

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: 21st March 2021 – 5th Sunday of Lent

Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden

Parish Secretary: Marjorie Towers 07391 529 827

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

Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully - 01388 818 544



Our parish talk by Professor Tom O'Loughlin went very well. Tom asked questions about how the parish might look post Covid.

Taking an historical perspective, he spoke of the emerging early Christian communities' development from the Jewish synagogue base. I was quite amazed to hear that St. Paul's synagogue sermons were before an assembly of men only, and which numbered no more than twenty. Women and children waited outside serving. It was from these early Christian community assemblies that the church, as we know it, mushroomed. Our numbers will, I hope, be much more than twenty but that this model of small gatherings was what St. Paul built the early Church upon, gives cause for us to reflect.

Perhaps our numbers may not be what they were before the pandemic, but this might give an opportunity. Let's be ready anyhow.

We are blessed being able to celebrate Easter despite the restrictions. Booking for the four services begins on Tuesday, so can I ask for your patience and sensitivity in these unprecedented times. It will be important that you will be able to attend at least one of our services. If the bookings are low, then the option for attending more than one is there.

Please bear with Marjorie and our team of stewards as they try to facilitate your enjoyment of whichever service you would like to attend. Thanks.

Feast Days

Tuesday, 23 rd March	St. Turibius of Mongrovejo Bp
Thursday, 25 th March	The Annunciation of the Lord

Parish Contact

The parish secretary can be contacted by email – secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com and mobile on all parish matters. The number is 07391 529 827. Please do not ring the parish landline.



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late John William Morgan, whose Funeral Service will take place at Durham Crematorium on Wednesday, 31st March, at 1.30pm. *Requiescat in pace.*

- and also to the family and friends of the late Nancy Howes, whose Requiem Mass will take place at St. Joseph's on Friday, 9th April at 10.00am. Her body will be received into church on Thursday, 8th April at 5.00pm. *Requiescat in pace.*

Attendance at any of the above is by invitation from the family only, as restrictions still apply.

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Sheila Owens	Nellie Stoker
John Copple	Margaret Nancarrow
Sheila Patterson	Mary Malyan

Anniversaries

Elizabeth Glaister	Peggy Thompson
Jim Harrison	

Booking in for Weekend Masses

Please continue to book in for our three weekend Masses as we are still restricted to 44 and 59 places at St. Godric's and St. Joseph's respectively. Also, it would be of great help, if you are acting as a Minister, that you book in too, as you still need to be counted as an attendee for our weekly statistics. The deadline for booking in is **2.00pm on Friday afternoon.**



Bulletin items – next week's bulletin (27th/28th March will be a double one, so if you have any items you would like to include, please let Marjorie have them by Thursday, 25th March, at the latest. The next parish bulletin will be over the weekend of 10th/11th April.



The parish office will be closed from Wednesday 31st March at 4.00pm until Tuesday, 6th April at 8.30am.

EASTER SERVICES

Following the guidelines from the Catholic Bishops Conference, our Easter services will go ahead, however they will be a little different to our usual format, each being a simple service, lasting around 30 minutes.

The weekend Masses for Palm, or Passion Sunday will be as usual, and there will be palm crosses for you but there will be no procession and no blessing of the congregation with holy water.

Due to restrictions, there will be

- No washing of feet on Holy Thursday
- No watching at the Altar of Repose on Holy Thursday
- No kissing of the cross on Good Friday
- No candles for the congregation on Holy Saturday
- No blessing of the congregation with holy water on Easter Sunday
- No candles for the congregation on Easter Sunday

The Mass times will be:

Day	Date	Church	Time	Capacity
Holy Thursday	1 April	St. Godric's	7pm	44
Good Friday	2 April	St. Joseph's	3pm	59
Holy Saturday	3 April	St. Godric's	8pm	44
Easter Sunday	4 April	St. Joseph's	10am	59

Booking will be needed for all of these services. Marjorie will be able to take your booking from **8.30am** on Tuesday 23rd March. Due to limited capacity in our churches, we will have to ask you to book in for one Mass only. If there are spare places, we will let you know in the bulletin next weekend, and then allow you to book for other Masses. Please keep an eye to the parish website, which will be updated regularly when a Mass or service is fully booked.

Finchale Partnership Confirmation Programme - We are working across the Partnership to develop new opportunities for our young people, while continuing to offer Confirmation preparation in each parish. We can also make arrangements to support the Confirmation of older candidates if you have not yet had the chance to be Confirmed. It was hoped to begin the next Confirmation preparation programme in Spring 2021. However, as you will appreciate, the uncertainties arising from the current Covid situation make it difficult to plan a meaningful and engaging Partnership Confirmation programme for our candidates at present. The start of the 2021 programme has therefore been postponed, and we are provisionally planning to commence the programme in September. We will provide a further update after Easter.

Gift Aid – Brian Harland has stepped down as our parish Gift Aid organiser and Esther Robson has agreed to take over the role. If you have any queries regarding Gift Aid, or would like to join the scheme, Esther would be happy to hear from you. You can contact her by email: estherrobson@ymail.com or on 07969 528 874.

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/>

Diocesan Refugee Project - Boxes are at the back of church and will be emptied regularly. Can donations please include - Tinned fish, Biscuits, Toilet rolls, Tinned Tomatoes, Chick peas, Rice, Sugar, toiletries, shampoo, toothpaste etc are also welcomed. At present they no longer need corned beef, baked beans, tea and tinned meats. Thank you to all who contribute.

Change of Mass times this week -

St. Godric's – Tuesday 23rd March

St. Joseph's - Wednesday 24th March

St. Joseph's – Friday 26th March

The above Masses will all take place at **9.00am**

Mass Intentions for the Week

21st March 2021

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 20 March	10.00am NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Vigil Mass Victoria Garnham (Anniversary) Michael Oliver (Illness) Mary Malyan (Illness)
Sunday 21 March	9.00am Stephen Coyne John and Doreen Power	11.00am Olga Oliver Peggy Thompson
Monday 22 March	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Tuesday 23 March	9.00am Valerie Walker Ena McBride	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Wednesday 24 March	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.00am James Greig Smith
Thursday 25 March	9.30am- Exposition 10.00am Victor and Veronica Lewis	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Friday 26 March	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.00am In thanksgiving for 62 years of marriage (Ann and Bob Close)
Saturday 27 March	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Vigil Mass Tony Greaves and the Greaves Family David Adams
Sunday 28 March PALM SUNDAY	9.00am Annie and Walter Thompson	11.00am Mary and Gerald Lennon Audrey and Thomas Loughlin

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 21	Mon 22	Tue 23	Wed 24	Thurs 25	Fri 26	Sat 27	Sun 28
10.00am and 6.30pm (Pre booked attendance only)	No Mass	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm (Pre booked attendance only)