

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 - Sunday 28th June **The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul**



Priest:

Fr. Colm Hayden

Parish Secretary

Marjorie Towers **07391 529 827**

(Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am- 4.00pm)

Hospital Chaplain

Fr. Paul Tully - 01388 818544

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

SVP Confidential number 07596 821 0

For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

Quite an amount of information arrives daily at the parish office regarding church openings etc. You will receive more this weekend on the parish website and newsletter. While all is positive news, can I ask caution re dangers of contagion and a possible second spike. Can I ask especially, those in the vulnerable age category, and with underlying health problems, to be especially cautious.

The parish council met on Zoom this week and looked at a number of issues, especially church openings. Since that meeting I received from the Diocese notification that St. Godric's will be in the next but one, trench of churches to open. Many thanks to those of you who have already volunteered to assist with the preparation of our churches to open. We will be in touch as soon as dates are given.

You will notice that the Hardship Fund is being set up. With furlough still in operation, we may not be aware of critical need just yet. But the anticipation nationwide is that things may become more critical quite soon.

Sadly, we lost Joan Humble this week. With her dry sense of humour, and equally big heart, she will be a big loss, especially to our gatherings at St. Bede's for daily Mass and Services of Word and Communion.

We hope that the parish packs continue to give the joy we have had reflected back to us in the past. Thanks for the positive feedback.

Feast Days

Sunday, 28 th June	Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles
Tuesday, 30 th June	First Martyrs of the Church of Rome
Wednesday, 1 st July	St. Oliver Plunkett Bp, M
Friday, 3 rd July	St. Thomas, Apostle
Saturday, 4 th July	St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Parish Buildings

The Parish Office, Presbyteries and all church buildings continue to be officially closed to all visitors and the parish secretary can be contacted by email - secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com and mobile on all parish matters. The new number is 07391 529 827.

If you would like to join the **Parish Contact Team** as a volunteer, or if you know of - or you are - a vulnerable person who needs assistance, please ring **Katie on 07483 369 561**.



Sympathy - we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Joan Humble who sadly died this week. *Requiescat in pace.*

Congratulations - to Richard and Martine Fell on the birth of their baby daughter, Aoife, on 18th June. A new sister for Amelia.

Mass Intentions this week

Saturday, 27 th June	Peter and Catherine McLouglin, and Frank O'Reilly
Sunday, 28 th June	Susan Michiels and Diana Sanderson
Monday, 29 th June	Priest's Intention
Tuesday, 30 th June	Lucy Hunt and Norah Stanton
Wednesday, 1 st July	Lucy Hunt
Thursday, 2 nd July	Henry Meechan
Friday, 3 rd July	In thanksgiving for a Diamond Wedding Anniversary
Saturday, 4 th July	Paddy and Kitty Farrell

There are quite a lot of Mass Intention slots available. Please contact Marjorie if you would like to put a Mass in for someone.

Hospital visits: The University Hospital of North Durham has suspended visiting of patients, with limited exceptions for children's wards, maternity wards and end-of-life patients. However, **the Catholic Chaplain is still able to visit patients**, and to bring them Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick.

If you know of a patient who wishes for a visit from the Catholic Hospital Chaplain, please inform Fr. Paul Tully on 01388 818544 or frpaultully@outlook.com

Reopening of Churches in the Finchale Partnership

The following churches in our Partnership will be the first to open, when possible, for limited hours for private prayer:

St. Godric's, Durham
Ss. Joseph, Patrick & Cuthbert, Coxhoe
St. Joseph's, Ushaw Moor

The hours of opening for each church will be announced. Before reopening, a risk assessment and a deep clean will be carried out for each church, and churches will be cleaned after each day of opening. The number of people allowed to enter the church will be restricted, to comply with social distancing rules.

Volunteers are needed to clean the church, and to act as stewards to ensure social distancing while the church is open. The Diocesan Handbook for the Reopening of Churches stipulates that:

'Stewards and cleaners must **not** be drawn from the **clinically extremely vulnerable** group who are shielding. Those in the **clinically vulnerable group**, including people aged 70 or over, could be at a higher risk of severe illness from coronavirus. The clinically vulnerable group are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, take particular care to minimise contact with others outside their household or support bubble. Those from this group who still wish to volunteer will be asked to confirm that they have read and understood the Diocesan Handbook for Re-Opening of Churches and HM Government Guidance on Staying alert and safe (social distancing.)'

If, having considered this information, you wish to volunteer to assist with the reopening of churches, you can do so in any of the churches of our Partnership which are opening. To volunteer, please contact the parish secretary by email - secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com or by phone: 07391 529 827.

Other churches re-opening in the Diocese

Below is an extract from a note sent to clergy by the Bishop:

"I am pleased to announce the opening of the following churches in the near future:

Bedlington	St. Bede
North Gosforth	The Sacred Heart
Newcastle	St. Teresa of the Infant Jesus
Newcastle	St. Bede
South Shields	St. Bede
Gateshead	Immaculate Heart of Mary
Durham	Our Lady of Mercy and St Godric
Ushaw Moor	St. Joseph
Newton Aycliffe	St. Mary
Darlington	St. Augustine

I would again like to thank the Parish Priests and their volunteers for facilitating these openings and I hope more will follow soon.

Thank you for your cooperation in what is a difficult and lengthy process in ensuring the safety of our clergy and people as we begin to emerge from the lockdown."

Hardship Fund

I would, like to say "Thank you" to all of you who have felt able to continue to support the Parish with your donations during this time when our churches are closed. It has been much appreciated with the bills still coming in.

Over the last few weeks, I have been aware that the lockdown has prevented people from working and some of our parishioners have been struggling on reduced incomes as a result. The Parish has tried to help in a small way where we can. The Government's furlough scheme has to some extent, protected many people by guaranteeing the major part of their income in the hope that they will be able to return to their jobs when the crisis is over. However, it looks likely that when people return to work, the shrinking economy will mean that some employers will not be able to support the same level of employment that they supported previously. Jobs will be lost and more of our parishioners are likely to struggle to meet their commitments. Fr Colm would like to be in a position to help support these hard-pressed parishioners as much as possible.

To this end at Fr. Colm's request, I am establishing a parish Hardship Fund. It will be a restricted fund ring fenced only for use in helping the most hard-pressed of our parishioners. I am inviting you on Fr Colm's behalf to contribute what you can afford to this fund knowing that your contribution will go straight to the people most in need of your help. This is an opportunity to make a real difference to peoples' lives. I know you will be as generous as you can be. Please make your contribution by bank transfer to our bank quoting the following details, and any donations should bear a reference of "Hardship Fund".

Sort Code 40-34-45 A/C No 51179306
A/C Name DHN Durham The Durham Martyrs
OR

by cheque, payable to The Durham Martyrs
to Fred Haywood, Parish Treasurer, The Beeches, Grove House Drive, Gilesgate,
Durham, DH1 1UP. Please also put note in your envelope referencing the Hardship
Fund. Many thanks, Fred Haywood

Mass and prayer available online

<http://walsingham.org.uk/live-stream> - Live Mass at 12 noon every day

<https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/> - Live Masses throughout the day from around the world

<https://www.churchservices.tv> - Mass, Rosary and prayer throughout the day

There will also be the following available on our social media and YouTube channel:

Live Rosary every Weekday - 10:30am. Live Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every weekday. Also, Fr. Colm will be saying Mass privately at 10.00am on Sunday mornings, so please join him in prayer.

CAFOD and Holy Island Join us for a CAFOD pilgrimage with a difference!

At this time of year, we would be excitedly anticipating our annual visit to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne - the cradle of Christianity in the North East. Obviously we would love to have been able to physically be there - as we had planned to be - but since we can't do that, we thought we would have a virtual pilgrimage instead and we'd love you to join us! We're busy preparing for our CAFOD North East Team virtual pilgrimage to Holy Island which will take place from 1st-11th July. Our clever IT people are currently repurposing CAFOD Hexham and Newcastle's blog page, so it can host our pilgrimage:

<https://cafodhexhamnewcastle.wordpress.com/>

Beginning 1st July, there will be a daily reflection and prayer from our good friend and former CAFOD trustee, Fr Jim O'Keefe. There are also shared memories of the pilgrimage from pilgrims and colleagues who have joined us over the years, videos and stories from our partners around the world, and up to date news about CAFOD's latest campaigns and how you can help us.

We would also love you to share your memories and photographs of being part of a pilgrimage - from anywhere in the world! Email us at hexhamandnewcastle@cafod.org.uk and tell us your story. Dig out your photographs too - it would be great to see them! At 3pm on Saturday 11th July, Fr Chris Hughes will live-stream a special pilgrimage Mass for us from his parish <https://www.facebook.com/The-Parish-of-Saint-Cuthbert-and-Saint-Joseph-North-Shields-798826703506481/>



Saints Peter and Paul - Feast Day June 29th (Celebrated on Sunday 28th June) St. Peter, originally known as Simon, was a fisherman by trade. Jesus called Peter, along with his brother Andrew, James, and John, to leave everything behind to become His followers. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). It is because of Peter's confession of faith in Jesus as Messiah that Jesus gave him the nickname of "rock" and stated that it was upon the rock of Peter's faith that the Church would rise (Matthew 16:18). All the Gospel writers list Peter first when naming the apostles of Jesus. Time and again in the Gospels, however, Peter demonstrates that his faith

is imperfect, but growing. He says things that make Jesus react strongly: he denies that Jesus' coming death should ever be allowed to happen (Matthew 16:22), tells Jesus at the Last Supper that He will never wash his feet (John 13:8), and denies association with Jesus three times, even after Jesus predicted that he would do so (Luke 22:61). St. Peter can show us how difficult discipleship can truly be, but is also an example of the Lord choosing the weak and making them strong in bearing witness to Him. Peter was martyred (crucified upside down on a cross) for the Faith in the year 64 in Rome, the city he served as its first bishop. St. Peter's feast day is February 22nd, the feast of the primacy of St. Peter.

St. Paul's background and journey of faith is somewhat different from St. Peter's. Paul, who was originally known as Saul, was an educated Jew and a member of the Pharisee party, as well as being a Roman citizen. He first appears in the pages of Scripture in Acts 7:58, as being present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen, the first of Jesus' followers to be put to death because of his faith in Jesus. Saul persecuted the Christians savagely, but was dramatically converted to the very One he had been persecuting after seeing Jesus in a vision (Acts 9:4). From that time on, Saul, who was now known as Paul, poured the same energy with which he persecuted Christ's followers into bringing the Gospel of Jesus to many people. Paul travelled around most of what was the Roman Empire, establishing Christian communities. His many letters form the bulk of the writings of the New Testament. Paul was also martyred in Rome, three years after St. Peter, in the year 67 AD, by being beheaded (His Roman citizenship would not permit his being crucified). The feast commemorating his conversion is January 25th. Peter and Paul represent two strikingly different approaches to discipleship. Peter had to learn slowly, make many mistakes along the way, but always experienced the compassionate forgiveness and encouragement of Jesus. Paul, on the other hand, came to the Faith immediately and never backed away from his zeal for Christ after that. Many of us can see both these great Apostles in ourselves. Like Peter, we sometimes fail but yet persevere. Like Paul, we must always be on fire for the Lord, and proclaim Him to everyone and in every situation, no matter how difficult it can sometimes be to do so. The feast day of St. Peter and St. Paul is celebrated on June 29th.