

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: 11th – 16th October 28th 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

A song by Sr. Miriam Therese Winter, an American RC Medical Mission Sister
based on the parable of the wedding feast (Matthew 22:1-14)

CHORUS:

I can not come!

I cannot come to the banquet, don't trouble me now,

I have married a wife, I have bought me a cow,

I have fields and commitments that cost a pretty sum,

Pray hold me excused, I cannot come!

A certain man had a feast on his fine estate in town,
He laid a festive table and wore a wedding gown
He sent invitations to his neighbors far and wide
But when the meal was ready, each one of them replied - *Chorus*

The master rose up in anger, called his servants by name,
Said, "Go into the town, fetch the blind and the lame,
Fetch the peasant and the pauper for this I have willed--
My banquet must be crowded and my table must be filled!" - *Chorus*

When all the poor had assembled, there still was room to spare,
So the master demanded, "Go search everywhere,
To the highways and the byways and force them to come in,
My table must be filled, before the banquet can begin!" - *Chorus*

Now God has written a lesson for the rest of mankind,
If we're slow in responding, He may leave us behind,
He's preparing a banquet for that great and glorious day,
When the Lord and master calls us, be certain not to say - *Chorus*

Feast Days

Monday, 12 th October	St. Wilfrid Bp
Tuesday, 13 th October	St. Edward the Confessor, King
Wednesday, 14 th October	St. Calistus 1 Pp, M
Thursday, 15 th October	St. Teresa of Avila V, D
Friday, 16 th October	St. Hedwig Rel/St. Margaret Alacoque V
Saturday, 17 th October	St. Ignatius of Antioch Bp, M



Prayers – please keep in your prayers:

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

Anniversaries:

James Lyons	George Addison Smyth
Margaret Galloway	Colin Wild
Sara Nurowski	Jason Ramos



Forthcoming Funeral - Patricia Goodwill - at Durham Crematorium on Thursday, 22nd October from 11.00am-12.00pm. *Requiescat in pace*

Coffee and Cake – St. Joseph's - Please note that following the Service of Word and Holy Communion on **Wednesday 14th October**, the usual refreshments will be served in the porch.

Parish Coffee Morning - There will be a parish coffee morning this **Monday 12th October**. It will take place immediately after the **9.15** Service of the Word and Holy Communion in St. Bede's Room in St. Godric's School. All proceeds are for Women in Need in Nagpur, India. Everyone is very welcome.

Parish Core Group and Finance September Meeting Summary Notes

There is a copy of the notes of the above meeting on the notice boards at both churches, and a copy can be found on the parish website,



Jane Wilcockson and her family would like to thank Fr Colm and all the parish for their prayers, cards and immense kindness following the death of her husband Robin Humphrey in early September. It is much appreciated.



Save the date

'Raised on Songs and Stories' is a community care outreach project which brings together older Irish people or those of Irish Heritage and their friends. We travel across the North East, up to Northumberland and down to Teesside.

We sing songs, play tunes and encourage anyone to get up and perform bringing together old friends and new.

Every month ROSS is on the road to a local venue where there is lunch, live Irish music and entertainment. Sponsored by the Irish Government's Emigrant Support Programme and The National Lottery Community Fund, we welcome as many

new faces as possible and would be delighted to see you there!

Prisons Week, 11-17 October 2026

Please join Christian communities across the country in prayer this Prisons Week, praying for those across the criminal justice system: victims of crime, offenders and those in custody, the families of all affected, those working in probation, prisons, police and courts and for chaplains and those administering care and justice communities.

HMP Low Newton and Frankland, the two prisons within our parish, are grateful recipients of regular donations from the Parish SVP Conference. When you generously donate funds to the SVP, your donations help to fund creative arts projects and birthday, Christmas and Easter gifts for prisoners which greatly help the pastoral and rehabilitative mission of our local prison chaplaincy teams. Thank You.

PACT the national Catholic prison charity supports prisoners, their families and their children, offering them hope and the chance to turn their lives around.

PACT's Faith in Action team have resources and opportunities for Catholic people to explore how they might respond to Jesus' challenge 'I was in prison and you visited me.' Information can be found on the PACT website: www.prisonadvice.org.uk

There is a box at the back of church for donations of craft items for children visiting HMP Low Newton. Amongst items needed are:

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|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Ready mixed paints | * | Colouring Books |
| • Coloured A4 card | * | Tracing Books |
| • Plastic scissors | * | Sellotape/ Double-sided sellotape |
| • Glue sticks | * | Tissue Paper – all colours |

Thank you.



Youth Group - Family Pilgrimage – Saturday 24th October 2026, 3pm

Our next activity is a pilgrimage to celebrate the **Jubilee Year of St Francis of Assisi (800 years)**. We'll walk from **St Cuthbert's** to **Durham Cathedral** and finish at the **Franciscan Friary**, reflecting on how St. Francis inspires us to care for His creation and rebuild the Church today.

Activities will include reflection, a **LEGO Church** activity, prayer at **St Cuthbert's Shrine**, a riverside walk, and shared food at the Friary.

Meet: St. Cuthbert's Church, Old Elvet @15:00 hrs.

For: Young people and their families **Bring:** Comfortable shoes, water, light jacket.

A simple journey of faith and community. To let us know you will be joining us and for more information please email durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com

The Parish of the Durham Martyrs Journey in Faith 2026-2027

The Journey in Faith Programme begins again on **22nd October** and runs until Easter next year. The programme is held on Thursday evenings beginning at 7pm in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's Church. The programme of talks are given by invited speakers from the parish and surrounding area. A copy of the programme will be displayed on each church notice board.

Each session involves a presentation by the invited speaker and some informal group discussion and concludes by 8.30pm, followed by tea and coffee. Discussion is always enriched through the attendance of parishioners so you are encouraged to come along and support this. If you would like any more information please contact Marjorie Towers, Parish Secretary on Marjorie.towers@diocesehn.org.uk or on the parish mobile 07483 369 561.

St. Godric's Church Cleaning – this month's cleaning session will take place on Tuesday, 13th October, at 10.30am after the Service of Word and Holy Communion. New volunteers always welcome!



Parish Christmas Fayre

Saturday 28th November

More details to follow ...



Remembrance Mass – Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

A Remembrance Mass has been organised by the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage for Friday 20th November 7.00pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington.

This is open to everyone, not just those who have been to Lourdes.

There are special candles that can be purchased to be burned at the Mass in memory of loved ones. These are £3.00 each and available by contacting the Lourdes office – lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk *See poster at the back of church.*

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday.

Next Sunday, 18th October, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio - his charity for world mission - through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world.

There will be a retiring collection at all masses or visit missio.org.uk to donate.

Durham Churches Together

A Quiet Awakening? Younger Adults Exploring Faith – Stories from the Frontline
Saturday 31st October from 10am-12.30pm in the Priors Hall, Durham Cathedral - Across the UK and beyond, many church leaders, researchers and commentators are observing signs of a changing religious landscape. While narratives of decline have often dominated discussions about Christianity, new questions are being raised about growing numbers of younger adults who are showing an interest in faith, spirituality and Christian community.

This Durham Cathedral Institute event brings together experienced practitioners and researchers from different Christian traditions who are engaging directly with younger adults in a variety of settings. Through stories, observations and discussion, our speakers will explore what they are seeing "on the frontline", reflecting on emerging trends, lived experiences and the wider implications for the Church's mission and ministry.

Whether you are involved in church leadership, interested in contemporary religious change, or simply curious about how younger generations are engaging with Christian faith, this conversation offers a timely opportunity to listen, learn and reflect. **People are invited to register [here](#) for a free ticket**– it will help with providing refreshments etc

Speakers

- Canon Dr Ruth Perrin – Associate Minister, King's Church and Research Fellow, St John's College, Durham University and author of Changing Shape: The Faith Life of Millennials
- Dr Martin Dunkley – Senior Leader, Tees Valley Community Church
- Reverend Steph Price – Associate Vicar, St Cuthbert's Darlington
- Reverend Dr Andrew Downie – Parish Priest at St. Cuthbert's Catholic Church and Catholic Chaplain to Durham University

Parish School News



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

This week, the children wore yellow to celebrate World Mental Health Day. It was a lovely way to raise awareness, show support and remind

everyone that looking after our mental health is important. All money raised will be donated to the charity MIND.

- Monday 12th October the children will take part in a Celebration of the Word to celebrate the Feast of Blessed Carlos Acutis. They will learn about how his faith and love for Jesus and how he inspired others through the way he lived his life.

Also on Monday 12th October the harvest boxes will arrive in classrooms. This year for our Harvest Celebration, the Mini Vinnies will be collecting food donations for a local foodbank charity called The Bread-and-Butter Thing. It is a local charity, and some of our families may use the service.

Year 5/6 - tinned food, Year 3 /4 - cereal (boxes), Year 1 /2 - pasta/ rice, etc
LH and EYFS – biscuits

- Friday 16th October the children will wear red to show our support for Show Racism the Red Card. It is a great way to stand together, promote equality and remind everyone that we should treat each other with kindness and respect.



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

This week, the children preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion attended their first sacramental preparation session with

the parish catechists. The session was a great success, and the children engaged enthusiastically as they began this important stage of their faith journey.

We also have a group of excited Year 6 pupils looking forward to their PGL residential visit next week. They will be away from Wednesday to Friday, taking part in a range of adventurous activities and opportunities for personal growth. Please keep them in your prayers for safe travels, good weather and a memorable experience.

Mass Intentions for the Week

11th October 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 10 October	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass John & Sarah Wanless and Kevin Royal Anniversary
Sunday 11 October	9.00am : Sara Nurowski 3 rd Anniversary and Trudie Jones Birthday Remembrance 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Bob Collinson Anniversary
Monday 12 October	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 13 October	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion	NO MASS
Wednesday 14 October	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 15 October	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion	NO MASS
Friday 16 October	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Saturday 17 October	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Anita and Bill Nichols and Norma Smith
Sunday 18 October	9.00am John Hanley 1st Anniversary and Jane Akenhead 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Claire Aylett and Karen Dawn Lennon

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 11	Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thurs 15	Fri 16	Sat 17	Sun 18
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	9.15am	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm