

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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Sunday 17th March 2024 Parish Newsletter



Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden
Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818544/01913332183
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

Our International Meal was a joy. Dishes of many cultures were enjoyed but a good attendance. May I thank you all for your generosity of time, food preparation and presentation.

“Food is also about pleasure, about community, about family and spirituality, about our relationship to the natural world, and about expressing our identity. As long as humans have been taking meals together, eating has been as much about culture as it has been about biology.”

There is a sense that the Pandemic has impacted worldwide more than first thought. Social and work habits have changed. We as church, as parish, are not immune from these changes. What has not changed is our deep need to gather, to meet friends. This is where parish offers something unique. An opportunity to meet friendly faces, both familiar and new. They say that familiarity can breed contempt, but it also breeds acceptance, and kindness. It is marvellous hearing and seeing our parishioners share in this familiarity, especially after being deprived of it for so long.

Yes, all has changed but perhaps for the better too. Perhaps we presumed too much on habit. Now we are challenged in an exciting and different way. We need to move into new terrain. Perhaps a new type of parish community? Right across the Diocese change is happening. Some parishes have lost sizeable numbers through death, changing habits – yes, church going would seem to have been more habitual. Sadly, quite a number of parishes will not recover.

Continued over/.....

What was a slow drip before the pandemic has been a rapid gush. We, at the Durham Martyrs, have been fortunate and blessed. What does the future hold?

Moving forward we need the wisdom of our senior members, but we perhaps more than ever, need the vibrancy and vision of our younger parishioners. These are the challenges, exciting challenges. Can I please ask our younger parishioners to step up. I will be asking individually. Beware!

Next Tuesday, at **St. Joseph's**, there is an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Holy Week. Please join us at **7.00pm** in this parish celebration of God's love.

“You, our God, shall be arbiter between my confessions and their contradictions.”

St. Augustine, *The Confessions of St. Augustine* by St. Augustine – Michael Pollan,

Feast Days

Sunday, 17 th March	St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland
Tuesday, 19 th March	St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday, 20 th March	St. Cuthbert, Patron of the Diocese

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Meg Dixon	Yvonne Reid
Sheila Owen	Jared Howarth
Breda Gallagher	Francesca Camilerni
Sean Casey	Nicola Dawson
Brian Harland	Betty Eccles
Halusia Good	Helen Tumelty
Tony Twomey	Sheila Wressell
Lorraine Scullion	Margaret Robinson
Kitty Trainor	Cud Hall
Margaret Graham	

Anniversaries

Nancy Howes	Victoria Garnham
Agnes Addison-Smyth	Elizabeth Glaister
Edith Quinn	Mary Morgan



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Ken Riddle, whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Godric's on **Tuesday, 26th March at 1.30pm**, followed by cremation in Durham at 2.30pm

... and also to the family of the late Bill Harris, whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St. Godric's on Tuesday, 9th April at 10.30am** followed by cremation in Durham at 12.00pm. *Requiescant in pace.*

Funerals this week

David Kelly, Funeral Service at Durham Crematorium, 21st March at 2.00pm



There will be an Easter coffee morning this **Monday 18th March** in St Bede's Room in St Godric's School. It will take place immediately after the 9.15am Service of the Word and Holy Communion. All proceeds are for Women in Need in India. Everyone is very welcome.

Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for the month of March 2024
Ss. Godric and Bede - Red mission boxes 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 before the end of March. A big thank you for your continued support and generosity.



*The
Season
of
Lent*



Stations of the Cross – the final Stations of the Cross will take place at St. Joseph's on Friday, 22nd March and will conclude with the distribution of Holy Communion.

Date	Church	Group
22 nd March	St. Joseph's	Justice and Peace

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches - 12.00-1.00pm at St. Joseph's

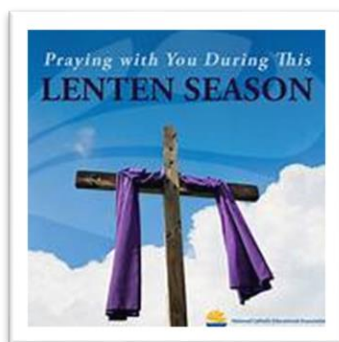
Grateful thanks to the groups who have hosted our Lenten Charity Lunches. The final Lenten Charity Soup Lunch is being hosted by the Bereavement Support Group.

Date	Group
22 March	Bereavement Support Group

Holy Week Masses/Services

Day	Date	Time	Church
Mini Triduum	27 th March	2.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Thursday	28 th March	7.00pm	St. Godric's
Good Friday	29 th March	3.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Saturday	30 th March	7.00pm	St. Joseph's
Easter Sunday	31 st March	9.00am St. Godric's	10.30am 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 – 27th March. 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. For catering purposes, please complete form at the back of both churches if you wish to attend, and if you require transport, please contact a member of the SVP.



Prayer Cards

Our wonderful children from St. Godric's, St. Joseph's and St. Thomas More Primary Schools would like to invite you to take a prayer card from the back of church. Each child has lovingly designed each one, to share both their Lenten and Easter thoughts through prayer and art. Please do take one for yourself or for anyone else you think may like to receive one.

St. Leonard's Spring Concert

The Spring Concert will take place at St. Joseph's this Thursday, 21st March at 7.00pm, and music will include Mozart Missa Brevis in D Minor, KV65. All welcome – free entry. *See poster.*

St. Cuthbert's Day: On Wednesday 20th March, the annual St. Cuthbert's Day Mass takes place at Ushaw. Mass is at 12 noon, and Mgr. John Marsland will preach.

All are welcome to attend. If you wish to stay for lunch after Mass, please sign up at <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/> to help Ushaw to estimate numbers

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Dear Gift Aiders, your annual statement for the tax year 2022/2023 will be available for collection at the back of Church after each Mass this weekend (16th/17th March). I'm delighted to be able to tell you that your Gift Aid donations for tax year 2022/2023 totalled £63,508.35, the tax reclaimed on this amount and paid to the parish was £14,448.34 after administration costs.

Thank you so much for your support, I hope you will agree that it feels great to receive such a significant amount back from HMRC, at no further cost to ourselves! Many thanks again.

Esther (Robson), Gift Aid Administrator



Durham Martyrs Walking Group –March 2024

Our next walk will take place **this Saturday 16th March**, led by Gillian Macarthur and will be a pleasant walk of approximately 4½ miles from Hawthorn Village, through the dene and along the coastal path.

The walk starts and ends at the Stapylton Arms village pub so there will be an opportunity for food/ refreshments afterwards. It is suggested that as parking in the village is limited, we meet at St. Joseph's car park at 9.30am and arrange to share transport.

Homelessness / Mental Health Support

The parish homelessness support team have been working Sanctuary 21 for seven years now and continue to support their work. We will be holding a joint fundraising coffee and crafts event at Sanctuary 21 in partnership with St Margaret's Centre, a mental health charity in Durham. There is a strong link between homelessness and mental ill health and this is a good opportunity to support both charities.

The event will take place on **Saturday 23rd March** between **10.30am and 13.30pm** at **Sanctuary 21 in Saddler Street**. Please come along and support this event if you are able and enjoy very reasonably priced refreshments and the opportunity to view and purchase handcrafted products made at St Margaret's Centre

Carmel Teacher Training Partnership – Train local, Teach local - You can train at a Primary or Secondary school near you. Tax fee bursaries are available up to £30,000. Apply online now at www.carmelteachertraining.com

See poster at the back of each church.

Durham Churches Together Good Friday Witness

The Durham Churches Together Annual Good Friday Act of Witness will start inside St Nic's Church in Durham Market Place at 11.45am on Good Friday.

At noon we will process from the Market Place around the High Street behind the Cross, ending in the Market Place where we will pray and sing hymns.

Please let's have lots of people to witness to what Jesus has done for humanity!

More information from Matt Pallister on 07929 796 599

Mass Intentions for the Week



17th March 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 16 March		5.00pm Vigil Mass John and Olive Doyle
Sunday 17 March	9.00am Rose Carr Birthday Remembrance 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am In thanksgiving for a long and happy marriage (Ann and Bob) and Victoria Garnham Anniversary
Monday 18 March	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word ad Holy Communion
Tuesday 19 March	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Hilda Reader (SVP) and Ena McBride	7.00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday 20 March	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Peter and Catherine McLoughlin
Thursday 21 March	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Special Intention (AT)	NO MASS
Friday 22 March	NO MASS	9.30am Exposition 10.00am The sick and suffering
Saturday 23 March	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Jack and John Turnbull
Sunday 24 March	9.00am Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	10.30am Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 17	Mon 18	Tue 19	Wed 20	Thurs 21	Fri 22	Sat 23	Sun 24
10am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm (Service of Word & Holy Communion)	7.00pm	12.125pm	12.15pm (Service of Word & Holy Communion)	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm

Durham Martyrs Justice and Peace Group

Justice and Peace Groups exist in a number of parishes in our diocese and come under the Diocesan Caritas Group chaired by Father Adrian Tuckwell. The remit of each *Justice and Peace Group* is:

Prayer – Study - Action

We seek to study and learn about injustices that exist locally, nationally and internationally. We pray about such injustices and seek to raise awareness as to how we and others can act individually and collectively to provide support, for example, for local food banks and asylum seekers ineligible for government assistance, and how we can address the consequences of global warming.

We publicise and encourage support for CAFOD campaigns, such as the 'Fix the Food Chain' campaign last year, and the CAFOD Harvest and Lenten collections. We use CAFOD and Christian Aid resources to inform ourselves about current injustices, and draw upon the spiritual resources of these organisations to support our prayers for Justice and Peace. Members of our group are involved with the Tyne and Wear Citizens group, an alliance of organisations that seek to address injustices in our region, such as poverty and racial injustice, and campaigns on issues such as the need for green spaces and the payment of a living wage.

In addition to supporting events such as Peace Sunday and Holocaust Memorial Day in our parish, we have recently undertaken to pray for and study ways of supporting and promoting Pope Francis' call for Catholics to 'Live Simply'. Together with many others in our parish we have been engaged in collecting signatures for the petition in support of St. Leonard's pupils, and other school pupils, whose education has been severely adversely affected by their school buildings being declared unsafe and closed.

We would very much welcome new members to the Durham Martyrs *Justice and Peace Group*. If you are interested in obtaining further information about the group, or wish to join the group, please contact Marjorie, the Parish Secretary at the Parish Office (tel: 07483 369 561), who will put you in touch with one of the members listed below:

Frances Armstrong, Mary Earnshaw, Rob McKay, Pat Conway, Carol O'Brien