

The Parish of the Durham Martyrs
*Incorporating the Churches of Our Lady of Mercy
& St. Godric, St. Joseph and St. Bede*

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Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers

Sunday 28th April 2024
5th Sunday of Easter
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)

I Am the Vine - A Sonnet by Malcolm Guite

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

How might it feel to be part of the vine?

Not just to see the vineyard from afar

Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,

But to be grafted in, to feel the stir

Of inward sap that rises from our root,

Himself deep planted in the ground of Love,

To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,

As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give

A little to the swelling of the grape,

In gradual perfection, round and full,

To bear within oneself the joy and hope

Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and whole.

What might it mean to bide and to abide

In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?

Feast Days

Monday, 29 th April	St. Catherine of Siena V, D
Tuesday, 30 th April	St. Pius V Pp
Wednesday, 1 st May	St. Joseph the Worker
Thursday, 2 nd May	St. Athanasius Bp, D
Friday, 3 rd May	Ss. Philip and James, Apostles
Saturday, 4 th May	The English Martyrs

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Sean Casey	Tony Twomey
Brian Harland	Jared Howarth
Bridget Grehan-Bradley	Halusia Good
Kitty Trainor	Helen Tumelty
Ann Hourican	Ian Hamilton

Anniversaries

Catherine Bell	Michael Oliver
Elizabeth Birney	John Cammiss
Roland Edgerton	Mary Morgan



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to Maria Melia and family on the sad loss of her Mum, Moira Wood, whose Funeral will take place in Leeds on Wednesday, 15th May. *Requiescat in pace.*

Funerals this week

Cud Hall, Funeral Service at St. Joseph's on Tuesday, 30th April at 12.00pm
 Roger Charlton, Requiem Mass at St. Joseph's on Friday, 3rd May at 12.00pm

Baptism – we welcome into our parish community, Penelope Porter, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Joseph's this Sunday, 28th April after the 10.30am Mass.



Survivors' Mass

The Survivors' Mass is being held at St. Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday, 30th April, at 12.05pm, which is the day nominated by the Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales as the National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of abuse.

CAFOD Retiring Collection this weekend: Emergency Sudan Crisis Appeal

Since the outbreak of fierce fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in mid-April 2023, the humanitarian emergency in Sudan has escalated to alarming proportions. The plight of the Sudanese people has reached unprecedented levels of suffering and famine looms. It has the potential to become the worst food crisis in living memory.

Five million people are currently experiencing emergency levels of food insecurity, with catastrophic conditions prevailing in areas like West and Central Darfur, where the conflict has been most intense.

Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at www.cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.



Missio and Mill Hill Missionaries

Volunteer urgently required for St. Joseph's Church

Each parish benefits from having a dedicated volunteer to administer the mission Red Boxes to raise funds for the Pope's charity for overseas mission. More information at missio.org.uk. If you think you could carry out this ministry for St. Joseph's, then please make yourself known to Fr. Colm who will put you in touch with Missio. Missio provide training and support.



St. Joseph's – Use of premises as a Polling Station

On Thursday, 2nd May, St. Joseph's Jubilee Room will be in use as a Polling Station for the election of a Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham Police and the election of a Mayor for the North East Mayoral Combined Authority. Polling is from 7.00am until 10.00pm. There will not be any access to the church at any time during this day.

From the Diocese

Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) – Sunday 5th May

Sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw

On Sunday 5th May at 4pm, please join us for Sung Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw. Please note that this is not a concert performance, but an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church for the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

As the format of this service may be new to some people, we will also be offering some reflections on praying Vespers as a group. All are welcome to join us for the service. No ticket is required.

Dates for the Diary

Corpus Christi – Sunday 2nd June

Corpus Christi: Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Ushaw - On Sunday 2nd June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, and starting at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees will be available after the service.

To assist with Ushaw's estimated numbers and to manage the car park, signing-up forms will be available at both St. Joseph's and St. Godric's this weekend and Marjorie will return these to Ushaw the following week.

Workshop on Synodality – Saturday 8th June

On Saturday 8th June, Ushaw will be holding a day workshop on what the Synod on Synodality means for us. There will be sessions on the current stage of the worldwide Synod, including an opportunity to look at some of the outputs of last October's General Assembly in Rome. The workshop will also look at some practical examples of synodality in our local parishes and church groups. The day starts with welcome and refreshments at 10.30am and will finish by 4pm. Bring a packed lunch, or you will be able to buy lunch in Ushaw's café. The workshop costs £10. You can book for the workshop on Ushaw's website at <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/>

For those who are new to synodality and would like to find out more about what the Synod is, and why it is important for our local church, there will be an optional introductory session starting at 9.30am.

Job Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Cleaner, St. Cuthbert, Chester le Street– part-time. Closing date: 1st May

IT Field Engineer (two posts) Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, 9-month fixed term contract. Closing date: 6th May

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.

Allergy Awareness Week

Last week was Allergy Awareness week. This focuses our minds on the real issues that people increasingly have with their diets and food. These days extra care has to be taken and everyone has a legal and moral responsibility to recognise the dangers and the risks in food preparation in public places. That's why this parish has sensible guidelines displayed for greater awareness and training is available for those who handle food. You will notice that allergen notices are displayed in areas where food is served. We do not have the facilities in the Parish to cook food, so anyone preparing food at home needs to be aware of the allergens and label the food accordingly and prevent contamination.

Appeal for Prison Visitors

Matthew 25:31-36: "...For I was...in prison and you came to see me"

Official Prison Visitors (OPVs) befriend prisoners, at the prisoner's request, during their time in custody. There is currently a shortage of volunteers willing to be OPVs in Frankland prison. Some prisoners do not have a single visitor and would much appreciate one. At present any prisoner requesting a visitor faces a wait of 2 years due to the shortage.

Visits at Frankland take place between 2pm and 4pm most days of the week in a relaxed atmosphere in a large open hall with plenty of prison officers around the perimeter to ensure safety. OPVs are ordinary people from all walks of life and may be male or female, indeed the majority of current visitors are female. How frequently you visit would be up to you, but it is common for visits to take place once every 3 to 4 weeks. Being able to listen and talk in a non-judgemental way is the main requirement.

If Jesus's words above cause you to reflect, if you think you might be in a position to help and would like more information, please contact either Pat Morton (many years' experience) on 07546 566028 or John Wells (recent recruit) on 07724 714932 who will be happy to explain more about the role.

Br. Paul is a prison chaplain in Stockton and he too would be pleased to talk to any parishioner interested on 0191 3293660.

St. John Boste Parish Event

The Green Team at St. John Boste would like to invite everyone to an event on Tuesday, 30th April in Ushaw Moor. Details are below:

Terence and Tracy Featherstone live in Coundon on a farm which they inherited. They had a vision of turning the farmhouse into a family home whilst incorporating renewable energy supplies. They have achieved this, and more. They have created the only completely green footprint farm in the northeast. They want to help others to achieve a greener lifestyle.

Please come and join us, and listen to their amazing story. This will take place in **St Joseph's Catholic Club, Ushaw Moor, Tuesday April 30th at 7.30pm**. Refreshments will be served on arrival. Before the Presentation there is also the opportunity to celebrate Mass in the church and all are welcome to join us for this at 7pm.

Should you wish to learn more at this stage about The Featherstones, please see these articles:

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/23749478.county-durham-couple-transform-former-mine-reserve/>

https://climatecountydurham.org.uk/news_post/local-sustainability-superheroes/

<https://www.birdguides.com/news/couple-transforms-farm-into-nature-reserve/>

Mass Intentions for the Week

28th April 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 27 April		5.00pm Vigil Mass Elizabeth Birney
Sunday 28 April	9.00am - Terry and Lucy McGahon, Sheila McGahon & the McGahon Family 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Albert Lawton (SVP)
Monday 29 April	NO MASS	9.15 am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 30 April	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Colin and Estelle Wild	12.00pm Funeral Service of the late Cud Hall
Wednesday 1 May	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am World Peace
Thursday 2 May	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Ken Riddle	NO MASS
Friday 3 May	NO MASS	12.00pm Requiem Mass of the late Roger Charlton
Saturday 4 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pauline Inglis
Sunday 5 May	9.00am Gloria Hughes Anniversary and The Nurowski Family	10.30am The Charlton Family and John Russell (Dublin)

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 1 May	Thurs 2	Fri 3	Sat 4	Sun 5
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm