***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*

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# Parish Newsletter: 22nd November 2026
## Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

**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)

### When Did We See You?

When did we see You hungry, Lord,
Or shivering in the cold night air?
You stood disguised in every face—
A quiet plea, a whispered prayer.

When did we see You thirsty, Lord,
Or burdened by a heavy load?
You walked beside us, unannounced,
Along our crowded, hurried road.

When did we see You, Lord, in need—
A stranger longing to belong?
In every soul we turned away,
We failed to see You all along.

And when You gather us one day,
Dividing sheep from wandering goats,
May mercy be our truest mark,
And love the law within our throats.

Feast Days

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday, 23rd November | St. Clement I Pp/M/St. Columban Ab |
| Tuesday, 24th November | St. Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions MM |
| Wednesday, 25th November | St. Catherine of Alexandria V, M |
| Thursday, 26th November | St. Leonard of Porto Maurizio Rel |

**Prayers** – please keep in your prayers:




| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Sheila Wressel | Rose Simpson | Sigrid Peyerimhoff |
| Nigel Anthony Cunningham | Frank Firth | Rita Harrison |
| Tom Kimmit | Shirley Harrison | Amanda Hyland |
| Mary Crilley | Tom Smith | Matt Pallister |

Anniversaries:

| | |
|---|---|
| Brian O'Connor | Maureen Bryden |
| Norah Shaw | Tess Moon |
| Stella Jarvis | Audrey Loughlin |
| Richard Barker | |



Forthcoming Funerals

Norman Jones – Wednesday, 25th November, 2.00pm at Durham Crematorium.

Peter Ross Craig – Wednesday, 2nd December, 11.00am-12.00pm at Durham Crematorium. *Requiescant in pace.*

Advent Charity Soup Lunches



Thank you to our wonderful groups for offering to host the Advent lunches. All from 12.00-1.00pm in the Don Bosco Room.

Friday 4th December SVP
Friday, 11th December – Justice & Peace
Friday, 18th December – 'Mary Ward Loreto UK' which works against Human Trafficking in Albania.

Legion of Mary

Our Meetings now take place at St. Joseph's Jubilee room every Friday at 7.15 pm instead of at St. Godrics because of better parking at St. Joseph's. If anyone would like to come they could message Kenute Lewis on 07957914925.




**Reminder from the Youth Group** – the next meeting will take place **this Saturday, 21st November.**

**Parish Community Christmas Fayre - 10:30 - 12:30 Saturday 28th November.**



Our Christmas Fayre is nearly here. Thank you so much for your generous support. Many of you have offered to help in advance, during and with clearing up. We would still welcome more volunteers to ensure that this special occasion will be more successful than ever.

Contributions towards our raffle and Tombola stalls continue to be very welcome. ***May we remind you to bring some cash with you as not all stallholders will have a card machine.***



**If you would like to bake for our cake stall, could you bring any cakes to Church on Friday 27th before 6pm or on the morning of the Fayre, with a list of ingredients, Thank you.**

The Jubilee Room will be open for preparations on the following days

**Thursday 26th November 10am-4pm**

**Friday 27th November 10am-6pm**

**Saturday 28th November 8am**

**Looking forward to a very special Community event.**

**Marjorie, Cynthia and Erica**



**World Youth Sunday**

Today we celebrate World Youth Sunday, giving thanks for the young people of our Diocese and praying for their continued growth in faith.

The retiring collection today supports the Youth Ministry Trust (YMT), helping young people encounter Christ through retreats, events and outreach across our Diocese. You can scan the QR code on the poster to donate. Thank you for your prayers and generous support.

**Thank You from NEPACS**




A big thank you to everyone who donated craft items in Prisons Week for children visiting their mums in Low Newton. Nepacs were delighted with the collection and will be able to share some items with HMP Durham as well for children visiting their dads.

## Parish Invite to HMP Durham Christmas Carol Service 2026

The chaplaincy team at HMP Durham would like to invite representatives of the parish to attend *The Light That Shines in The Darkness…*, this year's Christmas Carol Service for prisoners.

A wide range representatives from local faith groups and community organisations will be in attendance. There will be two services on Wednesday 16th December 2026 with arrivals at 8.15 AM or 1.00PM.

If you would like to volunteer to represent the parish at this event, **please contact Marjorie by Thursday 3rd December** indicating if you wish to attend in the morning or afternoon. We will then contact the prison Chaplaincy Team with your details – see below:

**Please include your full name, D.O.B & National Insurance number and organisation your are representing for gate entry.**

**Please arrive at the Main Gate (19B Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 3HU) at or before the following times: 8:15 (AM service) or 13:00 (PM Service)**

**Please have Photographic ID to show on arrival at the gate. Mobile phones, Electronics devices, Cigarettes and Lighters must NOT be brought into the establishment, please leave them somewhere safe.**

**FILM NIGHT SPECIAL - 'The People's Emergency Briefing'**, is an important film explaining much about Climate change, and how we can better understand how it could affect us. It will be shown in the **Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's on Wednesday, 2nd December at 7.00 pm.**

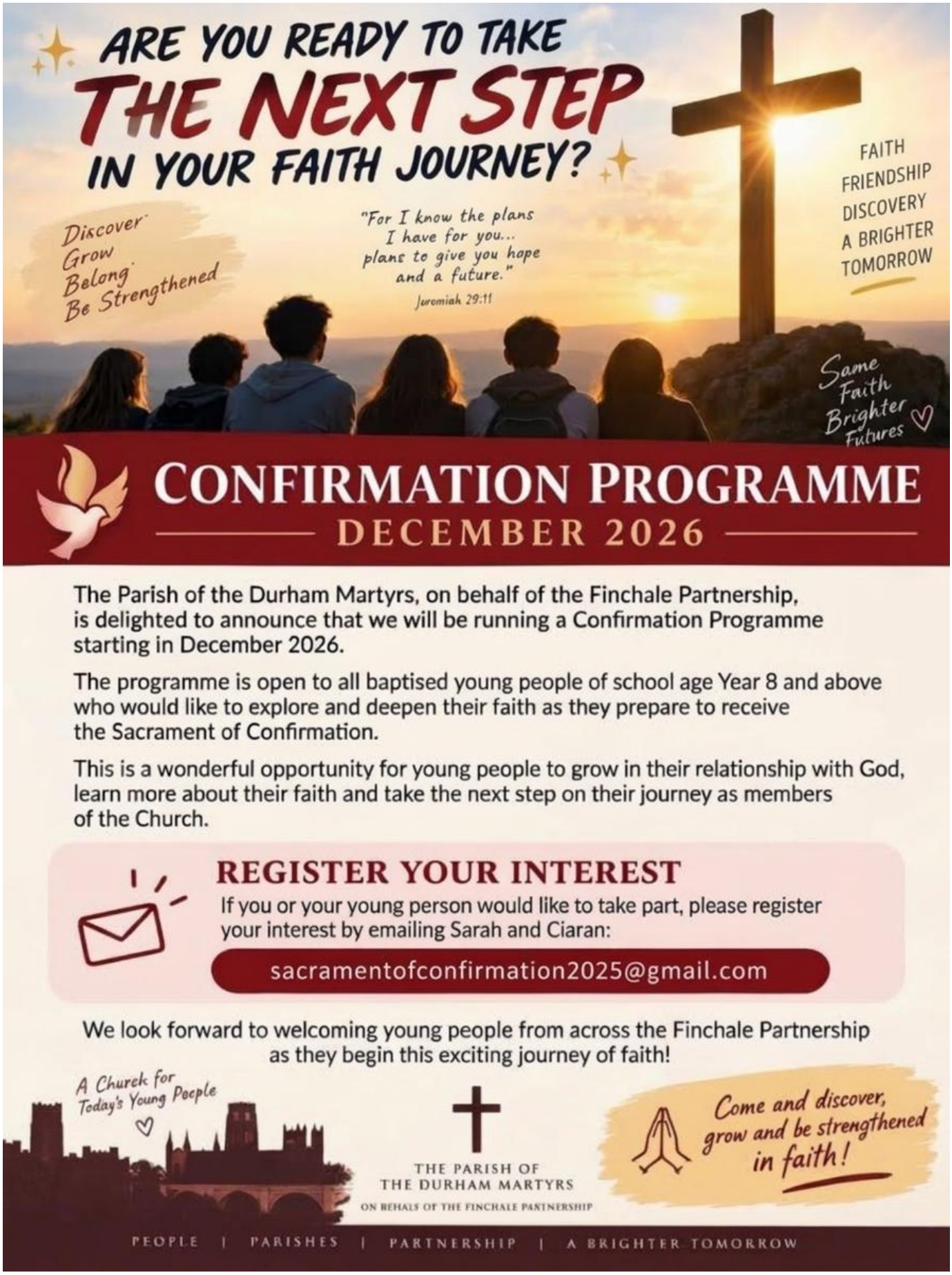
Please put this in your diary and come along. All over 16's are welcome. It is introduced by Chris Packham, with other celebrities involved. It is not a long film there will be time for discussion and still to be away by 8.30-9.00 Refreshments provided.

## Tip for Sustainable Living

Don't buy unnecessary presents this Christmas. Each year the UK spends about £700 million on unwanted presents.

Find out what people need before you buy. Or bring joy to the world by buying a Cafod World Gift from cafod.org.uk/worldgifts
*(Care for Creation Group)*

Confirmation 2026/2027



**Public Lecture -** Professor Grant Macaskill (Lightfoot Professor of Divinity): Autism, the New Testament, and the Grammars of Theology. **Wednesday 2nd December, 5-6.30pm, Elvet Riverside room 201**(online access will be advertised in due course.) This lecture will explore developments in the representation of autism and neurodiversity, as these intersect with Christian theology and practice. Medical models of autism have characteristically employed the linguistics of "deficit" and "disorder," representing autism in essentially negative terms. These have been widely reflected in Christian theology and practice, with autism treated as something that needs to be healed or even exorcised. But autism is increasingly understood as "difference," framed by the paradigm of neurodiversity, and this demands a different theology and practice. The act of developing such a theology—deeply attentive to its own linguistics—has wider implications for interdisciplinary approaches to neurodiversity.

## Parish School News

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

This week, our children have been taking part in Anti-Bullying Week with the theme 'Break the Silence'. The children have explored the importance of speaking up, treating others with kindness and knowing where to go for help.

We finished the week with a non-uniform day on Friday and received so many donations for our Feeding Families campaign. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped support local families.

A reminder that applications for a Reception place starting in September 2027 must be submitted by 15th January. If you would like to arrange a tour of our school, please contact us at info@stgd.bwcet.com.

We also have Nursery places available from January. Anyone interested is welcome to join us for an information meeting in school on Wednesday 2nd December at 10.00am to find out more. We look forward to meeting you.

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

**Events this week:**

**Monday 23rd November** - Nursery and Reception are warmly inviting prospective parents and families to come and look around our welcoming school. This is a chance to meet the staff and see our fantastic learning environments. The event will start at 3.45pm till 5.00pm. Alternatively, please contact the school office to arrange a visit on 0191 3865611.

**Wednesday 25th November** - Year 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

**Friday 27th November** is a Non-Uniform Day. Any donations of Festive chocolates and sweets will be greatly received to support our Christmas Fayre.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

22nd November

| | St Godric's | St Joseph's |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday 21 November | NO MASS | 5.00pm Vigil Mass<br>Audrey & Thomas Loughlin,<br>Bede Murray Birthday Remembrance<br>and Ernest Layton Anniversary |
| Sunday 22 November | 9.00am<br>Audrie Walsh Birthday Remembrance<br>3.00-4.00pm – Exposition | 10.30am<br>Roger Charlton and deceased members of the Charlton Family,<br>Austin Flynn Anniversary, and James Pickering Birthday Remembrance |
| Monday 23 November | NO MASS | 9.15am<br>Service of Word and Holy Communion |
| Tuesday 24 November | 9.30am – Exposition<br>10.00am<br>Colin and Estelle Wild | NO MASS |
| Wednesday 25 November | NO MASS | 9.30am - Exposition<br>10.00am<br>Helen Martin (Illness)<br>(St. Joseph's Years 3 and 4 attending) |
| Thursday 26 November | 9.30am – Exposition<br>10.00am - Eleanor & James Murray Birthday Remembrances | NO MASS |
| Friday 27 November | NO MASS | 9.30am - Exposition<br>10.00am<br>Special Intention in honour of our Saints, and healing for Joe. |
| Saturday 28 November | NO MASS | 5.00pm Vigil Mass<br>Belle Blakey |
| Sunday 29 November | 9.00am<br>John Carré Anniversary<br>(Baptism after Mass)<br>3.00-4.00pm – Exposition | 10.30am<br>Drina Byrne (RIP Coatbridge) and Terence Barron RIP |

St. Cuthbert's

| Sun 22 | Mon 23 | Tue 24 | Wed 25 | Thurs 26 | Fri 27 | Sat 28 | Sun 29 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10.00am and 6.30pm | NO MASS | NO MASS | 7.00pm | 12.15pm | 12.15pm | 9.15am | 10.00am and 6.30pm |