

**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 – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2026** **7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**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

We had a very lively and productive meeting about schools at our recent Parish Council meeting. Emma Bridon, head of St. Godric's and Tom Hunt, head of St. Thomas More's joined us. Apologies from St. Leonard's. We worked through better ways of communicating with each other at schools and parish levels. The possibility of more regular gatherings together for worship and other possible activities.

Our recent success with the Confirmation Groups and the development of our Parish Youth Group were highlighted as real positive signs for the future. Our parish Mass in St. Leonard's on 12<sup>th</sup> July will also be a milestone in our commitment to supporting our young people. I expect a full house for that. In fact, I would ask you who struggle with school Masses to put aside whatever objections you have, just park them for that Sunday.

John Hayton's talk on benefits was first class and extremely informative, but poorly attended. The net needs to be cast now to those who would benefit most, especially the elderly and dependent. And a big thank you to John.

Thanks to all of you for responding so positively to my invitation to be Ministers and Leaders of the Eucharist. Don't forget that date: 25 July at 10.00 am

## Feast Days

Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> May	St. John 1 Pp M
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Dunstan Bp
Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Bernadene of Siena
Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May	St. Godric of Finchale/St. Christopher Magallanes & Companions MM

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Maureen Milsom
Josephine Lyons	Robin Humphrey
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison
Mary Crilley	Marion Ridley

Anniversaries:

Kevin Crilley	Margaret Robinson
Theresa Wilson	George Michiels
Joyce Hook	Dennis Hawley
Patricia Noble	Stephen Dawson



**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Ian Baillie, whose Funeral Service will take place at **St. Joseph's on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm** followed by burial in St. Laurence Church Yard, Pitlington.

.. and also to the family and friends of the late Mary Carney whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Joseph's on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am** followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

## Forthcoming Funerals

The late **Joyce Grant**, whose funeral will take place at Durham Crematorium on **21<sup>st</sup> May at 1.00pm**.

The late **Sheila Owens**, whose funeral will take place at St. Cuthbert's on **Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am**, followed by cremation in Durham. *Requiescant in pace.*

The late **Danny McCann**, whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St. Joseph's on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am** followed by cremation in Durham at 11.30am.

*Requiescant in pace*

**Care for Creation (formerly Laudato Si') Group 7.30pm Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May in the Franciscan Friary** - Every month we meet to talk about how we as a parish and as individuals can better care for Creation, our common home. All are welcome.

## Laudato Si'

To celebrate Laudato Si' Week, Mass for the Care of Creation is to be celebrated at 10.00 am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at St Augustine's Church, 30 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington DL3 7RG.

The Diocesan Environmental Group wishes to extend an invitation to everyone in the Diocese to attend and to bring family and friends – everyone is welcome!



There will be a parish coffee morning this **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May**. It will take place immediately after the 9.15am Service of the Word and Holy Communion. All proceeds are for the charity Women in Need in Nagpur, India. Everyone is very welcome.



### Parish Summer Baptism Programme

The summer Programme will take place at St. Joseph's on **Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June** from 6.00-9.00pm. Refreshments will be provided. If you wish to enrol, please contact Marjorie for further details and a Registration Form.

**Dates for our forthcoming meetings are: 30<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> July**

We will break in August and meet again in September when we will celebrate our Youth Group turning one!!

We meet in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's after the 5.00pm Vigil Mass. If you are aged between 7-15 you are very welcome to join us.



**Save the Date** – the next **International Lunch** will be taking place in the Jubilee room, **St Joseph's after 10:30 Mass on 7<sup>th</sup> June**. We would love you to join us for this happy celebration of the rich diversity of nationalities in our parish. If you are able to, please bring a traditional dish from your part of the world.

### Invitation to pay the rosary together

All are welcome to join us to pray the Holy Rosary this month of May. We will be praying the Rosary all Fridays during May at 7.00pm.



Date	Church	Group Leading
15 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Godric's	Legion of Mary
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	St. Joseph's	Parish Schools
29 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Godric's	SVP



## Summer Concert

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm a Summer Concert at St Godric's, given by the St. Godric's Choir. See poster in the porch at the back of both churches.

## Confirmation Mass



We had a wonderful and joyful celebration on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May when 44 young people received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Stephen Wright, followed by a celebration buffet in the Jubilee Room.

Many thanks to Sarah and Ciaran for their leadership and encouragement over the past weeks and months culminating in a very special evening. Thanks also to all the helpers who provided the buffet, set and cleared the tables, not forgetting the clearing and washing up.

We warmly congratulate all the young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. It was a truly special occasion, and we celebrate this important step in your faith journey. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and inspire you, and that you will remain active members of our parish community, growing in faith and sharing your gifts with others.

We would love to hear from you as you continue your journey within the parish. If you have any ideas about what you would like to see in parish life, whether that be events such as a family fun day or other activities you would enjoy getting involved in, please do email Sarah. Your voice is important, and we look forward to building a vibrant parish community together.



### **Wednesday morning refreshments at St Joseph's Church**

Refreshments are normally served after the 10am Mass on Wednesday mornings until approximately 12.00. Everyone is welcome so please join us for tea/coffee, cake and a chat if you possibly can.

### **Music Matters - A Day of Reflection for Musicians – Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June, 10am-4pm**

The Diocesan Church Music Association (DCMA) invite all parish musicians to a day of reflection on the role of the liturgy and music in the Mass at the beautiful setting of Ushaw College, Durham, DH7 7DW.

The day will be an opportunity to reflect the liturgy and the role of music in the Mass, and will be an opportunity to meet fellow musicians from across the Diocese. The day will be led by Fr. Adrian Dixon (Diocesan Liturgy team), Philip Robinson (Diocesan Choir) and Alison McLean (DCMA). There is a £7.50 charge for the day, to book a place please email [dcma@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:dcma@diocesehn.org.uk)

See poster at the back of each church.

### **St. Godric's Choir**

The St. Godric's Choir is looking to recruit new members, especially female voices. Come and join our small friendly choir, with minimal commitment. We rehearse, briefly, before and after Mass each Sunday, with occasional longer rehearsals in the lead up to Easter, Christmas and concerts. Speak to any choir member if you would like to find out more. Thank you.

### **Volunteer Drivers**

If you drive a vehicle to carry out church-related duties, you should check the level of cover provided by your insurance company and tell them that you are volunteering. In the vast majority of cases your insurance company will not charge an additional insurance premium for your volunteering work and will simply make a note on your policy. They may provide cover under your SDP policy or they could choose to add personal business cover. If they suggest that a payment is required, this may be waived if you tell them how little you drive for the church compared to your other activities.

Please complete the annual declaration (Form F8) downloadable via this link: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/services/health-safety/health-safety-manual/>

Submit the form to your parish health and safety representative [johnwells2911@gmail.com](mailto:johnwells2911@gmail.com) or to the parish secretary. You do not need to provide documentation. Examples of church-related journeys include:

- those who use cars to take communion to the housebound
- driving to the bank with collection monies
- being part of a rota to collect members of (for example) a lunch club
- an organised or semi-organised arrangement where parishioners with cars pick up other parishioners to bring them to Mass.

## Growing Together in Faith Group

This new group will be holding fortnightly sessions on **Thursday evenings, at 7:30 in the Jubilee Room**. The first session was held on 14<sup>th</sup> May.



## Parish School News



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

On Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, the children in Year 3 and 4 will be taking part in a Meet the Scientist online workshop. This is a follow-on from their visit to

the Life Science Centre, and they will be learning all about generating fuel from hydrogen.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May it will be a non-uniform day and donations of toys and books for the upcoming Summer Fayre would be greatly appreciated.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May the whole school will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May we would like to invite parents and families to the end of term Celebration Assembly in the school hall at 2pm.



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

We are so proud of our Year 6 children and the way they approached their SATs this week. They showed real

determination, resilience and a positive attitude throughout – a credit to themselves and the school. Well done, Year 6!

On Friday afternoon, we enjoyed a wonderful International Event, which was a huge success. Ten different countries were represented by families in our school, and it was a joy to see everyone sharing interesting facts, traditions and, of course, some delicious food to try. It really was a lovely celebration of our diverse community.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time to support the event – we are very grateful. A special thank you to Violeta for organising such a fantastic afternoon.

Next week, we look forward to celebrating our feast day, remembering the life of St. Godric on Thursday, with a special treat provided by the Friends of St. Godric.



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

A huge, heartfelt congratulations to our fantastic Year 6 children who completed their SATs last week

– we are so incredibly proud of each and every one of you! You showed determination, resilience and a brilliant attitude throughout. Remember, these tests are only a small part of who you are – they don't capture your kindness, your creativity, your humour or your many talents. Now it's time to celebrate your hard work, relax, and enjoy all the fun and exciting experiences Mrs Dearden has planned for you this summer term as you prepare for your exciting next chapter in secondary school.

We would also like to say a big thank you and well done to the rest of the school. We know it was a slightly different week, but the children were wonderfully considerate, patient and respectful while the tests were taking place. You all helped to make the week a success – thank you.



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

St. Leonards School are looking to appoint a School Lay Chaplain. Please click the link

below for more information/how to apply.

[School Lay Chaplain - Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust - North East Jobs](#)

We are also hosting a Durham Martyrs' Mass on **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> July at 10.00am in the School**. We hope you can join us for the celebration of Mass together. Refreshments will be served after Mass in the school gardens. See poster in both churches.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

17<sup>th</sup> May 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 16 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Kevin Crilly
Sunday 17 May	9.00am Frank and Bernard McGoay and Susannah and George Michiels 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.00am In thanksgiving for 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday, Sylvia Colligan, and Patrick McQuillan 9 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
Monday 18 May	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 19 May	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am Theresa Wilson	NO MASS
Wednesday 20 May	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Elizabeth and John McGurk
Thursday 21 May	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Eileen Reider RIP	NO MASS
Friday 22 May	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am - St. Joseph's Whole School Mass Richard Harrison
Saturday 23 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Margret White and Joyce Grant
Sunday 24 May PENTECOST	9.00am Bridget Grehasn-Bradley	10.30am Veronica and Eric Smith

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 17	Mon 18	Tue 19	Wed 20	Thurs 21	Fri 22	Sat 23	Sun 24
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	7.00pm	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm