

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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Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Parish Secretary: Mrs. M. D. Towers

Parish Newsletter - Sunday 13th September **24th Sunday of the Year**

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)

For bereavement support, please contact the Parish Secretary

It's good to see our numbers slowly returning to Mass. Please don't forget that restrictions have not been lifted; you still need to book a place. I ask that you please book into our Masses. It is not very pleasant for me, or Marjorie, to say "sorry, but we're full!". Booking is also a legal requirement for Track and Trace purposes. So please, do make life easier for Marjorie especially. And....it makes life much easier for our stewards as well, who are required to Deep Clean our churches after you have departed.

Barbara Reilly O'Donnell, Interim Executive Head Teacher will be making important announcements regarding the Federated Schools of St. Thomas More and St. Joseph's at all Masses this weekend.

Sadly, Sam Clarke, former head of St. Thomas More/St. Joseph's Federation of Schools, has been struggling with her health. She has had two serious operations this week. We hope and pray that she is on the road to recovery. Your prayers are asked for Sam, especially over these next few weeks.

Thanks again to our stewards, who continue to do a Trojan job at all services. Without them, we'd have none!

Feast Days

Saturday, 12 th September	The Holy Name of Mary
Monday, 14 th September	The Exaltation of th Holy Cross
Tuesday, 15 th September	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday , 16 th Sept	Ss Cornelius Pp and Cyprian Bp, MM
Thursday, 17 th September	St. Robert Bellarmine Bp, D
Saturday, 19 th Sept	St. Theodore of Canterbury Bp, D/St. Januarius Bp, M

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 number is 07391 529 827.

Prayers - please keep in your prayers:

Edward Newcombe	Nellie Stoker
Sheila Owens	Rose Marie Bruno
Sam Clarke	

Anniversaries

Carmel Nolan	

Please let Marjorie know if you would like your loved one mentioned in the bulletin on their anniversary

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

Second Collection - There will be a second collection this weekend 12th/13th September on behalf of the Holy See for Holy Places of Palestine. This collection is eligible for Diocesan Gift Aid, so please use a Special Collection envelope from your box supplied.

St. Joseph's RCVA Primary School will be open on Thursday evenings between 4pm and 6pm for tours of the school for parents and carers considering a place for their child. Unfortunately we are unable to offer an open morning due to coronavirus restrictions. If you would like to visit the school please email stjosephgilesgate@durhamlearning.net to book an appointment.

Church Re-opening

Face masks are to be worn at all services in St. Godric's and St. Joseph's. Social distancing determines that the number attending any service is restricted.

To ensure that we can safely accommodate you, and have the correct number of Stewards and Eucharistic Ministers at Mass, it will be necessary to contact Marjorie, our parish secretary, either by telephone 07391 529 827 or email secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com requesting a place. In accordance with Government Guidelines, and **each time you reserve a place, whether by telephone or email, she will need your name and a contact number for track and trace purposes, should this become necessary. If you leave a voicemail message, please leave your number as well.**

For Mass the capacity of our churches is limited to about 20% of the norm. For **Saturday, Sunday, and Tuesday Masses**, the deadline for requesting a place at Mass is 2.00pm on Friday and for Masses on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, you can make your request up to 3.00pm the day before. Please note the revised deadline times.

If you are unable to get a place at a weekend Mass, remember there is Mass during the week. Our obligation to attend Sunday mass is waived at present. May we take this opportunity of asking those who are vulnerable not to come to mass at present.

The reception of Holy Communion will by necessity have to be controlled and our volunteer stewards will guide you. In order to reduce the risk of Covid 19 following the reception of the Blessed Sacrament, which will be received only in the hand, you will be expected to leave the church immediately, and you are asked to leave the church surrounds immediately.

Parish Finance

At each of the daily Masses there is now a collection plate at the back of the church on which weekday Mass goers can place their weekly offertory contributions. If you do not yet feel ready to commence attending Mass again, please continue to make your contribution by bank transfer to our bank quoting the following details: Sort Code 40-34-45 A/C No 51179306 A/C Name DHN Durham The Durham Martyrs OR by cheque or cash to: Fred Haywood, Parish Treasurer, The Beeches, Grove House Drive, Gilesgate, Durham, DH1 1UP. Please indicate when you make your donation if it should be applied to the General Fund or the Hardship Fund. *Thanks, Fred Haywood.*

DURHAM MARTYRS' PARISH HARDSHIP FUND

Over the last few months the Parish, thanks to generous donations from parishioners, has established a Hardship Fund which currently stands at £10,500. The purpose of the fund is to assist parishioners and their families, in the parish catchment area, suffering short-term financial hardship. The fund is now open to applications. The Hardship Fund is overseen by a panel. The panel members are:

Fred Haywood, Joe Hughes, Chris Mclean, Tony Power and Emma Turnbull, with support from Fr. Colm.

To apply please complete the application form which is available on the parish website, or by contacting the parish secretary on 07391 529827. There is also a confidential email - durhamsaints@outlook.com

Listening Service Group

The Parish is exploring the idea of developing a small, friendly listening service. If you have any knowledge in this field either by way of contacts, information, expertise or experience which may guide us, we would like to hear from you. The number to contact is 07907046286 please leave your contact details for one of the team to get back to you. Below is an overview of the new service and the impact coronavirus has had on our daily lives.

Overview

It is hard to imagine that within a short period of 6 months we find ourselves in such an alien situation. The impact of the coronavirus on our everyday lives has been immeasurable, to put this in some kind of context we can look at our daily routine or to put it a different way our daily activities of living which have been affected.

For many, our day follows some structure and purpose whether this is a response to the expectation of the role we play in life or the things we feel comfortable about. We plan the day to account for the events and expectations we will experience, occasionally we are faced with decisions resulting from more complex issues, overall, we are able to cope with these situations. Covid 19 was unexpected yet we are faced with complex issues resulting from this. There is no easy solution to this and despite the efforts of most people to follow the guidelines and advice in trying to prevent a further increase in the number of cases, these continue to rise with the potential of producing a second wave.

As a parish we need to consider carefully the impact a second wave would have on individuals and in particular those who are vulnerable to the effects resulting from further restrictive measures. There are a number of key areas which we need to consider and these include further lockdown measures, self and social isolation and the role we play/expected of us. The move into autumn and winter months may exacerbate this situation for some and therefore as a Parish it has been decided to offer a friendly listening service. We are aware that those who feel isolated due to the effects of Covid 19 face challenging times, therefore we are currently setting up this service to make contact during these periods and will keep you informed of the developments.

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CLOSURE OF ST. THOMAS MORE ROMAN CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY AIDED PRIMARY SCHOOL

After a process of consideration and due diligence, the governors of The Federation of St. Joseph's and St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary Schools have resolved to consult on the closure of St Thomas More School. Further information can be found below:

<http://www.stthomasmorebelmont.durham.sch.uk/2020-21-st-thomas-more-consultation-document/>

Responses to the consultation are welcomed and should be sent to The Chair of the Governing Body, St Thomas More RCVA Primary School, Thorndale Road, Belmont, Durham, DH1 5AQ.



TYNE CENTRAL COUNCIL – 200 CLUB

RESULTS - September 2020 DRAW

1 st (£50)	No. 21
A. Minihan	St. Bernadette's, Wallsend
Pat Henderson	St. Mary's, Bishop Auckland
2 nd (£25)	No. 150
W. Welsh	St. Bernadette's, Wallsend

Parish Retreat - Castlerigg Manor, Keswick - Friday 29th-Sunday 31st January 2021 Originally organised for this month, the Parish Retreat has been rearranged for the last weekend in January, from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. The total cost of the retreat, including accommodation and all meals, is £100 per person. Young people over the age of 16 will be able to attend without a parent/guardian, however rooming arrangements for this are still to be confirmed.

Due to COVID regulations there will be limited places available, however there will be a waiting list in case of a relaxation of the regulations before January. Also, due to the current restrictions we will not be able to organise group travel but individual bubbles will be able to travel, and stay, together.

If you would like to sign up for the retreat, or have any questions on any aspect of it, please email youth.durhammartyrs@rcdhn.org.uk or call Katie on 07483 369561. We will also require a £25 deposit per person.

Tyne and Wear Citizens Listening Update

As you may know, our parish is a member organisation of Tyne and Wear Citizens. Tyne and Wear Citizens is our regional chapter of Citizens UK and focuses on taking action on the issues that matter to people within member organisations such as our parish. These issues are identified through listening campaigns. There are currently some established action teams and emerging action teams. Any parishioner can join one of these. The current action teams are:

Mental Health – which organised a mental health assembly, produced a Living Well report and has succeeded in securing improvements to services, including a more welcoming environment for young people accessing mental health support in North Tyneside.

Safer cities - which has focused on racially motivated hate crime.

Just Change – which has worked to get the money children on free school meals don't spend on a daily basis returned to them and has been at the forefront of the vouchers for school holiday food campaign.

Living Wage – which works to increase the number of real living wage employers in our region and has recently successfully worked with Sunderland City Council, resulting in them becoming the first local authority in our region to become an accredited Living Wage employer.

Emerging Issues

Pre-lockdown the 2020 listening campaign had started and a number of issues were emerging from the listening that took place. Issues groups have started to form to discuss how to undertake research around these concerns, establish key issues and possible actions. These issues groups are:

Climate Change
Austerity
Racism

If you would like to join any of these action teams or find out more about what is involved, please email melanietyson17@gmail.com or telephone 07856 653533.

Mass Intentions for the Week

13th September 2020

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 12 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm David Adams
Sunday 13 Sept	9.00am Theresa Heslop (Anniversary) Kumar Muthhiah (70 th Birthday Thanksgiving)	11.00am Jim Freely
Monday 14 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Tuesday 15 Sept	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Pauline Gilman (Anniversary)	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Wednesday 16 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Moir Robb
Thursday 17 Sept	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am The Armstrong and McKay Families	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Friday 18 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Deceased of the Parish
Saturday 19 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Vocations to the Priesthood
Sunday 20 Sept	9.00am Brian O'Connor and Frank McGoay (Anniversary)	11.00am Deceased members of the Binks and Thompson Families

St. Cuthbert's

Sunday 13	Monday 14	Tuesday 15	Wed 16	Thursday 17	Friday 18	Saturday 19
10.00am Mass Pre-booked attendance only	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass	No Mass