

**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*

## Parish Newsletter – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026



**Parish Priest** Fr. Colm Hayden  
**Parish Secretary:** Mrs. M, D. Towers  
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The next initiative by Bishop Stephen is a constitutional process in which we will try to ascertain specific roles in the parish, especially lay involvement. The Parish Council will look at this more closely at their next meeting. The first stage will then be followed up by part two. All will have to be completed before 4<sup>th</sup> June. We will then look at the broader partnership development.

Our bringing together young people from the local parishes for the Confirmation Programme has been a very positive exercise. The programme run by Sarah and Ciaran is a possible template for future cooperation in other areas. We are particularly blessed in the parish having a highly motivated and dedicated group of younger parishioners willing to drive us forward with new and creative initiatives. They are ably supported by mature parishioners who are already doing Trojan work in the vineyard.

Our young people rely greatly on the wisdom shared by more senior members of the parish. This was born out at our recent parish retreat, which was possibly our best to date. Shared hopes and fears were facilitated at a deeper level in an atmosphere of loving acceptance of each other mixed with an evening of song and stories. Again, our senior parishioners providing wisdom and enthusiasm that was greatly appreciated and invaluable to its success.

Also, Katie's growing expertise in group facilitation was pivotal. These are events that bring us together as parish with such a great representation from each part of the Durham Martyrs, and I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for making it an exceptional gathering. We are planning a Sunday Mass in the new St. Leonard's School in July. More on this later.

## Feast Days

Tuesday, 17 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Patrick, Bp Apostle of Ireland
Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Joseph, Husband of thr Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> March	St. Cuthbert, Patron of the Diocese

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

Anniversaries:

Bernard Dooner	Jack and Violet Dooner
Mary Hughes	Maureen Harris
John Morgan	Victoria Garnham
Jim Pickering	Agnes Addison-Smyth
James Buchanan	Mary Morgan
Nancy Howes	Rita Harrison



## Forthcoming Funerals

The Requiem Mass of the late Teresa Armitage will take place on **Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March** at 10.00am in St. Joseph's followed by burial in South Road Cemetery.

*Requiescat in pace.*

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



Sunrise Services at 7.30am continue in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's, and take place every Tuesday and Thursday morning throughout Lent.

The final service will be on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March.



## St. Godrics' Change of Mass Time

Please note that the Tuesday morning Mass on 17<sup>th</sup> March has been moved to the earlier time of **9.00am**.

## Lenten Charity Soup Lunches

Date	Group
20 <sup>th</sup> March	Youth Group
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Bereavement Group

Lenten Stations of the Cross Fridays at 7.00pm followed by Holy Communion



Date	Venue	Group
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	St. Godric's	Ecumenical Stations
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	St. Joseph's	Sanctuary 21
April 1 <sup>st</sup> – Good Friday	St. Joseph's – 10.00am	Confirmation Group

Easter Masses/Services - Please note that there will be a Penitential Service at St. Joseph's on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> March, at 7.00pm.

Day	Date	Time	Church
Mini Triduum	1 <sup>st</sup> April	2.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Thursday	2 <sup>nd</sup> April	7.00pm	St. Godric's
Good Friday	3 <sup>rd</sup> April	3.00pm	St. Joseph's
Holy Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	St. Joseph's
Easter Sunday	5 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00am 10.30am	St. Godric's St. Joseph's

**Celebration of the Mini Triduum** – a celebration of the Mini Triduum for the sick and housebound has been organised for the **Wednesday of Holy Week – 1<sup>st</sup> April**. This will take place at 2.00pm in St. Joseph's Church, followed by a 'Celebratory Tea' in the Jubilee Room provided by the SVP.

A list will be available at the back of church for anyone wishing to attend. Please enter your name and tick if transport is required, leaving a contact telephone number.



There will be a Parish Easter coffee morning on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March**. 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 India. Everyone is very welcome.

**Journey in Faith – Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm and the topic is The Triduum.**

**Grand Piano – St. Godric's** - The grand piano at St. Godric's will remain open from now on, so if anyone would like to play some gentle music before Mass and/or during communion, just let anyone in the choir know.



### **Save the Date**

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm a Summer Concert at St Godric's, given by the St Godric's Choir.**

**Peru Mission** - Just a quick message to thank the wonderful people of the Parish of The Durham Martyrs for their tremendous generosity in contributing seven hundred and fifty nine pounds towards the work of The Peru Mission.

This year we are building a nursery school “Cuna Jardín Nuestra Señora de La Purissima” for 120 children of 3yrs -5yrs of age in the port of Masusa, in the City of Iquitos. The funds donated will go towards the construction of that nursery school to make it a joyful, stimulating learning environment for the children who come from families living in extreme poverty. Thanks also to those who have taken up Standing Orders and Gift Aid as this helps The Peru Mission in our medium and longer-term project planning.

Many thanks and please keep us in your prayers as we keep you in ours.  
*Joseph Bernard Plumb MBE, Projects Co-ordinator*



All are welcome to our Parish St. Patrick's Ceilidh

**This Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 7pm-10pm in St Joseph's School Hall**

Brilliant Ceilidh Band 'North by North East'.

£5 Adults. £2.50 Children – you can pay on the door.



### **St. Joseph's Purificators**

If you have any purificators at home that you may have washed, please return them as we are running short.

## Parish School News



St Leonard's Catholic Secondary School  
<https://stleonardsdurham.bwcet.com/>

### St Leonard's Year 7 Retreat

This week saw 88 Year 7 pupils attend retreat to the Youth

Village in Consett. Pupils explored the theme of 'Living Hope' developing on from our Jubilee year.

Everyone enjoyed taking part in workshops, competitions and spent time outdoors. on Wednesday morning the group finished their time together celebrating Mass with Fr. Andrew Downie. We hope that our Year 7 pupils bring the messages they received back to school and continue to put their faith into action.



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

We would like to send out a big thank you to all the parents and families who attended the Somone Special Celebration in school. It was

wonderful to see everyone share such a lovely occasion with the children. The children were incredibly excited to welcome their special visitors into school and proud to share the celebration they had prepared. We appreciate you taking the time to come and support the children and our school community.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March it will be a Non-Uniform Day in school. We kindly ask if children could bring in an Easter Egg donation which will help support our Easter activities in school. Your generosity and continued support is always greatly appreciated.



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

We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent Catholic Schools Inspection, in which St.

Godric's was graded **Outstanding** in every area of Catholic Life, Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Inspectors were particularly impressed by the children's confidence in leading worship, their thoughtful engagement in lessons and the strong sense of belonging they expressed. They highlighted the school's "very strong culture of community and togetherness, where all are welcomed and included warmly."

This exceptional outcome reflects the dedication of our pupils, staff, parents, and the wider parish community. We are incredibly proud that our distinctive ethos and daily practice has recognised so highly across every aspect of the inspection framework.



St Thomas More Catholic Primary School  
<https://stthomasmorebelmont.bwceet.com/>

Class 2 had a wonderful trip to Wharton Park this week. In their workshops they used the text 'Martha Maps it out' to

help them improve their map skills - linking to their Geography topic work, in class - and they learned all about physical and man-made features.

They also got to try out using compasses and extended their knowledge of compass directions. The children were exceptionally well-behaved and enjoyed being out in the fresh-air and taking part in all the exciting activities.

St. Thomas More are so thankful and grateful to John Hayton, one of our parishioners, who is giving up his time and supporting our year 4 children - who are making their First Holy Communion this year. John is supporting the teaching, of our RE curriculum, by extending the children's knowledge of The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist - bringing new knowledge and expertise to our children. Thank you, John, the children are really enjoying their session.



If you made a lantern, please join us for the **Lanterns of Hope** event at **Crook Hall and Gardens** on **22<sup>nd</sup> March** at **18:00**. Email [durhammartyrsparihyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:durhammartyrsparihyouthgroup@gmail.com) to let us know you're coming so we can arrange tickets.

Our next youth group will be on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March after 5pm Mass at St Joseph's. The theme is 'We are all unique and special'. A reminder to those coming to join us, to send in a baby photo of themselves to [durhammartyrsparihyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:durhammartyrsparihyouthgroup@gmail.com) by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> please.

**Children's Liturgy – St. Joseph's** - The Children's Liturgy Team are planning another fun Easter celebration for the children again this year, along with tea and coffee for anyone else who would like to come along after Mass at **St. Joseph's** on **Easter Sunday** morning,

There will be crafts, games, a scavenger hunt and plenty of prizes.



Also donations of cakes will be gratefully received. If you need further information or have any questions, please contact [durhammartyrsparihyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:durhammartyrsparihyouthgroup@gmail.com)



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

## TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL 200 CLUB

### Results – March 2026

<b>1<sup>st</sup> (£50)</b>	<b>No. 79</b>
Stephen Dunn	St. Mary's & St. Wilfred, Bishop Auckland
Mr. Jan Ludwinski	St. Charles, Gosforth
Kath Kenny	Tynemouth Priory – St. Cuthbert's
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> (£25)</b>	<b>No. 198</b>
Pauline Percival	Our Lady of Lourdes, Wallsend
Kate Edwards	All Saints Lanchester

Thank you for your continued support.

#### Aid for Ukraine – Call for candles / Non-prescription medical supplies

In response to a recent appeal in Northern Cross for candles, candle wax, I am gathering candle stubs and redundant pascal candles from both churches.

Bandages and over the counter medical supplies are also needed. If you are able to donate any non-prescription medication, please pass it to Kathleen Murray at St. Godric's or myself at St Josephs. For safety reasons please do not leave it at the back of churches. Wagons are leaving the North East with donations for Ukraine on a regular basis.

Thank you, **Peter Thompson**



#### Missio APF/Mill Hill collections for the month of March 2026 Ss. Godric and Bede

Red mission boxes / donations from St. Bede's will be collected by sponsors in the usual way during March.

Please bring those for St. Godric's to Sunday Mass on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> March. Many thanks for your continued support and generosity

#### Events at Ushaw - The St. Mark Passion – Oliver Tarney

**Saturday 28 March, 7:30 pm, St Cuthbert's Chapel, Ushaw,**

On the evening before Palm Sunday at the start of Holy Week, the Durham Singers will present a powerful semi-staged performance of Oliver Tarney's St Mark Passion, a dramatic and deeply moving musical journey into the heart of the Passion story. It will be an unforgettable evening. Tickets and further information: [www.durham-singers.org](http://www.durham-singers.org)

**Vespers (Evening Prayer) at Ushaw: This Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm,** please join us for Sung Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw. This is an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church. All are very welcome to join us for the service.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 14 March	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Peter & Catherine McLoughlin and Helen Avery Anniversary
Sunday 15 March 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9.00am Robert Bailey (illness)  3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Rose Carr Birthday Remembrance, Victoria Garnham 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 50 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Remembrance, and Jim Pickering Anniversary
Monday 16 March	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 17 March	8.30am – Exposition 9.00am Special Intention (A, R, M, T)	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
Wednesday 18 March	NO MASS	10.00am Requiem Mass of the late Theresa Armitage
Thursday 19 March	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am World Peace	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
Friday 20 March	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am For all those receiving necessary hospital treatment
Saturday 21 March	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Thomas Hardy and Belle Blakey
Sunday 22 March 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	9.00am Cecylia Urbaniak and Margaret White (Newton Hall) 3.00-4.00 – Exposition	10.30am In thanksgiving for a Golden Wedding (J&GT) Brid Mulcahy, and Deceased members of the Barrett and Conway Families

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 15	Mon 16	Tue 17	Wed 18	Thurs 19	Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm