

**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 – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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All questionnaires have been submitted and assessed for the Diocesan review of parishes and have some common themes, but the overarching concern is how to attract younger people back to church. It makes it more important therefore for us to support those who already attend. There were almost 150 questionnaires completed, which is a great response. Thank you. While the Parish Council had a meeting agenda, much of our lengthy discussion was focused on the Diocesan Questionnaire. Our next meeting is with the School Heads.

There are new lists of Training Days for Ministers of the Eucharist, Leaders of Eucharistic Services and Readers. Can I ask for support here, as the age profile really needs representation from all ages, and all cultures and nationalities. I'm hoping to have something similar for the vital roles of welcomers. If you are able to join any of these Ministries, please let me know...before I ask you!

I was privileged to lead a reflection in St Leonard's last Monday morning (pre golf). This was particularly special, as it's the beginning of a new era. Afterwards, there was a guided tour of the new building. Spectacular. Everything about its design (well done architect and parishioner Grant Sellers ) was brilliant. I was particularly taken by how every space is connected with very subtle use of natural light. That same sense of connection exists between the floors. Anyone visiting the Guggenheim in Bilbao will also get that same connection between floors of the building and light. Your children are in for a treat!



## Feast Days

Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> April	St. Peter Chanel P, M/St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort P
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	St. Catherine of Siena V, D
Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> April	St. Pius V Pp
Friday, 1 May	St. Joseph the Worker
Saturday, 2 May	St. Athanasius Bp, D

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Ian Baillie
Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Rita Harrison
Mary Wright	Danny McCann
Anthony Gibson	Robin Humphrey
Mary Carney	Shirley Harrison

## Anniversaries:

Sarah Makepeace	Catherine Bell
Michael Oliver	Elizabeth Birney
John Cammiss	Roland Edgerton



**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Sylvia Colligan, whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St. Joseph's** on **Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am**, followed by burial in South Road Cemetery at 12.00noon.

## Forthcoming Funerals

The late Maureen Winters, whose Funeral Service will take place at **St. Godric's Church** on **Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April at 12.00pm** followed by **cremation in Durham at 1.00pm**.

The late Lynne Margaret Guy, whose Requiem Mass will take place on **Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May**, in **St. Joseph's** at **1.30pm** followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

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.*



Baptism – we welcome into our parish community Poppy McIntyre who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism this Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> April at St. Godric's Church after the 9.00am Mass.

There will be a Parish Coffee Morning on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April**. It will take place after the 9.15 Service of the Word and Holy Communion in **St Bede's Room in St Godric's School**. All proceeds are for Women in Need in Nagpur, India. Everyone is very welcome.



**Red Box 2025** - In 2025 Ss. Godric & Bede raised **£4,436.00** through our red boxes and direct donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you!

Our missionary community here at Ss. Godric & Bede is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Communities around the world who are being supported by missionaries like the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who feature on this year's Red Box box Thank You poster, rely on your support so they can continue to flourish. Visit [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) to find out more about how your support changes lives for the better. An added thank you to Dorothy, Pat, Janet, Steve and Christine for their wonderful help in collecting donations. *Deidre*.

### **Message from Bishop Stephen – Pastoral Strategy**

Thank you to all parishes who have completed and returned their reflections as part of our diocesan pastoral strategy. I, together with others, look forward to reading and praying through your discernments in the Spirit.

It is not too late for returns to be made if you are yet to submit.

We next move to a second phase as we invite local parishes to discern together in their partnerships, or with others in their neighbouring area. Information and updates will be shared on our website.

Please keep this discernment in your prayers as we seek to respond to the Lord's call to worship Him and serve our communities in a flourishing and sustainable manner.

### **World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday, 26 April**

Bishop Stephen invites us all to pray for vocations this Sunday.

Please pray particularly for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Please pray every day that people will respond to the Lord's call to serve Him in ordained and consecrated life. They are intimate adventures in God's love. In our parishes and churches and schools and chaplaincies, please offer regular time in prayer for vocations.

Pope Leo encourages us to offer time for Eucharistic adoration and to meditate faithfully on the Word of God. Prayer leads to vocations. This is not a last resort; it is the essential first resort.

For more information, prayer resources, and for enquiries please contact: [vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk) [vocationspriest@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspriest@diocesehn.org.uk) [vocationsdeacons@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationsdeacons@diocesehn.org.uk)



## Children's Liturgy – St. Joseph's

Please note that there will not be Children's Liturgy this week, and it will resume on **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**.

We would love some more volunteers to join our small team of children's liturgists at St. Joseph's 10.30am Mass on Sunday mornings.

Even if you're not sure but would like to know more, we're happy to answer any questions you may have,

## Franciscan Seminar Series – 2026

To mark the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of St Francis, the Franciscan Friars in Durham are pleased to offer a series of three seminars on Franciscan themes for the parishioners.

These gatherings will provide an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the spirituality and legacy of St. Francis in a welcoming and prayerful setting.

The seminars will take place at the friary on the following Tuesdays:

- 12 May
- 23 June
- 22 September

Each session will begin at **7:00pm** and will last for approximately one hour.

All are warmly invited to attend.

**Refreshments at St Godric's** - This is an opportunity for us to get together, raise awareness of Fairtrade products, and to raise funds for charity. We are currently in need of more volunteers for our rota.. The commitment is every 4 weeks (although it's very flexible) it entails setting up before Mass, and then to remain for up to an hour after Mass, serving and washing up. It's really good fun and gives new parishioners a chance to meet us. Please consider joining us.

## Diocesan Questionnaire

Thank you to all parishioners who responded to the diocesan mission discernment questionnaires. 135 written responses were received, each with rich comments and valuable food for thought. As well as sending a reflection on the responses to our diocese, the parish council will use the ideas and comments received to inform future planning for our parish. In reviewing the questionnaires, it was incredible to see how many groups and events are thriving as a consequence of the hard work and devotion of parishioners.

Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute so generously. Whilst the future of all Catholic communities remains uncertain, it is very clear that the Parish of the Durham Martyrs will continue to grow and flourish because of the dedication, positivity and commitment of our congregation.

Further details of the responses will be shared in due course by the Core Group of the Parish Council.

## Benefits Talk at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm

Do you know how much State Pension you qualify for or when this is payable? Do you know about Universal Credit, Personal Independence Payments, Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance or Carers Allowance? If any of this information is useful to you, or someone you care about, come along to the presentation at St Joseph's Church on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May** to find out more.

**GRANTS** - The Parish has a wide and impressive array of activities and involvement and support from its Parishioners and engagement with the wider community as well.

Costs are always under pressure and the Parish now wishes to see whether it can benefit from Grants that may be available to support such activities.

Anyone with some Grant experience or just wish to get involved in researching and/or applying for Grants please contact Fr Colm.



## 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.

## Confirmation Group

Please note that the **Confirmation Mass** will take place at **St. Joseph's** on **Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm**, the Celebrant being Bishop Stephen.





A special thank-you to everyone who helped and joined in the Easter celebrations. It was a joy to celebrate such an important moment in our faith as a community. We look forward to seeing you at our next session this **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April** at St Joseph's, following the 5pm Mass.

### Invitation to pay the rosary together



As we prepare to enter the beautiful month of May, traditionally dedicated to our Blessed Mother, we would like to invite our parish community to come together to pray the rosary. Each Friday in May, our community will gather together to pray for our families, world peace and for the needs of our parish. The dates will be:

Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> 7pm St Godric's, Friday May 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm St Joseph's

Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> 7pm St Godric's, Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm St Joseph's

Friday May 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm St Godric's

May Mary mother of the church, continue to watch over us and draw us closer to her son.

### Parish School News



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

On **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April**, the children in Year 3 and 4 will be visiting the Life Science Centre in Newcastle. They

will be taking part in the Learning Lab with a focus on Powering the Future. They will carry out a number of activities throughout the day covering Heat, Electricity, Transport and Carbon Capture.

On **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April** the children in Year 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.



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

We're delighted to be in our new building and welcoming all our pupils back onto one site. Pupils and staff have

already been enjoying the new facilities and making the most of these in unstructured time and enrichment clubs.

We look forward to welcoming the parish to our school for events and celebrations in the near future.



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

This week our Year 4 children, together with the Year 4 pupils from St Michael's, Esh, enjoyed a

wonderful three-day residential retreat at the Emmaus Village in Allensford, County Durham. From Wednesday to Friday they explored the theme of "Living Hope" through prayer, reflection, teamwork and time spent together in faith.

Next week, our Year 5 children will travel to Holy Island for their "Walking on Holy Ground" retreat. As well as exploring the island once inhabited by St Aidan and St Cuthbert, the children will visit both Bamburgh and Lindisfarne Castle, enjoy a boat trip around the Farne Isles, share fish and chips, and take part in a guided walk across the Holy Island causeway.

We hope these experiences will give our children special memories that stay with them for many years. Please keep all our pupils, staff and retreat leaders in your prayers.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/friendsofstgodrics/2097454>



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

We are delighted to welcome our children and families back, as we begin Summer Term.

We hope you had a relaxing - and Holy - Easter Break. We would like to thank all the parents and carers who joined us in school each day, during Holy Week, as we walked together with Jesus in the steps of the cross.

On Monday, we took The Step of Love, as Mary anointed Jesus and showed Him kindness before His hardest days.

On Tuesday, we walked The Step of Truth, as Jesus spoke honestly to His friends, even though the truth was painful.

On Wednesday, we walked The Step of Sorrow, as we remembered how Jesus was betrayed by a friend.

Then, on Thursday, we walked The Steps of the Cross, reflecting on Jesus' journey of courage, pain, kindness, and complete love.

As always, we had a fantastic response to our Easter Garden competition. The entries were wonderfully creative and unique, making it incredibly difficult to choose our winners.

Be sure to check *St. Thomas More's Summer What's On* for all the exciting events and activities we have planned for the summer term.

**CAFOD: Stand with Sudan. Give monthly. Donate at [cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan](https://cafod.org.uk/StandWithSudan)**

On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help.

*“So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a monthly gift to support families who are fleeing the violence – with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you, we will stand with you until peace is restored.”*

**Save the Date – 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May**

A couple of members of our parish are performing with Durham Musical Theatre Company in their production of *The Prince of Egypt*. This moving musical brings the story of Moses and the Exodus to life in an engaging way.

It is being staged at the Gala Theatre in Durham from the 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> May. Evening performances are at 7pm and there are matinées on the Wednesday and Saturday at 2pm. For further information and to book tickets for this fabulous show visit <https://galadurham.co.uk/galapost/the-prince-of-egypt/> or call the box office on 03000 266 600.

### **Tips for living sustainably (Care for Creation Group)**

Water is a finite resource. Since heating water at home makes up 18% of our energy bills, saving water can both save us money, cut our household carbon emissions and make sure there is enough water for everyone now and in the future.

Among the ways we can save water are by: taking shorter showers; turning off the tap when brushing our teeth; reusing water; filling the kettle less full; fitting a tap aerator and an eco shower head; installing a water butt to collect rainwater for use in the garden; using only full loads in the washing machine or the dishwasher.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

26<sup>th</sup> April 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 25 April	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey and Joanne Fryer Birthday Remembrance
Sunday 26 April	9.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Tony Twomey
Monday 27 April	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 28 April	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am The repose of the soul of Mr. Charles	NO MASS
Wednesday 29 April	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am – St. Joseph's Years 3 & 4 attending The Moran Family
Thursday 30 April	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am James Bowman and Michael Ward  12.00pm – Funeral Service of the late Maureen Winters	NO MASS
Friday 1 May	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am George Thompson
Saturday 2 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Elizabeth Birney
Sunday 3 May 5 <sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am Joyce Grant	10.30am The Wright and Ward Family

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 26	Mon 27	Tue 28	Wed 29	Thurs 30	Fri 01 May	Sat 2	Sun 3
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	9.15am	9.15am	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm