

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

Sunday 28th January 2024
4th Sunday of the Year
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

Our sympathies to Tracy and Matt Shaw on the death of their daughter Sofia. Sofia attended St. Thomas More School here in the parish. Our sympathies also go to the Staff and students. A child's death always leaves a dreadful void, and we can only offer our prayers and friendship to parents after such a devastating loss.

Parish Council meeting took place on Tuesday. We looked at both positives and negatives of challenges going forward. With many new faces coming from abroad, we see the need for greater involvement in our Masses, especially of a representation of the different cultures. The challenge of reaching out to the broader local community was also given a good discussion.

My thanks again to all members of the Council and the many volunteers already active in the parish.

An Absolutely Ordinary Rainbow

Les Murray

The word goes round Repins,
the murmur goes round Lorenzini's,
at Tattersalls, men look up from sheets of numbers,
the Stock Exchange scribblers forget the chalk in their hands
and men with bread in their pockets leave the Greek Club:
There's a fellow crying in Martin Place. They can't stop him.

The traffic in George Street is banked up for half a mile
and drained of motion. The crowds are edgy with talk
and more crowds come hurrying. Many run in the back streets
which minutes ago were busy main streets, pointing:
There's a fellow weeping down there. No one can stop him.

The man we surround, the man no one approaches
simply weeps, and does not cover it, weeps
not like a child, not like the wind, like a man
and does not declaim it, nor beat his breast, nor even
sob very loudly - yet the dignity of his weeping

holds us back from his space, the hollow he makes about him
in the midday light, in his pentagram of sorrow,
and uniforms back in the crowd who tried to seize him
stare out at him, and feel, with amazement, their minds
longing for tears as children for a rainbow.

Some will say, in the years to come, a halo
or force stood around him. There is no such thing.
Some will say they were shocked and would have stopped him
but they will not have been there. The fiercest manhood,
the toughest reserve, the slickest wit amongst us

trembles with silence, and burns with unexpected
judgements of peace. Some in the concourse scream
who thought themselves happy. Only the smallest children
and such as look out of Paradise come near him
and sit at his feet, with dogs and dusty pigeons.

Ridiculous, says a man near me, and stops
his mouth with his hands, as if it uttered vomit -
and I see a woman, shining, stretch her hand
and shake as she receives the gift of weeping;
as many as follow her also receive it

and many weep for sheer acceptance, and more
 refuse to weep for fear of all acceptance,
 but the weeping man, like the earth, requires nothing,
 the man who weeps ignores us, and cries out
 of his writhen face and ordinary body

not words, but grief, not messages, but sorrow,
 hard as the earth, sheer, present as the sea -
 and when he stops, he simply walks between us
 mopping his face with the dignity of one
 man who has wept, and now has finished weeping.

Evading believers, he hurries off down Pitt Street.

Feast Days

Wednesday, 31 st January	St. John Bosco P
Friday, 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord
Saturday, 3 rd February	St. Blaise Bp, M/St. Ansgar Bp

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Meg Dixon	Yvonne Reid
Sheila Owen	Jared Howarth
Ken Riddle	Francesca Camilerni
Breda Gallagher	Nicola Dawson
Sean Casey	Ian Hamilton
Brian Harland	Betty Eccles
Halusia Good	Helen Tumelty
Bill Harris	Sheila Wressell

Anniversaries

Eric Smith	Veronica Pareira
Emily Gibbons	Ann Richardson
Joseph Maxwell Hannigan	Philip James Hunter
Charles Elder	Frank Roebuck
Ian Hart	Phyllis Hanley
Kathleen Greenwell	George Grainger
Gerald Lennon	Mary Harland
Thomas Loughlin	

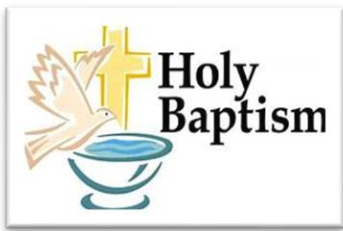


Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Sau Leng 'Joyce' Pearson who passed away this week. Her Requiem Mass will take place at St. Joseph's on Monday, 29th January at 10.00am

Other Funerals also this week:

Tuesday, 30th January, St. Joseph's – Requiem Mass of the late Tom Oliver

Thursday, 1st February, St. Joseph's – Funeral Service of the late Joe Watson, both at 10.00am, *Requiescant in pace.*



We welcome into our parish community, Isabel Grace Faichney, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism after the 9.00am Mass at St. Godric's this Sunday, 28th January.

There will be a coffee morning this **Monday 29th January** in St Bede's Room in St Godric's School. It will take place straight after the 9.15 Service of the Word and Holy Communion.



All proceeds are for Women in Need in India. Everyone is very welcome.

Lenten Soup Lunches

We will be holding our usual Friday Charity Lenten Soup Lunches commencing on **Friday, 16th February**, the first Friday of Lent. If you or your parish group would like to host a lunch, please let Marjorie know and she will prepare a rota.

Dates are: 16th and 23rd February, 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd March.

From the Vicariate for Faith and Mission

There will be an online Sycamore Event for the Year of Prayer on Thursday, 1st February at 7.00pm.

No booking is needed, and the Zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85975379313>

If you have any questions, please contact the Vicariate on adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

See poster at the back of church.

Lenten Reflections

The Vicariate will also be producing booklets to include reflections written by people throughout the Diocese which will be available on the Diocesan website for viewing, downloading and printing. The weblink will go live in time for Ash Wednesday (14th February), and will be printed in this newsletter when received.

From the Centre for Catholic Studies

The Franciscan Tradition: Retrieval and Innovation

12 March 2024 - 14 March 2024

The second international Franciscan Conference is still open for registration. The aim of this conference is to explore the riches and diversity of the Franciscan tradition in both theological and historical terms, and its significance for the world today.

The conference will look at Franciscan understandings and expressions of 'retrieval' as the recuperation of ideas that may have been lost throughout the centuries but that remain important, and 'innovation' in terms of drawing on aspects of the tradition to address changing contexts and the relationship between the two.

The conference also aims to highlight the distinctive nature of the Franciscan theological, philosophical, and spiritual tradition, and its contemporary significance in relation to a broad variety of themes.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Standard Conference Package, to include conference fee, 4 refreshments, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, and 1 conference dinner - £190 per person.

Reduced Rate conference package (for students), to include reduced conference fee, 4 refreshments, 2 lunches, 1 dinner, and 1 conference dinner - £160 per person.

Registration closes on 18 February 2024

Find out more and book at:

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/catholic-studies/about-us/events/the-franciscan-tradition-retrieval-and-innovation/>

Mass Intentions for the Week

28th January 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 27 January		5.00pm Vigil Mass Thomas and Audrey Loughin Gerald and Mary Lennon and Mary Cusack
Sunday 28 January	9.00am The sick of the Parish 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	11.00am Cassie Childs Birthday Remembrance
Monday 29 January	NO MASS	10.00am Requiem Mass of the late Joyce Pearson
Tuesday 30 January	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Colin and Stella Wild	10.00am Requiem Mass of the late Tom Oliver
Wednesday 31 January	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Emily Gibbons (SVP)
Thursday 1 February	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am In thanksgiving for prayers answered	10.00am Funeral Service of the late Joe Watson
Friday 2 February	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Deceased Members of the SVP (SVP)
Saturday 3 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass The Finlay and Hannon Families (Living) and Mr. G. V. Charles RIP
Sunday 4 February	9.00am Theresa Wilson	10:30am Deceased members of the Charlton Family

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31	Thurs 1 Feb	Fri 2	Sat 3	Sun 4
10.00am and 6.30pm	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am and 11.00am (Sung Latin Mass)	10.00am and 6.30pm