

**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](mailto:durham.martyrs@diocesehn.org.uk)  
WEBSITE: [www.durhammartyrs.co.uk](http://www.durhammartyrs.co.uk)  
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

*Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers*

## Parish Newsletter – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 PENTECOST SUNDAY

**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 818 544/0191 3332183

(Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a visit)

For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

Our appeal for new members of the SVP was very successful. Thank you to those who signed up to add strength to our membership. We also need to strengthen our numbers of both attendees and drivers for our Wednesday Lunch Club.

Our congratulations to our vital St. Leonard's link, Rachel Thornton. We wish Rachel and Damien a wonderful life together as husband and wife, as they tie the knot this Saturday. Thanks to both of you, especially Rachel, for your support to our schools and parishes. I met with Rachel recently to prepare our Summer Mass in the newly built St Leonard's and Rachel is really looking forward to the Parish Sunday Mass on the 12<sup>th</sup> July.

The breakfast in aid of our newly formed Youth Group was a great success in both St. Godric's and St. Joseph's last Sunday. The wafting smell of cooking bacon permeated the churches well before the Masses ended Well done to our BOP group. They raised almost £500.

Exam time is always a time of anxiety. Our prayers are with all our schools and university students sitting exams at this time.

"I remember listening to Miles Davis in the car with my dad. I had just done my Grade 5 piano exam, and I was quite cocky. I said, 'It sounds like he's played the wrong note there.' I remember the look of horror on my dad's face, and thinking, 'Wow, I have to figure out why that is not acceptable.' Laura Mvula

## Feast Days

Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Bede the Venerable P D
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Philip Neri
Wednesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Augustine of Canterbury Bp
Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest
Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Paul VI

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	Maureen Milsom
Josephine Lyons	Robin Humphrey
Tom Kimmit	Shirley Harrison
Mary Crilley	Marion Ridley
Sigrid Peyerimhoff	

Anniversaries:

Richard Harrison	Phil Sanderson
Bridget Grehan-Bradley	Christina Taylor
Jack Wressell	Jake Thompson
Theresa Pallister	Matt Pallister Senior



**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Mary Ross, whose Funeral Service will take place at St. Joseph's on **Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June** at 10.45am followed by burial in South Road Cemetery at 12.00pm.

## Forthcoming Funerals

The late Ian Baillie, whose Funeral Service will take place at **St. Joseph's on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May at 1.00pm** followed by burial in St. Laurence Church Yard, Pittington.

The late **Sheila Owens**, whose funeral will take place at St. Cuthbert's on **Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am**, followed by cremation in Durham.

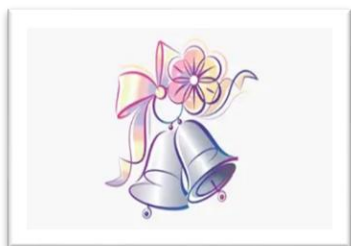
The late Danny McCann, whose Requiem Mass will take place at **St. Joseph's on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May at 10.00am** followed by cremation in Durham at 11.30am.

The late Mary Carney whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Joseph's on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am** followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

*Requiescant in pace*

## Eucharistic Services St Bede's Chapel

Please note there will be no service on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. There will be a service on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 9:00am. Services will resume as usual after the holiday.



Congratulations to Meghan McCarthy and Rory Woods who will celebrate their wedding at St. Godric's on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 12.00pm**

We welcome into our parish community Lilian Tiplady Smith, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism after the 10.30am Mass at **St. Joseph's on Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May.**



**Lunch Club** – please note that **there will not be a meeting** of the Lunch Club next week – 27<sup>th</sup> May – owing to half-term week. It will resume on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.**

**Youth Group - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm.** We are still awaiting definite confirmation from the Gospel Choir as to whether they can still come to our session this month. If not, we will be having a movie night. All welcome!



**Children's Liturgy** – **There will not be** Children's Liturgy at **St. Joseph's on 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> May** because of the school holidays.

**Holy Mother, The Church - women's faith group** - will meet again on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May in the Jubilee Room 7:30pm.** Join us for coffee and conversation about the sacrament of salvation.

**The next International Lunch** will be taking place in the Jubilee room, **St Joseph's after 10:30 Mass on 7<sup>th</sup> June.** We would love you to join us for this happy celebration of the rich diversity of nationalities in our parish. If you are able to, please bring a traditional dish from your part of the world.

**Thank you so much** to all of our generous parishioners for their very kind donations at the **Youth Group breakfast event.** With your support, we raised £425. We are truly grateful, not only for your donations, but also for your kind and encouraging words. There was a lovely atmosphere at both churches during the breakfast and we hope to run similar events in the future. Thank you once again. The Parish of the Durham Martyrs' Youth Group. (See photo over the page).



### Invitation to pray the rosary together

All are welcome to join us to pray the Holy Rosary this month of May. We will be praying the Rosary all Fridays during May at 7.00pm.



Date	Church	Group Leading
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	St. Joseph's	Parish Schools
29 <sup>th</sup> May	St. Godric's	SVP



### Summer Concert

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 7pm a Summer Concert at St Godric's, given by the St. Godric's Choir. See poster in the porch at the back of both churches

### Wednesday morning refreshments at St Joseph's Church

Refreshments are normally served after the 10am Mass on Wednesday mornings until approximately 12.00. Everyone is welcome so please join us for tea/coffee, cake and a chat if you possibly can.

### St. Godric's Choir

The St. Godric's Choir is looking to recruit new members, especially female voices. Come and join our small friendly choir, with minimal commitment. We rehearse, briefly, before and after Mass each Sunday, with occasional longer rehearsals in the lead up to Easter, Christmas and concerts. Speak to any choir member if you would like to find out more. Thank you.

## Volunteer Drivers

If you drive a vehicle to carry out church-related duties, you should check the level of cover provided by your insurance company and tell them that you are volunteering. In the vast majority of cases your insurance company will not charge an additional insurance premium for your volunteering work and will simply make a note on your policy. They may provide cover under your SDP policy or they could choose to add personal business cover. If they suggest that a payment is required, this may be waived if you tell them how little you drive for the church compared to your other activities.

Please complete the annual declaration (Form F8) downloadable via this link: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/services/health-safety/health-safety-manual/>

Submit the form to your parish health and safety representative [johnwells2911@gmail.com](mailto:johnwells2911@gmail.com) or to the parish secretary. You do not need to provide documentation. Examples of church-related journeys include:

- those who use cars to take communion to the housebound
- driving to the bank with collection monies
- being part of a rota to collect members of (for example) a lunch club
- an organised or semi-organised arrangement where parishioners with cars pick up other parishioners to bring them to Mass.

## St. Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Consett Road, Lanchester

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary School Open Day – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00am-2.00pm

All welcome. Promotional Stalls, Tabletop sale, Raffles, Tombola.

See poster at the back of each church.

## Parish School News



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

<https://stjosephsgilesgate.bwct.com/>

As we break up for the half term holiday, we would like to say how incredibly proud we are of all the children . They have worked hard,

supported one another, and continued to grow in faith, kindness and love. We thank God for all they have achieved and for the wonderful spirit they bring to our school community.

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Year 3 and 4 will be attending Mass in church at 10am. All families and friends are welcome to attend.

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, the Mini Vinnies will be hosting our Frosty Fridays during morning breaktime. They will be selling ice cold treats to raise money for local charities.

Dear Lord

Please watch over all of our children during the half term holidays

Keep them safe, happy and healthy

Fill their days with joy, laughter and love

Bring them back to us refreshed and ready for a new school term, Amen



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

We welcomed staff from St Leonard's into school this week to speak with our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils.

The children were really excited to hear about the plans for the new build, and there is a growing sense of anticipation as they look ahead to the transition events and summer school opportunities later in the year.

We are also looking forward to celebrating First Holy Communion at the end of the first week back — Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 10 am.

We are so grateful to those who have kindly offered to be prayer sponsors; the children and the school truly appreciate your prayers.

With half-term approaching, we wish all our families a safe and enjoyable break and hope the sunshine stays with us.



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

We are all looking forward to a well-earned break after what has been a short but very busy half term. As we

move into Summer 2, there is much to look forward to at St Thomas More School, with a wide range of exciting and enriching activities planned.

Year 5 pupils will be taking part in a series of three sessions as part of a mini police project, delivered by Durham Constabulary. Meanwhile, Years 5 and 6 will be embarking on an action-packed and memorable visit to London, including a tour of the Houses of Parliament.

We are also delighted to celebrate our Year 4 and Year 5 children who will be making their First Holy Communion—an important and special milestone in their faith journey.

Once again, we will be hosting *St Thomas More's Got Talent*. After being truly amazed by the incredible performances last year, we are very much looking forward to seeing the talents our children will share with us this time.

Our youngest pupils in Nursery and Reception will enjoy a lovely trip to Hall Hill Farm, which always proves to be a wonderful experience.

The term will conclude with a number of much-anticipated events, including the Year 5 and 6 production of *Porridge*, Sports Day, and our Summer Fair—kindly supported and organised by our wonderful Friends of St Thomas More PTA.

Alongside these exciting activities, we will continue to support our Year 1 children as they prepare for their phonics screening check, and our Year 4 pupils as they get ready for their Multiplication Tables Check in June. Regular practice at home with phonics and times tables will be of great benefit.

Year 6 pupils will also begin a range of transition activities as they prepare for the next step in their education and the move to secondary school. It promises to be another busy and rewarding half term at St Thomas More. In the meantime, we hope everyone enjoys a restful and well-deserved break next week.

**Ushaw Talk: Thomas Aquinas and the Corpus Christi Liturgies on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm.** As Ushaw prepares to host this year's Procession with the Blessed Sacrament, and on the traditional date for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Andy Doyle of Lay Dominicans North East will guide us through the 800 year history and the personalities involved in the feast. In particular, we will be brought into conversation with St Thomas Aquinas, the great 13th century Dominican philosopher, theologian and poet.

You can book for the talk on Ushaw's website, where the talk is listed under the heading "The Conversation Room", the name for a programme of inspiring talks at Ushaw. There is no set cost for the event: pay as you wish.

### **Monthly eco tip**

Try growing something. This is the perfect time to try to grow something edible in the garden, in a window-box, or in a planter. Or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags.

*(Care for Creation Group)*

# Mass Intentions for the Week

24<sup>th</sup> May 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 23 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Margaret White and Joyce Grant
Sunday 24 May	9.00am Bridget Gréhan-Bradley  3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.00am Veronica and Eric Smith
Monday 25 May	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 26 May	9.00am – Exposition 10.00am Colin and Estelle Wild, Peter & Catherine McLoughlin, and Angela Perkins	1.00pm Funeral Service of the late Ian Baillie
Wednesday 27 May	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am For Ella's safe recovery from heart surgery, and the Sick of the Parish
Thursday 28 May	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Margaret Cunningham RIP	NO MASS
Friday 29 May	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Requiem Mass of the late Danny McCann
Saturday 30 May	12.00pm Marriage Service of Meghan McCarthy and Rory Woods	5.00pm Vigil Mass Belle Blakey
Sunday 31 May HOLY TRINITY	9.00am Michael Scanlon (Illness)	10.30am Fr. Colum Adamson, and Brian O'Connor

## St. Cuthbert's

Sun 24	Mon 25	Tue 26	Wed 27	Thurs 28	Fri 29	Sat 30	Sun
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	10.00am Requiem Mass of Sheila Owens	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm