

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 = 22nd February 2026



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Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
Parish mobile: 07483 369 561
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818 544
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ within them.
Fast from emphasis on difference; feast on the unity of life.
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.
Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from worry; feast on trust in God's care.
Fast from unrelenting pressure; feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from negatives; feast on affirmatives.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.
Fast from discouragements; feast on hope.

William Arthur Ward (American author, teacher and pastor, 1921-1994)

Feast Days

Monday, 23 rd February	St. Polycarp Bp M
Friday, 27 th February	St. Gregory of Narek

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Mary Dennis
Mary Armstrong	Rose Simpson
Sheila Owens	Veronica O'Reilly
John Barrett	Marek Earnshaw
Nigel Anthony Cunningham	John Doyle
Mary Wright	Danny McCann
Anthony Gibson	Anthony Clarke

Anniversaries:

Catherine Hannigan	Billy March
James Kelly	Doreen Power
Anne-Marie Melvin	Sheila Wilkinson
David Kelly	Cassie Childs



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Thomas (Sonny) Hardy. His **Funeral Service** will be held on **Wednesday, 11th March at 12.00pm**, followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

.....and also to the family and friends of Theresa Armatage who sadly died this week. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time.

Requiescat in pace,

Forthcoming Funeral

The Funeral Service of the late Tony Twomey will be held at St. Joseph's on **Friday, 27th February at 11.30am**, followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery.

Requiescat in pace.



Congratulations to Lucy Venyo and Alasdair Anderson as they celebrate their marriage at **St. Godric's Church** this **Saturday, 21st February at 11.30am**.

Eucharistic Services - St Bede's - Please note there will be no Eucharistic Services in St. Bede's during half term. Next service - **Monday March 2nd at 9.00am**

The
Season
of
Lent



Sunrise Services at 7.30am 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, 31st March.

Journey in Faith – Thursday, 26th February at 7.00pm. The topic will be the Sacrament of the Sick.

Lenten Charity Soup Lunches

Date	Group
27 th February	NO SOUP LUNCH THIS WEEK
6 th March	Justice and Peace
13 th March	NO SOUP LUNCH THIS WEEK
20 th March	Youth Group
27 th March	Bereavement Group

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



Date	Venue	Group
February 20 th	St. Godric's	SVP
February 27 th	St. Joseph's	Legion of Mary
March 6 th	St. Godric's	No Stations (Gospel Choir Concert)
March 13 th	St. Joseph's	Youth Group
March 20 th	St. Godric's	Ecumenical Stations
March 27 th	St. Joseph's	Sanctuary 21
April 1 st – Good Friday	St. Joseph's – 10.00am	Confirmation Group

Youth2000 Holy hour Saturday 28th February 2-3pm plus social time after.

St Cuthbert's RC Church (Durham Chaplaincy) DH1 3HL.

Theme "This is my Beloved Son"

Lunch Club – no Lunch Club next week owing to half-term. Next lunch is on Wednesday, 4th March.



TICKETS NOW ON SALE

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

14th March 7pm-10pm in St Joseph's School Hall

Brilliant Ceilidh Band 'North by North East'.

£5 Adults. £2.50 Children. Tickets available after all weekend Masses.



Movie Club – Tuesday 24th February Jubilee Room 2pm

DOWNTON ABBEY The Grand Finale (PG) - All are welcome to our screening of the cinematic return of the Crawley family and their staff as they enter the 1930s.



Light refreshments will be served and don't forget to bring a cushion.

Lenten Reflection Resources - Lenten resources are available on the homepage of the [diocesan website](#). This includes *We Dare to Ask* which is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the theme of our Baptismal Vocation.

Forthcoming Concert St Godric's Church - Durham University Gospel Choir

7.30pm Friday 6th March. Entry via pay-at-door (prices to follow).

The following day the Church is being used for recording by Purple Radio (Durham University Student Radio)

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day Collection, Friday, 27th February



Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10, or scan the QR code which links to the donation page. Donating envelopes are available in church this weekend, 21st/22nd February.

Care for Creation (Laudato Si') Group

7.30pm Monday 23rd February in the Franciscan Friary - Every month we meet to discuss how we as a parish can better care for the world that God has given us. All welcome.



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

Parish School News

As we reach the half term break, we would like to take a moment to express our thanks to the school and

parish community. It is through this shared effort and strong sense of community that our school continues to thrive.

We are incredibly proud of the children and what they have achieved over the past few weeks.

Loving God, We thank you for this gift of this half term break.

Keep our children safe in all they do.

Bless their laughter and help them rest.

May they return refreshed , grateful for your love, and ready to grow in kindness and faith. Amen



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

As we come to the end of this term, we offer our sincere thanks to all families and parishioners for your continued support. As

always, the children have been a joy, working hard with great enthusiasm. I think they are certainly ready for a break!

We wish everyone a peaceful and restful half-term break and look forward to welcoming you back soon.



Our next meeting will take place on **28th February**, right after the **5:00 pm Mass** at St Joseph's. This time we'll be playing games, share food together and also we'll be making lanterns, as we've been invited to help create them for the upcoming **Lanterns of Hope** event at **Crook Hall Gardens**. On the **28th** we'll be making the lanterns at RT minds, we'll all go together from St Josephs. And on **22nd March** those who made lanterns are invited to join the event from 5:30 pm. In order for us to plan and to give you all the details we will be grateful if those planning to attend can send us a message to durhammartyrsparishyouthgroup@gmail.com Looking forward to seeing you there.

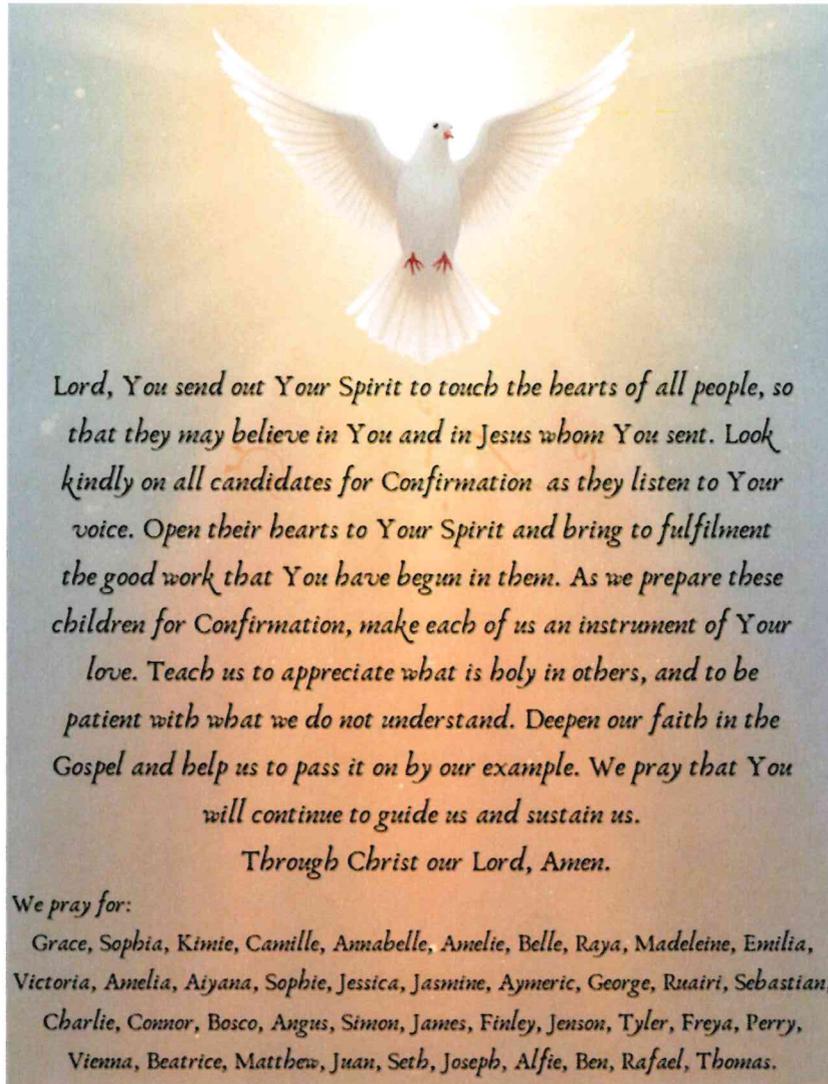
Diocesan Vacancy - Role: Parish Finance Officer - Salary Scale: £43,000 to £45,000

Location: St Vincent's Diocesan Offices, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY

Applicant Pack: From Annie Leaver, Head of HR annie.leaver@diocesehn.org.uk

Closing Date: Wednesday 4th March 2026 (we reserve the right to close the post early). **Shortlisting:** Wednesday 11th March 2026 **Interviews scheduled:** Tuesday 17th March 2026

Preparing for Confirmation



We also pray for Juan, a member of the Confirmation group who will be making his First Holy Communion at 9am Mass on Sunday at St. Godric's Church.



Events at Ushaw:

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday afternoon during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross in the Stations Corridor at Ushaw at 2.15pm. Everyone is welcome.

Workshop on Synodality:

The Catholic Church worldwide is now in the Implementation Phase of the “Synod on Synodality”. If you would like to know more about what synodality means for the church globally and for our own local churches, please join us at Ushaw for a Workshop on Synodality on **Saturday 7th March**. Synodality aims to expand the opportunities for everyone to participate actively in all aspects of the life of the Church, and our Workshop will consider practical questions on what we can do in our own parishes and local churches. The day costs £10: it starts at 11am and will finish by 3.30pm. Further details are available at <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/>

Note from Faith and Mission

Sycamore course

As we begin our Lenten journey, we are offering a Sycamore course for Lent, using sessions to explore our relationship with prayer during this season. Sessions such as 'seven rules of prayer', 'praying with the Bible' and 'prayer for beginners', this Sycamore course is open to everyone. We invite you to share this information and booking link with those you feel would be interested. I have also attached a poster which can be shared with others.

'Prayer in my opinion is nothing else than a close sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be along with him who we know loves us.'

St Teresa of Avila

Join us in this season of Lent as we look at how we might enter more deeply into prayer. Using sessions from Sycamore, we will explore wisdom from the Bible, stories from the saints, lots of practical tips and advice about some of the common difficulties we face when praying.

The sessions will take place online using Zoom. They will be weekly on **Sunday evenings from 6pm to 7.15pm from 22nd February until 29th March**.

Please register your interest using the link below to receive the Zoom link.

<https://bit.ly/DHNSycamoreLent2026>

See poster on the notice boards.

Mass Intentions for the Week

22nd February 2026

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 21 February	11.30am Marriage Service of Lucy Venyo and Alasdair Anderson	5.00pm Vigil Mass Deceased members of the Hennessy Family and Jim and Mary Bygroves, and In thanksgiving for support received
Sunday 22 February 1 st Sunday of Lent	9.00am Special Intention (BDF) 3.00-4.00pm – Exposition	10.30am Alf Carr Anniversary and Deceased members of the Barrett and Conway Families
Monday 23 February	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 24 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Alan Sweeney, Fiona Hunter, Estelle Wild and Fred Leonard Birthday Remembrance	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
Wednesday 25 February	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Tony Twomey
Thursday 26 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Special Intention (TF)	7.30am Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
Friday 27 February	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am - Cassie Childs Anniversary 11.30am Funeral Service of Tony Twomey
Saturday 28 February	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Hannah Mary Drane and Belle Blakey
Sunday 1 March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.00am Cara Armstrong-McKay 3.00-4.00 – Exposition	10.30am Austin Flynn Birthday Remembrance

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 22 Feb	Mon 23	Tue 24	Wed 25	Thurs 26	Fri 27	Sat 28	Sun 1 March
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	12.00 noon Requiem Mass (Jacqueline Oak) & 7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm