

*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 20<sup>th</sup> September** **25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year**

<b>Priest:</b>	Fr. Colm Hayden
<b>Parish Secretary</b>	Marjorie Towers <b>07391 529 827</b> (Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am- 4.00pm)
<b>Hospital Chaplain</b>	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

Unfortunately, the Covid news isn't too comforting, is it? We can only hope that it isn't going to impact on church services again! Thanks for your co-operation during present services. Social distancing is vital, and it helps the stewards greatly when there is cooperation between us all.

The parish council met this week and we discussed, in detail, the challenges of keeping the parish, the schools, and the vulnerable, as supported as possible. The Hardship Fund and the Listening Service are both being given exhaustive thought, as to the best ways of being supportive.

Many thanks to Barbara Reilly-O'Donnell for her detailed and sensitive presentation at all Masses last weekend on the continued challenges ahead for St. Thomas More and St. Joseph's Federation. We are very fortunate to have Barbara to lead us over the coming year through challenges that might have been faced years ago!

And I say mea culpa for not being more proactive in facing these all too obvious difficulties then.

We now face a testing time, but also a time of real opportunity. Indeed, we are now unfortunately at that stage where we have no other choice.

## Feast Days

Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> September	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio) P
Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Our Lady of Walsingham
Saturday, 26 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Ss. Cosmas and Damian MM

## 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](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	

## Anniversaries

Mary Bowes	Ellie Wilson
Anthony Shaw	Peter Mahan

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](mailto:frpaultully@outlook.com)

**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](mailto:stjosephgilesgate@durhamlearning.net) to book an appointment.

**St Thomas More RCVA Primary School** will be open on Monday 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 [stthomasmore@durhamlearning.net](mailto:stthomasmore@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](mailto: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.**

**Change to booking system - For Saturday and Sunday Masses, the deadline for requesting a place at Mass is 2.00pm on Friday. You no longer need to book a place at the weekday Masses, but will have to give your contact details to the stewards on arrival.**

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](mailto:durhamsaints@outlook.com)



Tom Oliver and family would like to thank the parishioners of the Durham Martyrs for all the Masses, prayers, cards, flowers and love they received during their recent bereavement. It was of great support during this very sad time. Special thanks also to Fr. Colm for all his care and concern.



**Gilesgate Story Challenge 2020!** As some of you will know, Simon Berry (parishioner and local optometrist), initiated the Gilesgate Story Challenge two years ago with the aim of inspiring children to write stories and to raise money for local charities. Whilst the second competition has been very different and more challenging this year, we're delighted to tell you that the winners have been announced and the stories have been collated in a great little book 'Gilesgate Story Challenge 2020'. The winner and runner up stories have been illustrated by Tim Cole and Miles Nelson. If you would like to purchase a copy of the book to support Simon's initiative and at the same time support the chosen charities, the book can now be ordered ahead of the official book launch.

All proceeds from the book will be split equally between the two very deserving chosen local charities:

- RT Projects - 'saving lives with art' <https://rtprojects.org.uk/>
- Cheesy Waffles - a project for young people aged between 7 and 30 years old with additional needs <https://www.cwyproject.org.uk/>

For a copy of the book (written by famous authors of the future!) please contact:

- Simon at [info@simonberry.co.uk](mailto:info@simonberry.co.uk) or
  - Esther at [estherrobson@gmail.com](mailto:estherrobson@gmail.com); Mobile - 07969528874
- and we will be delighted to deliver a copy to your door! The book costs £8.00 and you can pay by cash on delivery or bank transfer.

Copies are also available at Simon's shop in Gilesgate on Marshall Terrace and you can also order a copy via Simon's web-site <https://www.simonberry.co.uk/>

Many thanks for your support.

**Esther on behalf of Simon and the Gilesgate Story Challenge Team.**

### **Ordination**

Following her ordination as Deacon in December 2019 Abbey Hughes will be ordained as priest by the Bishop of Durham on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The ordination will take place in St. Nicholas Church, Durham. She will continue her curacy at St. Giles, Durham, St. Mary's, Sherburn and St. Cuthbert's, Shadforth. Due to the restrictions currently in place the number of guest places is limited to five. Abbey wishes to thank Fr Colm and the many members of the parish who have supported her on this journey. Please continue to pray for her as she commences upon her priestly ministry.

## **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.

Situated 10 minutes' walk outside of Kewick, Castlerigg Manor offers a beautiful location to stay in the central lakes. The retreat will be a mixture of group sessions and time to explore the local area and beautiful gardens around the manor.

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 to comply with regulations about families and bubbles, we are encouraging family units to attend together. (If you/your family would like to attend but there is a financial issue please get in touch as there may be support available from the parish).

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.

Please note: The accommodation is mainly dorm rooms of various sizes ( from 2 bunks/4 people to 4 bunks/8 people) and although some rooms are en-suite others are close to shared toilet blocks.

Castlerigg Manor is working very hard to make sure it is a safe environment for all its visitors and is complying with government regulations regarding regular cleaning, social distancing and catering for bubbles and family groups. I myself have visited the Manor recently and was very impressed at their care and attention to the safety of their guests.

If you would like to sign up for the retreat please email [youth.durhammartyrs@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:youth.durhammartyrs@rcdhn.org.uk) or call Katie on 07483 369561. We will also require a £25 deposit per person.

Also, if you have any questions about the retreat, safety precautions or cost, please get in touch.

### **New Business Venture**

First Impressions Home and Garden: Matthew Greensmith, in developing a new business, is advertising leaf-clearing for local churches: email [matt@firstimpressionshomeandgarden.co.uk](mailto:matt@firstimpressionshomeandgarden.co.uk) tel: 07818 703452

## **AN APPEAL FROM THE NORTHERN CROSS**

Dear Parishioner,

We would be grateful if you could take a moment or two to read this letter and consider whether you can assist us in ensuring the viability of our diocesan newspaper, the Northern Cross.

The diocesan family is one we are familiar with. Here in Hexham and Newcastle, we take pride in our rich legacy, stretching back through the ages and including saints like Bede and Cuthbert.

Today, our parishes, schools and numerous diocesan organisations and activities continue to keep the flame of faith burning brightly.

There are many links, structures and bonds of relationship that help to pull our family together. For more than 60 years, Northern Cross has played its part ensuring that news and views are spread the length and breadth of our diocese.

The lockdown and church closures have caused our sales at weekend Mass to cease. We have reached a “Northern Crossroads”. A new approach is needed - as is a price increase - if the newspaper is to survive.

We are looking for 2,020 subscribers in 2020 and are asking for people to consider signing up on an annual basis. For £36 subscribers would have the printed newspaper delivered through their door. For £20, subscribers would have access to the digital edition each month.

We would like to pay tribute to our loyal and generous postal subscribers for their patience.

We are truly sorry we have been unable to send your printed copies since March. We plan to extend your subscription period so that you do not miss out when we get back in print. We also thank the hundreds of people who have signed up for the digital edition in the past few months and those who have sent donations and messages of support.

The Northern Cross trustees and its volunteers ask you to spread the word and encourage others to subscribe. If the 2,020 target is reached, the newspaper can look forward to a healthy future.

### **How you can help**

Take out an annual subscription - and encourage your friends, family and school to do so. Restrictions on church attendance numbers and our reliance on volunteers will make it extremely difficult to distribute Northern Cross for the rest of the year.

We encourage you to take out a postal print subscription for £36 a year including post and packing costs. If you prefer reading it online, you could sign up for the digital edition at £20 a year.

Please email [editor.norcross@btconnect.com](mailto:editor.norcross@btconnect.com) or call 01325 464008 for more information. You can pay by cheque made out to Northern Cross and posted to: c/o WM Fortune & Son, Collingwood House, Church Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7EN or make a BACS transfer to: Northern Cross. Account number: 81602292. Sort code: 40-43-11

### **Advertise with us**

Do you have a local business or service to promote? Are you a school with an upcoming open day? Our design team can create an eye-catching, effective advertisement for you. Our rates are competitive and we offer discounts if you book more than one ad with us. Email [editor.norcross@btconnect.com](mailto:editor.norcross@btconnect.com) or call to find out more.

### **Send us your stories**

Northern Cross is your newspaper and we would love to hear what you have been up to over the past month. You can email your news to [editor.norcross@btconnect.com](mailto:editor.norcross@btconnect.com), write to us at Northern Cross, c/o WM Fortune & Son, Collingwood House, Church Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7EN, or call us on 01325 464008. Thank you for taking the time to read this appeal. With all best wishes,

Fr. Dennis Tindall, Northern Cross Chairman, and the Board of Directors of the Northern Cross

# Mass Intentions for the Week

20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
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
Monday 21 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Tuesday 22 Sept	9.30.am - Exposition  10.00am Lucy Hunt	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Wednesday 23 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am The Oliver Family
Thursday 24 Sept	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Anna Valente	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Friday 25 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Vocations to the Priesthood
Saturday 26 Sept	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Deceased Priests of the Diocese
Sunday 27 Sept	9.00am Terrie Riddle	11.00am Joe Lane (50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Remembrance)

## St. Cuthbert's

Sunday 20	Monday 21	Tuesday 22	Wed 23	Thursday 24	Friday 25	Saturday 26
10.00am Mass Pre-booked attendance only	No Mass	7.30pm Private Mass	9.15am Public Mass	5.15pm Public Mass	8.30am Private Mass	9.15am Public Mass

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September - 10.00am and 6.30pm Mass both open for pre-booked attendance