

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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Parish Newsletter – 23rd March 2025 3rd Sunday of Lent

Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers

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Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544/0191 3332183

(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

The Barren Fig-Tree by John Newton

The church a garden is
In which believers stand,
Like ornamental trees
Planted by God's own hand:
His Spirit waters all their roots,
And every branch abounds with fruits.
But other trees there are,
In this enclosure grow;
Which, though they promise fair,
Have only leaves to show:
No fruits of grace are on them found,
They stand but cumb'ers of the ground.

The under gard'ner grieves,
In vain his strength he spends,
For heaps of useless leaves,
Afford him small amends:
He hears the Lord his will make known,
To cut the barren fig-trees down.
How difficult his post,
What pangs his bowels move,
To find his wishes crossed,
His labors useless prove!
His last relief is earnest prayer,

Lord, spare them yet another year.

Spare them, and let me try
 What farther means may do;
 I'll fresh manure apply,
 My digging I'll renew
 Who knows but yet they fruit may yield!
 If not--'tis just, they must be felled.
 If under means of grace,
 No gracious fruits appear;
 It is a dreadful case,
 Though God may long forbear:
 At length he'll strike the threatened blow,
 And lay the barren fig-tree low.

Feast Day

Tuesday, 25 th March	The Annunciation of the Lord
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Please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Tony Twomey
Ann Hourican	Jean Smith
Mary Armstrong	Ann Close
Sheila Owens	Margaret Graham
Margaret Nancarrow	Veronica O'Reilly
Freda March	Judith McLean
Ann Childs	Christopher Godbolt
A sick baby	Izzabella Davey
Frances Openshaw	

Anniversaries

Edith Quinn	Peggy Thompson
Jim Harrison	John McMahon
Gloria Webb	



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Maureen Harris, who sadly died on 16th March. Her Requiem Mass will take place at St. Godric's on Thursday, 10th April, followed by burial in South Road Cemetery. *Requiescat in pace.*

Journey in Faith

The next meeting of Journey in Faith will take place at St. Joseph's on Thursday, 27th March at 2.30pm.



Congratulations to Alex Otty and Thomas Clark who will celebrate their marriage at St. Joseph's next Saturday, 29th March at 12.30pm.

Thank you – to everyone who came and enjoyed the parish ceilidh last Saturday night, and to all those who helped in the organizing, those who provided the raffle prizes, and those who helped set up and clear up afterwards. We have had great feedback.



Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for the month 2025 Ss. Godric and Bede Red mission boxes / donations for St Bede's will be collected and emptied by sponsors in the usual way during March. Please bring those for St. Godric's to Sunday Mass on 2nd, 9th, 16th or 23rd March.



A big **thank you** for your continued support and generosity.

Refreshments – will be available following Mass on a Wednesday morning at St Joseph's. Coffee/tea will be served in the porch. All are welcome.



Confirmation

Please note that there will be a **youth-led Mass** this Sunday 23rd March at St. Joseph's at 10:30am.

*The
Season
of
Lent*



The Season of Lent

Sunrise Services – St. Joseph's

Sunrise Services will take place at St. Joseph's on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7.30am throughout Lent.

Penitential Service – there will be a parish Penitential Service at St. Godric's on Thursday, 15th April at 7.00pm

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will take place each Friday evening throughout Lent.

Date	Church	Group
28 th March	St. Joseph's	SVP
4 th April	St. Godric's	Lunch Club
11 th April	St. Joseph's	Local Community

Please note there will be a youth-led **Stations of the Cross, on Good Friday** in **St. Joseph's at 10.00am** which will be young-child friendly and we hope to see lots of families there.

Charity Lenten Lunches

Date	Group
28 th March	Justice and Peace Group
4 th April	Sanctuary 21
11 th April	Bereavement Support Group

Easter Services and Masses

Day	Date	Time	Church
Holy Thursday	17 th April	7.00pm	St. Godric's
Good Friday	18 th April	3.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Saturday	19 th April	7.00pm	St. Joseph's
Easter Sunday	20 th April	9.00am 10.30am	St. Godric's St. Joseph's

Celebration of the Mini Triduum – a celebration of the Mini Triduum for the sick and housebound has been organised for the Wednesday of Holy Week – 16th April. This will take place at 2.00pm in St. Joseph's Church, followed by a 'Celebratory Tea' in the Jubilee Room provided by the SVP. More information to follow.

Lego Prayer Station – St. Joseph's Church

There is a Lego prayer station set up in the porch of St Joseph's Church. All our children and young people (and young at heart!) are invited to place a brick of Lego on the baseboard as they pray for their intention. Please do not remove other bricks as these are someone's prayers. If you wish you can write your name or your intention on the sheet next to it so others can join you in praying. Let's see what we build together as we talk to God.



St. Leonards' Spring Concert

Tuesday, 1st April

7.00pm at Elvet Methodist Church

Tickets are available from: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-leonards-catholic-school/spring-concert/2025-04-01/19:00/t-pqeoddg>

Spring Movie Night

CONCLAVE

Our Movie Night will take place on Thursday 3rd April 6:30pm in the Jubilee Room. "One of the most entertaining and gripping films of the year" Starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow and Isabella Rossellini.

Wine and light refreshments will be served.

Don't forget your cushions !

Altar Servers

All current altar servers, and children interested in becoming altar servers (mainly children in years 5 and 6 who have received their first holy communion, and those in year 4 who will be receiving it this year) are invited to learn about the role.

We'll have a chat to learn about what it means, what it involves and will practice in church.

Pizza will be served afterwards!

Place: St Joseph's Church, Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Date: Saturday 29th March 2025

Time: 6:00 pm (After the 5:00 pm Mass)

To RSVP and request information email:

stjosephsinternationalgroup@gmail.com

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Please note, for those parishioners who donate through the Gift Aid scheme using envelopes, the envelopes for the new tax year will be available at the back of Church from this weekend. It would be great if you could collect yours.

If anyone currently making Gift Aid donations via bank standing order, would like a supply of Special Collections envelopes or, if you have any queries please let me know, either by email estherrobson@ymail.com or you can call me on my mobile 07969 528874.

Many thanks, as always, for your support.

Esther Robson

Gift Aid Administrator for the Parish of the Durham Martyrs

From the Diocese

Job Vacancy - The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following vacancy: **Safeguarding Co-ordinator**

Based at the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle – full-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 25 March at 12.00pm. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Youth2000 Holy Hour with Carlo Acutis. Young people are welcome to join a Holy Hour during the tour of the Carlo Acutis relics. This will be held on Friday 28th March from 6-7pm as part of the vigil at St Michael's Church, Houghton le Spring.

Praise and worship music provided by Set a Fire from Durham University and Sunderland University chaplaincy.

From Durham Churches Together

On **Saturday 22 March**, there is a Pilgrimage Walk from St Mary and St Cuthbert's Church, Chester-le-Street, to Durham Cathedral leaving at 10.30 a.m. or you can join at Finchale Priory, leaving at 1.15 p.m. and arriving at the Cathedral in time for a **celebration of the Eucharist at 4.00 p.m. (see below)**. You can get to Chester-le-Street by train or to Finchale Priory by bus from Durham County Hall. The latter will leave County Hall at 12.15 p.m. (Cars may be parked at County Hall free of charge that day.) The bus to Finchale costs £7. You don't need to book onto the pilgrimage itself but you do need to book the bus: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/finchale-camino-annual-pilgrimage-2025-tickets-1249436270519

During the day on Saturday there will be family activities in the Cathedral on the theme of St Cuthbert. And, **at 4.00 p.m.**, there will be a celebration of the Eucharist in honour of St Cuthbert sung by Durham Cathedral Choir and Newcastle Cathedral Choir at which the President and Preacher is the Bishop of Jarrow, the Right Reverend Sarah Clark. You are welcome to attend and sit in the congregation. Seats are free for all and you don't need to tell us if you are coming.

Mass Intentions for the Week

23rd March 2025

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 22 March	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Anthony Farmer
Sunday 23 March	9.00am Peter Cura 3.00pm-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Hugh and Sibby Conway, and Maureen Coulthard
Monday 24 March	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 25 March	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Colin and Stella Wild	NO MASS
Wednesday 26 March	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Dorothy and James Sweeney
Thursday 27 March	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am The Galloway Family	NO MASS
Friday 28 March	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Mary and Jim Goodwin
Saturday 29 March	NO MASS	12.30pm Marriage Service of Alex Otty and Thomas Clark 5.00pm Vigil Mass Kenneth Rowlands
Sunday 30 March	9.00am The Michiels and Condon Family 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Arthur Binks Birthday Remembrance, and Bob Townsin

St. Cuthbert's – ****Extra Mass on Sunday 23rd at 11.00 for Catenians – everyone welcome**

Sun 23	Mon 24	Tue 25	Wed 26	Thurs 27	Fri 28	Sat 29	Sun 30
10.00am and ** 6.30pm	No Mass	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm