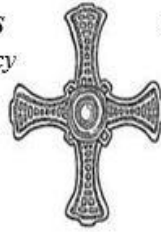


The Parish of the Durham Martyrs
*Incorporating the Churches of Our Lady of Mercy
& St. Godric, St. Joseph and St. Bede*

Parish Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden



TELEPHONE: 07391 529 827
EMAIL: secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com
WEBSITE: www.durhammartyrs.co.uk
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers

Parish Newsletter: 31st January 2021 - 4th Sunday of the Year

Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden

Parish Secretary: Marjorie Towers (0191) 3843810

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm

Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully - 01388 818 544

(Please telephone the Chaplain if you have someone in hospital who would like a vi
For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

“To survive and flourish in such a world (of uncertainty), you will need a lot of mental flexibility and great reserves of emotional balance. You will have to repeatedly let go of some of what you know best, and feel at home in the unknown.” *Yuval Noah Harari.*

Indeed, ‘for the times they are a changin ...’ so rang out the words of the 1960s anthem. Will they ever be the same again post-Covid? I doubt it. Perhaps they shouldn’t be!!

We continue to plough on into the dark unknown of pandemic. Accusations can become a norm as to the best way forward. Conspiracy theories abound on social media. The reality is what it is. We need to protect ourselves, and especially our very stretched NHS staff.

Whilst we jostle on a European level for access to vaccines, we easily forget the less well off countries relegated to the lower rungs of that ladder of ‘first come, first served’ mentality.

“Whilst 39 million doses have been administered to at least 49 better off countries, 25, yes 25! doses have been administered in lower income countries.” *The World Health Organisation.*

Again, can I thank you for supporting our efforts to protect you, especially the vulnerable, in maintaining shutdown of our churches. It hasn’t been easy trying to do the best thing, but I do feel it best to err on the side of safety. I continue to reflect and pray daily as to the next best step to taken in ensuring you are safe. A keen ear to numbers, local and national, and how pressured our medics are, continues to be the important barometer.

Sadly, Fr. Robert Riedling has returned home to Australia this week. His decision to return had to be made quickly in view of the special flights laid on by the Australian government to repatriate Australian citizens abroad in this present pandemic. Fr. Robert has been a great support to me this past year whilst residing in St. Bede’s Presbytery. His contribution to the parish of St. Patrick’s in Langley Moor has been immense. We wish him well. His parents will be delighted to have him home.

Feast Days

Tuesday, 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord
Wednesday, 3 rd February	St. Blaise Bp, M/St. Ansgar Bp
Friday, 5 th February	St. Agatha V, M
Saturday, 6 th February	St. Paul Miki and Companions MM

Parish Buildings

The Parish Office, Presbyteries and all meeting rooms 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 number is 07391 529 827.



Funerals

The Funeral Service of the late Colin Armstrong will take place at Durham Crematorium on Thursday, 11th February at 12.00pm. *Requiescat in pace.*

Please do not try to attend if you have not been invited by the family, as restrictions still apply.

Our Churches remain closed until further notice for all services except funerals.

We will continue to review the situation, looking at the number of cases in our area and taking Government advice. We will keep you informed through our website and social media.

Prayers - please keep in your prayers:

Sheila Owens	Nellie Stoker
John Cople	Sheila Wressell
Tom Oliver	Margaret Nancarrow
Liz Scott	

Anniversaries

Mary Murphy	Frank Roebuck
Gerald Lennon	George Grainger
Thomas Loughlin	Mary Harland
Barbara Birney	George Hill
Gerard McMahon	Laura Mulvaney
Winifred Shaw	

Requiem Mass of Eileen Ingleby - 22nd January 2021

Unfortunately there was a problem with the live streaming link of the Requiem, but you can now access it online using the link below.

<https://youtu.be/ODxqqI3LJ-0>

Northern Catholic Calendar and Ordo - We have a greatly reduced number of Northern Catholic Calendars and a few copies of the Ordo available for £3 and £5 respectively. They can't be left at the back of church but if anyone wants a copy please let Marjorie know.

The Hardship fund has been renamed - The Support Fund

Do You Need Some Support?

With winter upon us some of us may struggle to keep our homes warm. Around 10% of households in England were classed as fuel poor prior to Covid19 pandemic, so this figure is expected to rise.

Older people are among those most likely to suffer as they have the highest fuel costs compared to those of other ages.

You may not consider yourself poor in any respect but have to think twice when it comes to heating. We would therefore urge, that anyone within the parish **irrespective of age** having to make such a decision as **“Can I afford to put the heating on this winter?”** to approach the Support Fund immediately for assistance.

That is what it is there for - to support our fellow parishioners in need.

The form, to apply for funds, is available to download from the parish website, or via the parish office (subject to Covid restrictions).

If you require help to complete an application, any member of the parish community can assist you in this regard, or can submit an application on your behalf.

Information on Durham food Banks

For information please use the on-line link for information on all County Durham Foodbanks - Locations / Opening times / to donate or volunteer

<https://durham.foodbank.org.uk/>

News from the Centre for Catholic Studies

Ushaw Lecture Series

Tuesday 2nd February

The Long Aggiornamento: Female Religious Life in Britain, 1945-1990 by Dr Carmen M. Mangion. 6pm GMT, online.

All welcome! Please register online at <https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com> to receive the Zoom details.

From the Diocese

(i) A Novena for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Beginning on Tuesday 2nd February, Fr Stephen Watson (Lourdes Pilgrimage Director) will lead a novena for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February. Fr Stephen will lead us daily in a few minutes of prayer which can be accessed via the 'Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes' Facebook page.

Daily prayers will be shared at 8am and can be viewed at any time after that. You are invited to join in this time of prayer.

(ii) The North East Catholic Writers` Guild are running a literary competition for schoolchildren - the theme is: "Compose a hopeful prayer for this difficult time" Maximum 20 lines. The lines don`t have to rhyme. Open to 8-10 year-olds. Please include your age, name, address and phone number and send to:

Veronica Whitty, Secretary, Catholic Writers` Guild (NE), 51 Queen`s Crescent, Wallsend, NE28 8DW, or e-mail: veronicawhitty@hotmail.com
Deadline: 8th April 2021

NB: Entries: excludes anyone related to any member of the Guild or related to anyone connected with the Northern Cross.

(iii) Knowing Jesus: Lent Online Retreat 2021

Walk with us through Lent and Easter and really come to understand and love Jesus.



We will ponder Gospel stories, reflect on their meaning and see how startlingly relevant Jesus is to living a truly human life in the 21st Century.

[Follow the retreat](#) online and sign up to an online group (places limited).

[Sign up](#) to receive daily emails during Lent and additional resources.

Follow the Lent Retreat on the Jesuits in Britain social media channels: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Mass Intentions for the Week

31st January 2021

THERE WILL NOT BE ANY MASSES THIS WEEK

Fr. Colm will say Mass for the following intentions at his daily private Masses:

Saturday 30th January
David Adams
Philip Hunter (Anniversary)

Sunday 31st January
Audrie Walsh
Sean Higgins

Monday 1st February
Priest's Intention

Tuesday 2nd February
Pam Neill

Wednesday 3rd February
Mary Donaghy

Thursday 4th February
Tom Lawlor

Friday 5th February
Eileen Ingleby

Saturday 6th February
Olga Oliver

Sunday 7th February
Brian O'Connor
Thomas and Audrey Loughlin
Gerard and Mary Lennon

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 31 Jan	Mon 01 Feb	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thurs 4	Fri 5	Sat 6	Sun 7
10.00am and 6.30pm (Pre booked attendance only)	No Mass	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	9.15am	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm (Pre booked attendance only)