

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 Newsletter
28th September 2025 – 26th Sunday of the Year

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
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(Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit)

Restructuring the Parish Council was discussed at a recent Parish Council meeting, with a suggestion on how long one should be on the Council and how large the Council should be. We have soldiered on for many years without change, very often out of a sense of duty, for which I am indeed very grateful.

New members, smaller numbers perhaps?

I'd like to use this opportunity then to thank each member of the Parish Council for their time and energies, especially those who have served for many years on the Parish Council.

Mary Mc Hugh, Barbara Reilly O'Donnell, Dennis Bradley, John Hayton and Alexander Dominguez now bring their own of experience from their own backgrounds with Age Concern, Education (schools and universities), buildings, safeguarding, and our growing international community. I thank them for their support into the immediate future.

And speaking of our International Community, what a great spirit of fellowship there was at last Sunday's International Meal. Food representing such rich diversity of culture and backgrounds that our parish community represents. Beatrice's French pancakes, a speciality of her native Brittany, were mouthwatering.

But observing Norbert and Hugo in deep mathematical conversations, I could tell they're unravelling of some mathematical puzzle was being made easier by the delightful cuisine they shared. Anne Kelly looks as if she's in line for honorary Polish citizenship.

Continued over/...

Chinese, Mexican, Polish, Malaysian, Spanish, French, Italian, German, Dutch, Indian, African, Philippino, and those I've not mentioned, all together with local English and Irish cultures.

Erica, Cynthia and friends busily keeping the supply chain of teas, coffee plates and cutlery available to all. Well done to everyone and a big Thank You. In times of untruths whipped up worldwide by media and politicians, our meal sharing can be a wonderful sign of care.

“The parish gives character to its surroundings. It curates art and beauty. It is a temple for a community. And, some believe, is a place where Christ’s presence is felt. In short, the parish church is a lifeboat in a sea of madness: remove it and we might very well drown.” *Tim Stanley, writer and broadcaster*

A great sigh of relief was breathed with the reopening of access from Mill Lane to the Sherburn Road.

I do like the design of the new student accommodation.

“Every great architect is - necessarily - a great poet. He must be a great original interpreter of his time, his day, his age. “
Frank Lloyd Wright

Feast Days

Monday, 29 September	Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
Tuesday, 30 September	St. Jerome P, D
Wednesday, 1 October	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus V, D
Thursday, 2 October	The Holy Guardian Angels
Saturday, 4 October	St. Francis of Assisi Rel



Prayers – please keep in your prayers:

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

Anniversaries

Diane Soulsby	David Miller
Eddie McKeown	Kathleen Morris
Don Childs	



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Bernard Gillespie, who died recently.

.. and also to the family and friends of the late Margaret Graham, who died on Monday. Funeral arrangements are not know at this time,

Forthcoming Funeral

Wednesday, 8th October, 10.00am – the Requiem Mass of the late Ken Haswell – at St. Joseph's.

Invitation - The Capuchin Friars warmly invite all parishioners to the celebration of the **Transitus of St Francis of Assisi on Friday, 3rd October at 7.00 pm at St. Godric's Church.**

The *Transitus* (meaning “passing over”) recalls the peaceful death of St Francis in 1226 and his entry into eternal life. It is a time of prayer, reflection, and thanksgiving, uniting us with Franciscan communities throughout the world who keep this beautiful tradition on the eve of his feast. All are most welcome!



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

We will be celebrating
Languages Day in school on
Monday 29th September.

We will be embracing all of
the languages that make our school rich in diversity. If anyone would like to share some words or a story in their home language, St. Joseph's would love to welcome you into our school at any time (not just Monday).

On **Wednesday 1st October** we will be hosting an **Open Evening** from 5.30pm - 6.30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet the teachers; explore the classrooms and facilities and ask any questions you may have about the school. Refreshments will be available, and we look forward to welcoming you into our school community. Come and join us for a cuppa!

On **Friday 3rd October** the children in Year 5 and 6 will be inviting families into their classroom at 3pm . They will be leading a creative prayer linked to the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.



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

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday and

for the fabulous cake donations. This is always a wonderful cause to support.

Our **Open Morning** for parents with children due to start school in September 2026 is on **Wednesday 1st October** in the school hall. Please spread the word.



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

Class 2 hosted the first reading cafe of the academic year on Tuesday

23rd September. We welcomed so many parents, grandparents and friends of St. Thomas More into school to enjoy a cuppa, biscuit and read of a good book. Check the school's 'What's On' for upcoming reading cafes. We do so love to have our families join us in school.

Also, we encourage our families and friends to donate some Harvest Donations into school. We will beginning the collection on Monday 29th September. Harvest Donations will be distributed to those in need.



St Leonard's Catholic Secondary School
<https://stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com/>

Here at St. Leonard's our Holistic Curriculum, shaped by

pupil and parental feedback last year, is in full swing and each week we aim to focus on a particular strand, developing our pupils' abilities outside the classroom.

CAFOD *Family Fast Day* Appeal this Harvest – Friday 3rd October

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10, or use the QR code which links to a CAFOD virtual envelope.



Audio-Visual Equipment, St. Joseph's Jubilee Room

Would all users of this equipment please ensure that all cables and connectors used are put back into the cabinet. The Baptism Group were unable to use the system this week, as there was a cable/connector missing.

What is the Journey in Faith?

The Journey in Faith Parish Programme begins on 6th November and runs until Easter next year. It is held on Thursday evenings at 7.00 in the Jubilee Room at St Joseph's.

The Programme of talks are given by invited speakers from the parish and surrounding area. A copy of the programme will be placed in both churches and on the website. Each session involves a presentation and some informal group discussion and concludes by 8.30 pm with tea and coffee. The programme generally attracts three categories of people

- Those who are curious and want to know more about Catholicism and might want to become more committed
- Those who are already firmly resolved to become Catholics
- Parishioners who come to refresh their own understanding of what our faith teaches, and also, very importantly, to support enquirers and welcome them into our community.

Discussion is always enriched through the attendance of parishioners so do come along and support this. For further information speak Marjorie in the parish office, 07483 369 561.

Thank you



Margaret White would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes, flowers and cards on the occasion of her recent birthday celebrations.

A HUGE THANKYOU to all the wonderful people who helped with the Heritage Open Days over the past two weekends. To the bakers, the tea and coffee makers, the welcomers, the washers up - **EVERYONE** who crossed the doorstep!

JOIN US TO PRAY THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER

Together in faith, hope, and love let us gather and pray for peace, strength and unity during October, month of the rosary.

**St. Joseph's Church, Gilesgate,
All Saturdays in October at 4:30, before the 5pm Mass.**

**At St. Godric's Church
All Sundays in October before the 9:00 am Mass.**



Our elderly parishioners are invited to a Fish and Chips outing to Bell's Restaurant, Newton Hall, Durham on **Tuesday, 7th October at 12.00 noon.** Please put your name and contact number on the list at the back of church if you would like to come along.

Save the date!

We are all looking forward to our Parish Christmas Fayre . Please mark the date in your diaries - **Saturday 29th November 10:30 -1:30 at St Joseph's.** Further details to follow.



Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for September 2025 Ss. Godric and 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 this Sunday, 28th September. A big thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Ways of Giving to support the Parish – in the Work it does and to maintain its Buildings

By Standing Order or Envelope or Cash on the Collection Plates or the Fourth Option of Giving by Debit or Credit Card using the electronic giving plates at the back of each Church or online via the Parish Website. Donations may be able to be gift aided .

To set up a Standing Order or for Internet Banking:

HSBC Bank Account – Durham Martyrs Parish

Sort Code – 40 34 45

Account No – 51179306

Occasionally it may happen that a donation is incorrectly made - eg that too high a donation is made - and it is not realised until sometime afterwards. If you find you have made an error with your donation please contact Fr. Colm in confidence and we will correct it.

Tyneside Newman Association

The next meeting of the Tyneside Circle of the Newman Association will take place on **Tuesday 30 September 2025, at 2.30pm, in the hall of Holy Name, Jesmond**, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 3JX: Nicholas Sagovsky will speak on *'Heart to heart': what has Newman to do with synodality?* Please see the poster at the back of church for further details

Forthcoming Events at Ushaw in October

Bat Walks – On Wednesday 1 October, join us to see some of our resident bats before they hibernate for winter.

With expert guidance from the Durham Bat Group, you'll use special bat detectors to track down and count the fascinating bats that call Ushaw's woodlands home.

Forget Me Notes Choir – 2nd October - Join our friendly and informal choir led by professional musician Bethany Elen Coyle. Come along from 10am to enjoy tea/coffee, then get ready to sing songs from around the world from folk to rock, blues and jazz to classic pop. 10:30am start, no prior experience is required.

Ushaw Proms – 4th October - Experience the tradition and grandeur of **The Last Night of the Proms** in the breathtaking St Cuthbert's Chapel. Let the powerful voices of the Ushaw Chapel Choir, the stirring sounds of the Bearpark & Esh Brass Band and Soprano Soloist Ruth Jenkins-Róbertsson lift your spirits in an unforgettable evening of music.

The Conversation Room – 8th October - a new programme of inspiring and thought-provoking sessions designed to spark curiosity, invite reflection, and ignite meaningful discussion, bringing together voices from a wide range of fields. The first conversation is **Battle of Britain in the North East** Durham artist Denis Fox will share his unique perspective on The Battle of Britain, exploring this pivotal WWII event through the lens of art and memory. Blending historical insight with artistic interpretation, Denis offers a moving tribute to those who shaped this defining moment in British history.

More information on these events and many more can be found on www.ushaw.org

Mass Intentions for the Week

28th September 2025

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 27 September	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Vera Finn, and the Children of Gaza
Sunday 28 September	9.00am Brigid Murray Anniversary and Maire McGinley 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am In thanksgiving for a 70 th Birthday Celebration
Monday 29 September	NO MASS OR SERVICE	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 30 September	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Colin and Estelle Wild	NO MASS OR SERVICE
Wednesday 1 October	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Francis McCabe (Illness)
Thursday 2 October	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Olga Kenna, and Delia Frobisher	NO MASS
Friday 3 October	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Special Intention (PQ)
Saturday 4 October	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Rose Carr Anniversary, Belle Blakey, David Adams Birthday Remembrance, and Rita Ahmad
Sunday 5 October	9.00am Kathleen McTaggart 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Anthony Liam Linnett and the Dunne and Ward Families

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 01	Thurs 2	Fri 3	Sat 4	Sun 5
10.00am and 6.30pm	No Mass	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	9.15am	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm