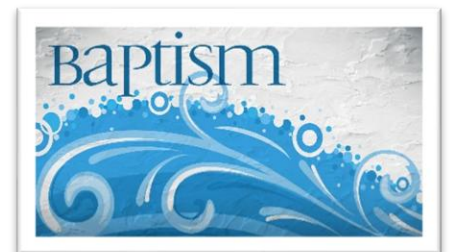
There will be a coffee morning on **Monday 19th January** in St. Bede's Room in St. Godric's School. It will take place immediately after the 9.15 Service of the Word and Holy Communion.

All proceeds are for Women in Need in India.

Everyone is very welcome.

Baptism Programme

The Spring Baptism Programme will take place on **Monday, 16th March at St. Joseph's from 6.00-9.00pm**. Please contact the Parish Secretary for more information in the first instance.



Northern Cross Celebrates 70 years

The January edition of the Northern Cross contains a copy of the first edition of the Diocesan newspaper dated January 1956. Our parish just gets a mention of the death of Canon Pippett who was Parish Priest of St. Godric's from 1937-1955 and is buried in St. Bede's Cemetery.

Copies on sale - price £1.50.



St Godric's Catholic Primary School

<https://stgodricsdurham.bwcet.com/>

Parish School News

A warm welcome to Year 4 children at 9am St. Godric's

Mass this Sunday for another First Holy communion and blessing preparation Mass. We were delighted to have a number of parents join with the Parish for Wednesday's Eucharistic Service.

Y4 will be joining the Parish next Wednesday at 9AM in St. Bede's Room. Parents/carers of Year 4 are very welcome to attend.

A busy week for year 4 as on Friday they are looking forward to visiting Segedunum and taking part in some workshops.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

<https://stjosephsgilesgate.bwcet.com/>

On Wednesday 21st January, the children in Year 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church

at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

Also on Wednesday 21st January at 2.30pm in the school hall, the Mini Vinnies would like to invite friends and families to their 'Brew Day' event.

The Mini Vinnies are excited to share the plans they have been working on to help and support the local community and explain what the role of being a Mini Vinnie means to them. We really hope you can come along for a brew and a biscuit.

Congratulations and well done! St. Joseph's is listed in the Ofsted Top Ten Primary Schools in County Durham

The latest Department for Education (DfE) data has revealed the top 10 primary schools in County Durham, based on the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics.

The results reflect academic performance in the 2024–2025 school year, released as Ofsted continues to roll out major reforms to the school inspection framework.



St Leonard's Catholic Secondary School

<https://stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com/>

**CLEAR OUT FOR A CAUSE –
DONATE TO THE NORTH EAST
AIR AMBULANCE!**

**TURN YOUR JANUARY
CLEAR-OUT INTO
LIFESAVING SUPPORT!**



WHAT CAN YOU DONATE?
Clothes, shoes, books,
household items, and more.

WHY DONATE?

Your unwanted items
can help fund the North
East Air Ambulance,
providing critical care
when it's needed most.

WHERE TO DROP OFF?

OLOH office or
St Leonard's site office

WHEN?

Throughout January – make
your clear-out count!

**EVERY ITEM HELPS SAVE LIVES. Friday 26th January
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our first session of 2026 on **Saturday 24th January** after the 5pm Mass. This time we're planning to have a campfire! Details will be confirmed as soon as possible. To allow us plan the session and to send you the details, could those planning to attend please send an email

to durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com

International lunch: Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next international lunch planned for **Sunday 15th February**, after the 10:30 Mass at St Joseph's. Let's celebrate together the richness our diverse community brings to our Parish.

Gift Aid

I have recently received the annual Gift Aid statements from the Diocese and I am aiming to deliver them over the next few weeks. If you need your statement earlier please let me know and I will get it to you as soon as possible.

You can email me at EstherRobson@diocesehn.org.uk or call me on my mobile 07969 528874.

Safety Alert - St. Godric's Church – Upcoming Maintenance Work

St Godric's church upcoming maintenance work safety alert

- **On Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd January** the path along the north side of the church to and from the car park will be closed whilst scaffolding is being erected.

- The scaffolding will remain in place until scheduled dismantling on **Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th February**. On those two days the footpath will again be closed until the work is completed.
- **After Thursday 22nd January and before Monday 9th February** access along the path underneath scaffolding boards will be permitted even when investigative work is being carried out on the roof above, but please take extra care if using the path during that period for Tuesday and Thursday services.
- Car park users on any of the four days when the path is closed can access the church either by the rear door if keyholders or via the cobbled Back Tenter Terrace and the main door, but bear in mind that contractor vehicles may also be in the car park on those days and throughout the whole period of works so space may be limited.
- Access to the church via the main access path and the main door will be available as normal throughout the whole period, though it may be necessary at times during the working week for a contractor vehicle to be parked on the approach path.
- It is anticipated that the majority of attendees, particularly on the three Sundays, should not be inconvenienced but all are advised to take extra care.

SVP Sudan Appeal

For a number of years we have appealed for your support in relieving the suffering of mothers and babies in a war torn country. Through the generosity of people like you, 700 children are fed nutritious meals each week at feeding stations. 2800 adults have been trained on our vocational training schemes over the past 5 years. In addition, 13000 people have received medical treatments provided by our medical centres a year.



If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause please make out a cheque payable to 'SVP Twinning'- put it in an envelope, with your name on the front, and give it to Chris Brennan or any other SVP member. To make a donation directly to the SVP please click the following link: <https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/page/134642/donate/1>

200 CLUB – RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions for January 2026 - December 2026 are now due, before the January draw. The annual cost is still £12 per number and cheques should be made payable to SVP 200 Club.

Could members please put subscriptions, cash or cheque, in an envelope with your name and address and place them in the box at the back of church. Thank you.

All profits from this enterprise go to the SVP food bank in Newcastle so members not only have the opportunity of winning a prize in the monthly draw but, more importantly, will be helping to provide emergency food parcels for needy families and hot meals for the hundreds of homeless people who visit St Vincent's each week.

Can I take this opportunity on behalf of The Tyne Central Council President and his Board, to thank you all for your past and hopefully future support for this very worthwhile cause. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, God Bless. Janet.



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

TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL 200 CLUB

Results – January 2026

1st (£50)	No. 134
SVP Conference	St. Joseph's, Sunderland
Mary Broadly	All Saints, Lanchester
2nd (£25)	No. 173
P. Lake	Our Lady of Lourdes, Wallsend
Tom Collins	St. Joseph's, Birtley

Thank you for your continued support.

Lourdes Pilgrimage – Youth Section Reminder

A reminder that bookings for the Youth Section of the Lourdes Pilgrimage will close on **31st January**. If you, or you know any young people in your parish that are interested in joining us, please get in touch as soon as possible to secure a place.

For more information or to register interest, please email: evie.rea@ymt.org

Forthcoming Events at Ushaw

Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer): You are invited to join us for Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at 4pm **this Sunday 18th January**. Please note that this is not a concert performance, but an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church. All are welcome to join us for the service, and no ticket is required.

Chapter & Verse is Ushaw's new book group which welcomes all readers who are interested in reading and discussing books about faith and religion. The group meets monthly to read a mix of fiction and non-fiction with a religious theme or connection. The next meeting of the book group is on **Tuesday 20th January** at 1.30pm.

Christian Unity: On **Friday 23rd January** at **2.30pm** there will be a **Service for Christian Unity** in St. Cuthbert's Chapel, Ushaw. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th – 25th January – the octave before the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. The service is open to all. Please invite your friends from other Christian churches, so that together we can pray for unity.

Wine Tasting at Ushaw:

Friends of Ushaw are holding a fundraising wine tasting evening at Ushaw Historic House, on Thursday 12th February 2026 at 7pm.

Tickets are £28pp for members of the Friends, £38pp standard ticket. Booking is via <https://ushaw.org/whatson/wine-tasting/>

Contact - email meet@ushaw.org , tel. Ushaw 0191 373 8500 .

Mass Intentions for the Week

18th January 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 17 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Bede Murray Anniversary and Joanne Fryer
Sunday 18 January	9.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Arthur Binks Anniversary and Annie Whitehead
Monday 19 January	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 20 January	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Mary Cusack Anniversary	NO MASS
Wednesday 21 January	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am – Margaret Nancarrow St. Joseph's Yrs. 3 and 4 attending 1.00pm – Funeral Service of the late Margaret Nancarrow
Thursday 22 January	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Peter & Catherine McLoughlin	NO MASS
Friday 23 January	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Bob Collinson Birthday Remembrance
Saturday 24 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Margaret Graham and Olga Kenna
Sunday 25 January	9.00am The sick of the Parish 3.00-4.00 – Exposition	10.30am Cassie Childs and David Elliot Birthday Remembrance

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 18	Mon 19	Tue 20	Wed 21	Thurs 22	Fri 23	Sat 24	Sun 25
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	9.15am	7.00pm	9.15am	12.15pm	9.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm