

*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 29th March



Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden

Parish Secretary Marjorie Towers (0191) 3843810
Office hours 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 821 089

What a strange feeling for us all. Under house arrest for being of an age that is vulnerable. When we venture out it can resemble a sci-fi movie.

It is, indeed, humbling to find oneself dependent. We don't like being helpless. None of us do. Oh yes, we can choose it by the decisions we make re attachment, but that can still be very much in MY control. Having to be helpless by necessity is something very different. These times are unique for everyone.

Those we meet are careful to keep their safe distance. One might even get a sense of the story of the leper (Mt8:1-4), (Mk1:40-45), (Lk5:12-16). We carry on ordinary conversations as we shout from a distance Presumed intimacies no longer in place. "Keep your distance..", is the unspoken warning. That hidden virus lurks! And this is perhaps what makes it so frightening...we can't see this enemy. Churches have rightly closed. Better late etc...

But....besides the bullish behaviour at some supermarkets, the stories of extraordinary kindnesses emerge out of this chaos.

We now, as Parishioners of the Durham Martyrs Parish have to develop our very own discipline of praying from the confines of our own. I hope over the coming weeks that we can help with this. Can I suggest that as Pope Francis designated this Friday as an hour of prayer, we might remember each evening at 5 our health workers, especially those in the parish, the lonely and most importantly- the sick. We can say that that hour is the hour set aside as a parish to join together in prayer. Don't worry if you are busy, some of you have families to look after.

Continued over/.....

And a big thank you to all who are spearheading social media usage in our parish. This more important now than ever. Please send any new suggestions to Marjorie or Leanne. You will have their contacts in both bulletin and website. Can we say our parish prayer together each morning at 9.00am. I usually say mass at that time. Keep in touch.

Liturgy of The Word

1 st Reading	A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalms 129 - Response	With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption
2 nd Reading	A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 8:8-11
Gospel Acclamation	I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die.

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Parish Buildings

The Parish Office, Presbyteries and all church buildings are **officially closed to all visitors** and the parish secretary can be contacted by email only on **all parish matters**.

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.

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

Stations of the Cross will be available to view on Friday evenings.

Fr. Colm will be saying Mass privately at 10.00am on Sunday mornings, so please join him in prayer.