

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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Sunday 4th February 2024
5th Sunday of the Year
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)

The notice in the bulletin regarding Saturday, 17th February is an important one. Parishes are seeing the necessity to anticipate – with optimism – the future challenges. It is important to hear your voice.

St. Leonard's has set up a link to viewing future plans for the school. They look excellent. Our prayers and best wishes are with the school in these challenging times.

The month of February is upon us now, with the Season of Lent creeping up on us. We have our parish retreat to look forward to at the end of this month. And with the onset of Spring, lighter, brighter days.... and less rain.

'The rain falls upon the just and unjust alike; a thing which would not happen if I were superintending the rain's affairs. No, I would just rain softly and sweetly on the just, but if I caught a sample of the unjust outdoors, I would drown him.' *Mark Twain.*

Please note the new date for the International Meal – 10th March.

More volunteers needed from our international friends in the parish for music, Eucharistic Ministers and Readers.

Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth

by [Pam Ayres](#)

Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth,
And spotted the dangers beneath
All the toffees I chewed,
And the sweet sticky food.
Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth.
I wish I'd been that much more willin'
When I had more tooth there than fillin'
To give up gobstoppers,
From respect to me choppers,
And to buy something else with me shillin'.

When I think of the lollies I licked
And the liquorice allsorts I picked,
Sherbet dabs, big and little,
All that hard peanut brittle,
My conscience gets horribly pricked.
My mother, she told me no end,
'If you got a tooth, you got a friend.'
I was young then, and careless,
My toothbrush was hairless,
I never had much time to spend.

Oh I showed them the toothpaste all right,
I flashed it about late at night,
But up-and-down brushin'
And pokin' and fussin'
Didn't seem worth the time – I could bite!
If I'd known I was paving the way
To cavities, caps and decay,
The murder of fillin's,
Injections and drillin's,
I'd have thrown all me sherbet away.

So I lie in the old dentist's chair,
And I gaze up his nose in despair,
And his drill it do whine
In these molars of mine.
'Two amalgam,' he'll say, 'for in there.'
How I laughed at my mother's false teeth,
As they foamed in the waters beneath.
But now comes the reckonin'
It's me they are beckonin'
Oh, I wish I'd looked after me teeth.

Feast Days

Monday, 5 th February	St. Agatha V, M
Tuesday, 6 th February	St. Paul Miki and Companions MM
Thursday, 8 th February	St. Jerome Emiliani P/St. Josephine Bakhita V
Saturday, 10 th February	St. Scholastica V

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

Anniversaries

Barbara Birney	George Hill
Laura Mulvaney	Matt Hirst
Stephen Coyne	Patrick Killian

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches

Please contact Marjorie if you or your parish group would like to host a lunch. Three of the dates below have been booked.

Date	Group
16 February	
23 February	St. Joseph's School
1 March	
8 March	
15 March	SVP
22 March	Bereavement Support Group

Diocesan Lenten Reflection Booklets

As promised, the Vicariate for Faith and Mission are producing booklets of Daily Lenten Reflections which will be available for viewing, downloading and printing from the Diocesan website, using this weblink: <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>. The weblink will go live in time for Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 14 February).

Last year's Lent booklets were very well received. As we prepare to commemorate Jesus' salvific death and resurrection at Easter, we hope that this year's edition will once again foster prayerful reflection on the Scriptures and a renewed sense of purpose and hope amongst the people of the Diocese. The reflections have been written by a variety of people to express the richness of our diocesan community.



Lunch Club – Appeal for Volunteers

We are short of volunteers to help with our weekly Wednesday Lunch Club. There is a rota for helpers and duties consist of helping to set up the room and dining tables, serving lunch and clearing and washing up but most importantly to interact with the guests

who are the elderly and housebound of the parish.

If you can spare a couple of hours once or twice a month, please contact Pat Conway 07943 016 225 or Kathleen Murray 07759 130 837 Thank you.



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,

Parish Meeting

Before Christmas, two, open invitation, parish meetings were held to discuss the possible future developments of our parish and approximately twenty people attended each discussion. The first meeting was facilitated by Father John O'Brien and focused on sharing current feelings about parish life and about living in the here and now, to create the best of times.

The second meeting was led by Father Colm and developed a range of themes around how we can move forward.

The parish council would like to build on this foundation. This is an open invitation to all parish members, to come along to a meeting on **Saturday 17th February, 10:00am-12:00 noon**, in the Jubilee Room, at St. Josephs. Father John O'Brien will join us again and we hope to move the discussions forward to decide what we will do. Please do come along to both listen and contribute. It is important that we gather the wide range of views and ideas that exist in our parish. You are all very welcome.

Parish Handbook and Information Leaflet

New versions of the Parish Handbook and Information leaflet are now available on the parish website.

News from St. Leonard's School – New Build Brought Forward

The great news is that the discovery of RAAC has brought forward the new build for St Leonard's!

Current Year 6: If you are currently in Year 6 you will arrive at St Leonard's in September 2024 in state of the art temporary classrooms that have all the usual specialist equipment of any secondary school. By this stage we will be up to Phase 3 shown below. During Year 8 you will move into our brand new building!

Current Year 5: If you are currently in Year 5 when you arrive at St Leonard's in September 2025 you will start the year in the state of the art temporary classrooms, and you should finish your first year of St Leonard's in the brand new building!

BAM: have been appointed to construct the new school building, which will be on the current site, with demolition of the old building to take place in early 2024 and construction to start from autumn 2024. BAM have secured over 100 projects for the Department for Education and you can see their work in the link below.

[BAM](#)

This is an exciting time for St Leonard's and the bespoke state of the art facilities of the new school, will match the ambition and aspiration of our students.

Ushaw – Thank you and Farewell!

There is just over a week left at Ushaw . . . we want to thank all Ushaw staff for looking after us so well, we say goodbye on Friday 9th February and then move into our posh new classrooms.

In October 2023 the school moved Year 7 and 8 to Ushaw College, so we could resume Face to Face Teaching for all year groups as soon as possible. This allowed the school to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, and we are grateful that Durham University and Ushaw were able to be accommodate us at such short notice. We will be moving to Phase 1 on 19th February and will leave Ushaw with some very happy memories and interesting stories.

For much more information, please go to the school website: www.stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com and scroll down to "New Build".

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 second meeting will be on **Sunday 11th February at 2.30pm**, at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham, and the subject will be 'Ministry and Co-responsibility'. Please come along and share your ideas on the following questions:

The Synod Assembly said that 'it is necessary for all the baptised to commit themselves to the reciprocal exercise of their vocation, charism, and ministry' and talks about co-responsibility for our mission. It asks that the church explores further the formation of priests, the permanent diaconate, the increasing role of lay people in ministry and the possible need for new ministries. What do we think are the priorities? And how can the priests, deacons and lay people of our Partnership best work together?

Note from Caritas Social Action Network/SJOG Hospitaller Service

We have been asked to let you know that the above services have been working together on a programme for individuals displaced by the war in Ukraine to co-ordinate and help with temporary housing, whilst they adjust to life in the UK. The programme has been extended until March. In addition to matching homes with guests, the project has expanded to assist Ukrainians in the UK to find private rented accommodation at the end of their hosting period.

They have sent us some prayer cards which can be found at the back of both churches – please take one if you wish.

If anyone would like more information on the project, please use one of the links below:

Website: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk>

E-mail: homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@sjoghomesforukraine

Change of Mass Time – St. Joseph's

This week and from now on, our Sunday morning Mass at St. Joseph's will start at the earlier time of **10.30am**.

Also, the 10.00am Mass on **Friday, 9th February** has been moved to the earlier time of **9.00am**.

Mass Intentions for the Week



4th February 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 3 February		5.00pm Vigil Mass The Finlay and Hannon Families (Living) and Mr. G. V. Charles RIP
Sunday 4 February	9.00am Theresa Wilson 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Deceased members of the Charlton Family and In thanksgiving for prayers answered
Monday 5 February	NO MASS	9.15 am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 6 February	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Mary Ellen and Joseph Ward	NO MASS
Wednesday 7 February	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Dorothy and James Sweeney
Thursday 8 February	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Stephen Coyne Anniversary	NO MASS
Friday 9 February	NO MASS	9.00am In memory of Patrick Frobisher
Saturday 10 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Judith McPhillips and Anthony Farmer
Sunday 11 February	9.00am Nicholas Mascarhenas	10.30am George Sutton 1 st Anniversary

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 4	Mon 5	Tue 6	Wed 7	Thurs 8	Fri 9	Sat 10	Sun 11
10.00am and 6.30pm	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	12.15pm	6.30pm Chaplaincy Mass in Durham Cathedral	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am and 11.00am (Sung Latin Mass)	10.00am and 6.30pm