

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 – 4th – 9th October 2026 **27th Sunday of the Year**

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(Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit)
For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

Two first class meetings this week that we hope to follow up on. The evening of reflection on meditation and the climate change crisis - and yes it is a crisis. More on both, especially if we can nab Prof Stanley for another practical session before he returns to India. Watch this space.

Lots happening this weekend with the schools' First Communion programme kicking off with parents and children getting more involved at Masses. Well done catechists.

Thanks rota readers for stepping aside and allowing. Welcome all our visitors from Italy for Sunday's baptism.

And speaking of Italy, we recall the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis on Saturday 3rd October with Vespers at 7.00pm in St Godric's.

The Capuchin Friars have also been invited by Bishop Stephen to preach at the 11.30am Mass this Sunday at St Mary's Cathedral.

Our congratulations to the Capuchin Community at Tenter House Friary. A belated welcome to Bro Michael Welch to the Capuchin Community.

Feast Days

Monday, 5 th October	St. Maria Faustina Kowalski V
Tuesday, 6 th October	St. Bruno
Wednesday, 7 th October	Our Lady of the Rosary
Friday, 9 th October	St. John Henry Newman P D
Saturday, 10 th October	St. Paulinus of York Bp



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	Tom Smith
Mary Crilley	Sheila Wressel	

Anniversaries:

Eddie McKeown	Joe Lane
Kathleen Morris	Ray Ward
Nora Bond	Fred Tromans
Luke Dodds	Thomas Coulthard
Jim Mason	Doreen Roberts
Bob Collinson	Betty McGurk



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Patricia Goodwill, who died last week. Her funeral service will take place at **Durham Crematorium on Thursday, 22nd October from 11.00am-12.00pm.** *Requiescat in pace.*

We welcome into our parish community Ilde Laura Sattin who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism during the 10.30am Mass this Sunday, 4th October at St. Joseph's.



Coffee and Cake – St. Joseph's - Please note that following the Services of Word and Holy Communion on both Wednesday 7th and 14th October, the usual refreshments will be served in the porch.

Parish Coffee Morning - There will be a parish coffee morning on **Monday 12th October.** It will take place immediately 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.



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 this **Tuesday, 6th October**. 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.

Safeguarding – FINAL REMINDER

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

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.

Children's Liturgy is cancelled this week due to Mass being part of the Y4 children's Sacrament of First Holy Communion preparation at both Sunday Masses.



Baby Bank

We are so thrilled to announce that on **6th November**, the Parish of the Durham Martyrs will begin its 3 month trial of a brand new baby bank.

We will be supporting families in the local community via professional referrals only. As a very small voluntary group running within the parish, our area of reach at the moment will be small, but if we can help any families in our local area,

then that is a great start. Caring for children in this current climate is so expensive!

During the trial run, we'll make a full evaluation of the initiative and make decisions on how it moves forward.

We're currently taking referrals from our 3 parish primary schools and Laural Avenue primary.

If you have any questions, please contact **Leanne Taylor, Cynthia Dunn or Belinda Thomas** or reach out to us via email at babybankdurhammartyrs@gmail.com

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

If you haven't already, 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. See posters at the back of church.



Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, scan the QR code below, or call 0303 303 3030. (Envelopes are available in church this weekend).

The Parish of the Durham Martyrs Journey in Faith 2026-2027

The Journey in Faith Programme begins again on **22nd October** and runs until Easter next year. The programme is held on Thursday evenings beginning at 7pm in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's Church.

The programme of talks are given by invited speakers from the parish and surrounding area. A copy of the programme will be displayed on each church notice board.

Each session involves a presentation by the invited speaker and some informal group discussion and concludes by 8.30pm, followed by tea and coffee.

The programme generally attracts three categories of people:-

- Those who are curious and want to know more about the Catholic faith.
- Those who are already firmly resolved to become Catholics.
- Parishioners who come along to refresh their own understanding of what our faith teaches and also and very importantly, to support enquirers and welcome them into our community.

Discussion is always enriched through the attendance of parishioners so you are encouraged to come along and support this.

If you would like any more information please contact Marjorie Towers, Parish Secretary on Marjorie.towers@diocesehn.org.uk or on the parish mobile 07483 369 561.



Parish Christmas Fayre

Saturday 28th November

More details to follow ...



Remembrance Mass – Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

A Remembrance Mass has been organised by the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage for Friday 20th November 7.00pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington.

This is open to everyone, not just those who have been to Lourdes.

There are special candles that can be purchased to be burned at the Mass in memory of loved ones. These are £3.00 each and available by contacting the Lourdes office – lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk See poster at the back of church.



Thank you from the Armstrong Family - Paul and I would like to thank all the many parishioners for their generous donations to Neuroblastoma UK in support of our South West Coast Path walk, which we completed in May this year. We are very sorry not to have thanked you all closer to that date. However as the anniversary of Cara's initial diagnosis comes around it is perhaps fitting to do it now.

It took us 65 days of walking spread over several trips a year for 4.8 years to cover the 630 mile path. We could not have kept going without your support. If you would like to see any pictures of us walking, or of our brave little Cara, do look onto my page. (Frances armstrong Just giving for Neuroblastoma). Thank you all again for your prayers and donations. Frances Armstrong.

MAGNIFICAT MAGAZINE - Published monthly it contains the readings and prayers for Mass each day with meditations from great spiritual writers of the church throughout history. It also contains morning and evening prayers inspired by the Liturgy of the Hours and much more. We have a few free copies in both churches this weekend and details of how to subscribe on the back page.

Tip for sustainable living - Ponder the story of the starfish: A man walking along the shore, comes across thousands of starfish stranded after a storm. A boy is carefully picking them up one by one and throwing them back into the sea. "You're wasting your time," says the man. "You can't make a difference when there are so many." "I can make a difference to this one," replies the boy, picking up another starfish and throwing it back into the water. *(Care for Creation Group)*

Would you baptize an extraterrestrial?

Br. Guy Consolmagno SJ, Director Emeritus of the Vatican Observatory, is visiting Durham in October. There is a panel discussion with Br. Guy called "Would you baptize an extraterrestrial?" 5:30-6:30pm on October 13th in the Francis Thompson Room at Ushaw.

He is also giving a lecture entitled "Astronomy, God, and the search for elegance" at 4:30-5:30pm on October 14th in the Applebey Lecture Theatre on Durham University's Science Site. All are welcome! See posters at the back of church.

Parish School News

This weekend, across both Sunday morning Masses, we warmly welcome the children from our three parish primary schools who are beginning their First Holy Communion preparation programme.

Throughout the Masses, the children and their families will be taking part in a variety of ministries as they begin this important stage of their faith journey. We keep them all in our prayers as they prepare for this special sacrament.



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

On Sunday 4th October there will be a Welcome Mass for Holy Communion Families at 10.30am in St Joseph's Church.

- Tuesday 6th October, Parents of children in Year 4 are invited into school at 3.30pm for an information session about the upcoming Youth Ministry Team Residential. Mr. Richardson will share key details about the trip, activities and arrangements. There will also be an opportunity to ask any questions and find out how you can best support your child in preparing for the experience.
- Friday 9th October, we will be wearing yellow in school to celebrate World Mental Health Day. We encourage everyone to join in by wearing something yellow and helping us spread a positive message of kindness and support. Donations of £1 will be greatly received for the charity MIND.



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

At St Godric's, we are holding an Open Morning on Wednesday 7th October at 10.00am. If you, or anyone you know, is looking at

school places for September 2027, please do come along.

There will be a short presentation followed by a tour of the school and an opportunity to meet staff and ask any questions. Everyone is very welcome.

Mass Intentions for the Week

4th October 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 3 October	7.00pm - Vespers	5.00pm Vigil Mass Rose Carr Anniversary and Marie Christison
Sunday 4 October	9.00am Kathleen McTaggart 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Joe Lane (Baptism during Mass)
Monday 5 October	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 6 October	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion	NO MASS
Wednesday 7 October	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 8 October	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion	NO MASS
Friday 9 October	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Saturday 10 October	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass John and Sarah Wanless and Kevin Royal Anniversary
Sunday 11 October	9.00am Sara Nurowski Anniversary and Trudie Jones Birthday Remembrance 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Bob Collinson Anniversary

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 4	Mon 5	Tue 6	Wed 7	Thurs 8	Fri 9	Sat 10	Sun 11
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm