

*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 1<sup>st</sup> November  
All Saints Day**



**Priest:**  
**Parish Secretary**

Fr. Colm Hayden  
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)

It seems that nothing quite dominates our lives as Coronavirus. Conversations have been reduced to very limited topics. And yet, far from being a boring subject, it is a subject that can cause arguments and tensions at a very personal level. Should there be lockdown, or not? This seems mostly on our minds. Are we going over the top on hygiene etc?

It is problematic for all of us. Some high profile people are weighing in too. It now seems this subject could be the deciding factor in the U.S. elections next week.

Because of all this, there is an even deeper need for us to keep an eye on the positives.

Our churches remain open for Mass and exposition.

Our reaching out to others continues to be beyond what is normal. Our first sacraments are slowly picking up pace.

Of course all this takes place within restricted frameworks. Perhaps these restricted frameworks are saying something to us too? Something of less is more, perhaps? Though camouflaged by masks and deprived of human contact in church, there is something very powerful in our mere physical presence. I think something of this has to do with a sense of solidarity. That we are all struggling. The silent nods of recognition carry more weight than many an embrace or handshake, precisely because of where we all are right now.

## Feast Days

Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed
Tuesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	St. Winefride V and St. Martin de Porres Rel
Wednesday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November	St. Charles Borromeo Bp
Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November	St. Willibrord Bp

## 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](mailto: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	Sheila Wressell

## Anniversaries

John Ward Davison	Harriet Morris
Annie Whitehead	Bill Hannigan
Betty Carroll	Joe Shaw

Please let Marjorie know if you would like your loved one mentioned in the bulletin on their anniversary. The diary for 2021 is now available for anniversaries next year. Please ring or email Marjorie, with your entry.

**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](mailto:frpaultully@outlook.com)**



## Parish Baptism Programme

It has been agreed that the Baptism Programme can re-commence over the coming months. If you would like to register for the Programme, please contact the parish secretary in the first instance, and she will send you a Registration Form.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

At our Masses last weekend our churches were at full capacity - both Sunday Masses were fully booked by midweek and the Vigil Mass had spaces to start with but became full when 17 people who had not booked a place arrived.

While it is fantastic to see so many of you, we do now face the prospect of turning away people who have not made a booking.

If the church reaches full capacity, we will have to ask anyone who turns up without a booked place to wait outside, to see if we have any no-shows. We can only offer a seat to these people at the last minute.

For the safety of everyone, please:

- book a place at the Saturday/Sunday Masses, do not rely on there being a place for you if you have not booked
- aim to be seated a few minutes before Mass starts, so that your place is not given away at the last minute.

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.

**Booking system - For Saturday and Sunday Masses, the deadline for requesting a place at Mass is 2.00pm on Friday.**

Please contact Marjorie, our parish secretary, either by telephone 07391 529 827 or email [secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com](mailto:secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com) requesting a place, and include your name and a contact number. If you leave a voicemail message, please leave your number as well.

**Coming to Mass** - Face masks continue to be worn at all services in St. Godric's and St. Joseph's.

In line with the Government's NHS Covid-19 Track and Trace App, we have posters with the QR code at the entrances to both of our churches. Parishioners can scan the QR code using their mobile phones to help with contact tracing. This system will work alongside our booking in process.

Also, we need to keep the church doors open to help with fresh air circulation, so as the weather gets colder, people may wish to dress warmly.

## Gift Aid - Thank you

A **big** thank you to all parishioners supporting the Gift Aid scheme, especially in light of the current situation where the number of people being able to attend church services is very much reduced and is having an adverse impact on parish finances. Also, many thanks to those Gift Aiders who have switched to bank standing order to continue payments. Your support is greatly appreciated.

And, if there is anybody not currently a member of the scheme but are taxpayers, or the spouse of a taxpayer, and therefore eligible to join the scheme, please remember donations made under gift aid rules means donations are increased by 25% with no additional cost to the donor - in effect a **FREE GIFT** from the Government to charities - which is very important at the moment.

If you do have questions about Gift Aid or would like to join the scheme please contact Brian Harland, 0191 386 2149, or Esther Robson, 07969 528 874.

## From the Diocese

### Life After the Pandemic - Pope Francis

The Vatican Publishing House has released a free eBook, "*Life After the Pandemic*", a collection of interventions by Pope Francis, with a preface by Cardinal Michael Czerny, to reflect on the vision of the world that is emerging after the pandemic and to which we are called to accompany. It is now available to read or download on the diocesan website: [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

## Pope Francis – Prayer to Mary for Protection during the COVID–19 Pandemic.

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.  
At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.  
We are certain that you will provide, so that,  
as you did at Cana of Galilee,  
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform ourselves to the Father's will  
and to do what Jesus tells us:  
He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,  
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.  
We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.  
Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –  
and deliver us from every danger,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin.



# Mass for the Week

1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 31 October	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Peter and Catherine McLoughlin
Sunday 1 November	9.00am Peter Fitzsimons	11.00am Olga Oliver
Monday 2 November	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	8:30 am Mass for All Souls
Tuesday 3 November	9.30.am - Exposition 10.00am May Parker	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Wednesday 4 November	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Ken Hellyn and Gwen Jose
Thursday 5 November	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Bill Hannigan and Bernard McGoay	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Friday 6 November	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Annie Whitehead
Saturday 7 November	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Philip Gibson (Anniversary)
Sunday 8 November	9.00am Jim Freely and Maureen Lappin	11.00am John Quinn

## St. Cuthbert's

Sunday 1	Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wed 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6	Saturday 7
10.00am & 6.30pm Mass Pre-booked attendance only	9.15am	12.15pm	7.00pm	5.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am Mass for the Bereaved