

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 – 19th April 2026 3rd Sunday of Easter

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

Thank you all for your generosity of thoughtful responses to the questionnaire last weekend. This consultation, which is taking place across the Diocese, will assist the Bishop in his future decisions.

Easter has come and gone and judging by our numbers, though not counting, they appeared to be up on previous years. St Leonard's begins a new era, and we are delighted. Well done to the present, and past staff members for their contribution to the education of our children. We look forward to celebrating our Sunday Parish Mass on the 12th July in the new building.

In looking forward to the exciting challenges of the future, can I appeal for volunteers to be Ministers of the Eucharist and Readers of the Word of God at our Masses. Succession isn't just a great TV series, it's vital for preparing for the future. There were many constructive comments in the recent questionnaire, but getting the opinion of younger members of our congregation is imperative. If I'm wrong about this assessment, please do let me know.

New Durham and District Workman's Club. Rumours abound (and with some credibility) that the future of the Club is uncertain. This is a sign, perhaps, of the social changes taking place throughout society. However, we (parish) will need to be more prepared than we were for recent new buildings at the corner of Mill Lane and the Sherburn Road. Unfortunately, we are fast becoming part of the university campus and this inevitably impacts on the availability of housing for locals, especially those less well off. If there are any further developments on the Club's future, I will keep you updated, and if any parishioners have definitive updates, please keep me in the loop. Thanks.

Continued over/....

We are proceeding with the development of St Bede's car park and expect developments there soon. It has been a long process, but we expect movement very soon. My continued thanks to parishioners who are investing a great deal of time and effort into this important project. The parish finance committee met this week. Tom Harrison outlined the relatively healthy state of the parish finances, but with a clear view to the challenges ahead.

Two excellent additions have been made to the Finance Committee in Greg and Swee. Esther Robson updated us on the continued value of the Gift Aid.

Feast Days

Tuesday, 21 st April	St. Anselm of Canterbury
Thursday, 23 rd April	St. George, Patron of England
Friday, 24 th April	St. Adalbert Bp, M/St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen P,M

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:

Veronica Kelly	Frances Openshaw
Clare Kenniford	Arron Grant
Christopher Godbolt	Sheila Collinson
Stanley Young	Margaret Crawford

Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the following:



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

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

Our sympathy also to the families and friends of the following deceased parishioners;

Rosaleen Kennedy, whose funeral will be in Manchester.

Sheila Owens, whose funeral arrangements are not known at this time

Joyce Grant, whose funeral arrangements are not known at this time. Sympathy also to Patsy Hopkins, who was a close friend and next-door-neighbour of Joyce for 50 years.

Requiescant in pace.

There will be a Parish Coffee Morning on **Monday 27th 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 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.*

Benefits Talk at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 6th 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 6th 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 LUNCH CLUB

The Lunch Club re-opens again next **Wednesday, 22nd April at 12.00pm**. New guests are always welcome, as are new helpers! Please contact Kathleen or Pat for more information if interested.

Parish School News



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

We are very excited to welcome back the children, staff and parish community after the Easter break.

As we return, we will carry the message that each day is an opportunity to grow, to begin again, and to bring light and kindness to those around us. Let us approach the new term with positive energy, compassion, and a willingness to support one another as a community.

On Wednesday 22nd April the children in Year 5 and 6 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

On Friday 24th April all are welcome to attend a SEND coffee morning at 9am in the school hall. This is a relaxed and friendly session and is a chance to ask questions and share experiences with each other.

Confirmation Group - A huge thank you to all the staff in our parish schools for all you do to care for our children! We hope you had a well-deserved break!



Our confirmation group had a wonderful retreat on Good Friday. The young people led Stations of the Cross and then participated in some resilience team building activities. We broke for much needed lunch and enjoyed Domino's pizza and our afternoon session included preparing the Confirmation Mass and pot luck posters. We ended the day celebrating a beautiful Good Friday Service.

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



Wishing everyone a very Happy Easter!

Thank you to all who joined our last session — it was wonderful spending time together and getting to know each of you a little more.

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 on **Saturday 25th 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 1st 7pm St Godric's, Friday May 8th 7pm St Joseph's

Friday May 15th 7pm St Godric's, Friday May 22nd 7pm St Joseph's

Friday May 29th 7pm St Godric's

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



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

TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL 200 CLUB

Results – April 2026

1st (£50)	No. 103
Abbey Hughes	Parish of te Duham Martyrs' (St. Godric's)
Elaine Hall	St. Charles, Gosforth
2nd (£25)	No. 131
Vera Rooke	Parish of the Durham Martyrs' (St. Joseph's)
M. Scott	Our Lady of Lourdes, Wallsend

Thank you for your continued support.

Save the Date – 12th-16th 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 12th to 16th 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.

Mass Intentions for the Week

19th April 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 18 April	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Les and Norah Finlay and Michael Hannon (Illness)
Sunday 19 April	9.00am Margaret White, Joyce Grant and Bill Ince Anniversary 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am In thanksgiving for prayers answered, and deceased members of the Harrington, Lennon and March families
Monday 20 April	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 21 April	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am John Dickenson (17th Anniversary)	NO MASS
Wednesday 22 April	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am – St. Joseph's Years 5 & 6 attending Beckyc Coulson (Illness) SVP
Thursday 23 April	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Sheila Collinson Anniverssary	NO MASS
Friday 24 April	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Vocations to the Priesthood
Saturday 25 April	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey, and Joanne Fryer Birthday Remembrance
Sunday 26 April 4 th SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese	10.30am Tony Twomey

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 19	Mon 20	Tue 21	Wed 22	Thurs 23	Fri 24	Sat 25	Sun 26
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	NO MASS	7.00pm	7.00pm (Old Rite Missa Cantata)	12.15pm (Service of Word & Holy Communion)	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm