

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



TELEPHONE: 07483 369 561
EMAIL: durham.martyrs@diocesehn.org.uk
WEBSITE: www.durhammartyrs.co.uk
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers

Parish Newsletter – 27th September 2nd October 2026 26th Sunday of the Year

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

The Parish Core Group met on Tuesday. Leanne Taylor addressed the Baby Bank project, and Gillian McArthur addressed Safeguarding. The amount of time and effort put in by both Leanne and Gillian, has been monumental. Gillian's task, in particular, is an onerous one, and I'm asking a number of volunteers in both parish churches to assist her at all three parish weekend Masses, especially. Collections and Appeals: I realise you have been subjected to a number of appeals of late. I'm sorry about that, but the reality is that the needs are greater.

Bishop Stephen will be visiting St. Leonard's next Friday to bless the new building. We are very proud of St. Leonard's, so our prayers are with staff and pupils at this time. Bro Paul be presenting a film show on Wednesday night at 7.30pm on our responsibility for the environment.

And on Tuesday evening, Prof Stanley Bethapudi who is visiting from India, will give a talk on meditation at 6.30pm. The title of the talk is :

A BREATHING MODEL OF MEDITATION TO VISUALISE THE CHRIST IMAGE: AN EASTERN PERSPECTIVE.

Both presentations will be in the Jubilee Room.

Continued over/.....

The Youth Group retreat at Moor House last weekend was a great success. I was fortunate to celebrate an open air Mass on Sunday with the group. Though somewhat chilly, the surroundings were stunning. Our group was very representative of the parish, and schools - very international! Thank you all.

Feast Days

Monday, 28 th September	St. Wenceslaus M/St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions MM
Tuesday, 29 th September	Ss. Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
Wednesday, 30 th September	St. Jerome P, D
Thursday, 1 st October	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus V, D
Friday, 2 nd October	The Holy Guardian Angels



Prayers – please keep in your prayers:

Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson	Sigrid Peyerimhoff
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Maureen Milsom	Rita Harrison
Josephine Lyons	Christina Reid	Amanda Hyland
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison	
Mary Crilley	Sheila Wressel	

Anniversaries:

Eileen Blake	Don Childs
Walter Dolan	Diane Soulsby
Freda March	David Miller



Forthcoming Funeral

Robin Humphrey, whose Funeral Service will take place at St. Godric's on **Thursday, 1st October** at **12.00pm** followed by burial in South Road Cemetery.



We welcome into our parish community **Arthur Jack Alderton** who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism during the 10.30am Mass this Sunday, **27th September**, at St. Joseph's.

Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for September 2026 Ss. Godric & Bede
- St Bede's red mission boxes / donations will be collected by sponsors in the usual way during September. Please bring those for St Godric's to Sunday Mass on 27th September. They will be collected, emptied and returned to church. A big thank you for your continued support through your prayers and kindness.



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

SVP Fish and Chip Outing

The SVP are going to Colman's at South Shields for a fish and chip lunch on **Tuesday, 6th October**. If you would like to go, please put your name on the sheet at the back of church.

Please note transport options – a minibus will leave **St. Joseph's** at 11.30am and a minibus will leave the **Co-op at Newton Hall**, also at 11.30am.

A special thank you from St Leonard's

This coming Friday, 2nd

October, Bishop Stephen will bless our new school building.

This is a special moment for the

school community, and a time for reflection and gratitude. It is most appropriate at this time to extend a special thank you to Fr Colm and all parishioners from the parish of the Durham Martyrs. You were our first, and remained our most steadfast supporter, when the school was thrown into the RAAC crisis three years ago; and for your prayers, support and practical help we remain most appreciative.



St Leonard's Catholic Secondary School

<https://stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com/>

Please keep us in your prayers as the new school is blessed and St. Leonard's embarks on the next chapter of its life. With thanks from all the staff at St. Leonard's



A huge "Thank You" to everyone who attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning at St. Joseph's on Wednesday 23rd September – your generous support raised £140 plus gift aid donations.

Thanks too to those who donated the delicious cakes!

Care for Creation - The People's Emergency Briefing

7.00pm Wednesday 30th September, in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's: come to watch a film about how the government could give an emergency briefing on the climate crisis and what our national response needs to be. The film is 50 minutes and there will be some time for questions and conversation afterwards.

29th September - on Tuesday evening, Prof Stanley Bethapudi who is visiting from India, will give a talk on meditation at **6.30pm**. The title of the talk is :

A BREATHING MODEL OF MEDITATION. TO VISUALISE THE CHRIST IMAGE: AN EASTERN PERSPECTIVE .

All are welcome.

Safeguarding

Thank you to all parents who have returned the consent forms for their child to undertake the role of alter server.

This is a gentle reminder that it is a requirement of the Diocese that any child who undertakes this role must have parental consent. Can all parents please ensure that you have returned any forms by **Tuesday 6th October**. Unfortunately any child who does not have written consent after that date will be unable to carry out the role until written parental consent is received.

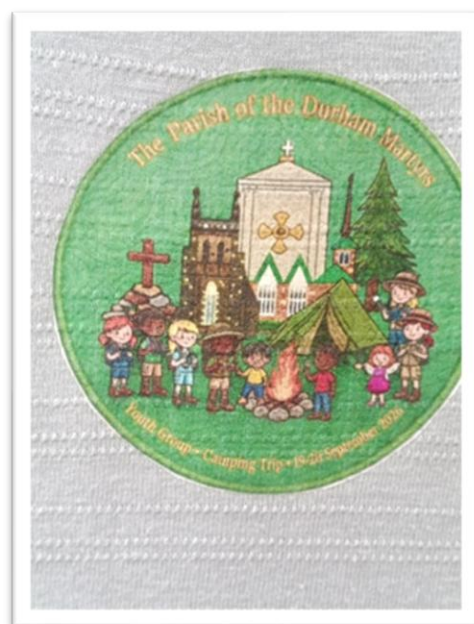
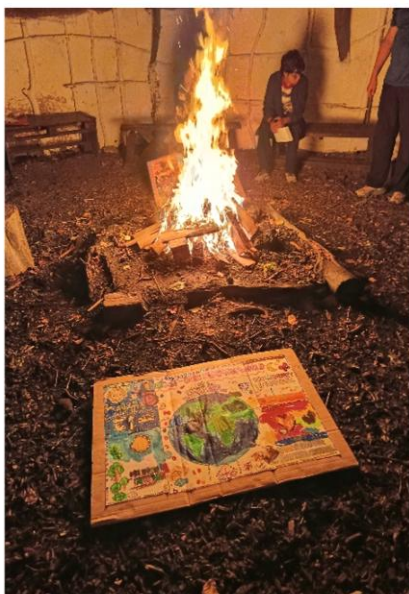
If you need any further information please contact Gillian MacArthur, the parish safeguarding representative.

Youth Group



The youth group would like to thank all who made our camping trip possible, through their kind donations. We're are so grateful for the support we've received during our first year.

We had an amazing weekend together and are very proud of our children, who challenged themselves and made it such a fun time for everyone.



Fairtrade Fortnight started on Monday 21st September

There are two posters at the back of each church, and petition forms to sign asking the government to encourage traders and shops to take more responsibility for selling goods that are fairly traded. This is in keeping with the Season of Creation as all workers and producers should receive a fair wage. You can sign online by scanning the QR code on the back of the petition forms.

CAFOD *Family Fast Day* Appeal this Harvest - 2nd October

Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, scan the QR code, or call 0303 303 3030. (Envelopes are available in church this weekend). See posters at the back of church)



Prisons Week 11th - 17th October 2026 - Prisoners Sunday 11th October is marked by the Catholic Church in England with prayer and is the beginning of Prisons Week in which there are daily ecumenical prayers for the needs of all those affected by prisons:- prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working and volunteering in the criminal justice system and the many people caring for those affected by crime.

For more information and for the week's daily prayers please use this link <https://www.prisonsworld.org/>

The theme for 2026 is 'All are invited' Printed copies of the prayers are available at the back of church.

As well as the general request for your prayers, on both Sunday 11th and Sunday 18th October there will be a collection at St. Cuthbert's Church, Old Elvet, of craft items for HMP Low Newton for children attending Family Visits which are run by Nepacs. This is a local Charity supporting prisoners and their families. Please put craft items in the labelled boxes at the back of church on these dates.

- Bingo ticket books and bingo dabbers. Canvases – medium sized (we use these to do handprints of mother and child)
- Sharpie Pens
- Ready mixed paints (child friendly)
- Coloured Card – A4
- Various stickers
- Plastic scissors – no metal at a
- Glue Sticks
- Tissue paper – all colours
- Colouring books
- Blank trinket boxes – decorate their own

- Plain white cheap t-shirts – age range from 5 – 10 years (they design their own)
- Tracing books
- Sellotape
- Double sided Sellotape

Message from Low Newton Women's Prison

Tuesday, 13th October, 5.30-7.00pm

Low Newton, the women's prison within our parish, are inviting representatives from local churches to gather in the prison chapel for an ecumenical prayer service, praying for our prisons, prisoners and the staff and volunteers who minister to them. If you are interested in representing the parish at this event, please contact the parish office. *See poster at the back of each church.*

Parish School News



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

This week, we celebrated European Day of Languages in School, which was a brilliant opportunity to learn

about the languages, cultures and multilingualism already present in our school. There was lots of music, storytelling, and many more activities to make languages visible, meaningful, and fun.

- **Wednesday 30th September**, Year 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.
- **Sunday 4th October** there will be a Welcome Mass for Holy Communion Families at 10.30am in St. Joseph's Church.



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

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday. It

was lovely to support such a worthwhile cause and, after a very busy start to the week with our Ofsted inspection, a cup of tea and a piece of cake were very much appreciated!

We now look forward to receiving the report in the coming weeks and sharing it with you. As we would expect, the children were amazing throughout the inspection, truly living out our mission to *Be the Light* and showing the inspectors what a wonderful school we have.

Mass Intentions for the Week

27 September 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 26 September	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey
Sunday 27 September	9.00am The sick of the parish 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition (Care for Creation)	10.30am Mary & Kevin Crilley and Family and Michael Hanley Anniversary Baptism during Mass
Monday 28 September	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 29 September	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Christine Foley	NO MASS
Wednesday 30 September	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Liam Hayden (St. Joseph's Yrs 3 & 4 in attendance)
Thursday 1 October	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am – Special Intention (DF) 12.00pm – Funeral Service of the late Robin Humphrey	NO MASS
Friday 2 October	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Saturday 3 October	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Rose Carr Anniversary
Sunday 4 October	9.00am Kathleen McTaggart 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Joe Lane Baptism during Mass

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 27	Mon 28	Tue 29	Wed 30	Thurs 1 Oct	Fri 2	Sat 3	Sun 4
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.30pm Requiem Mass of Kathleen Harrison	7.00pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm