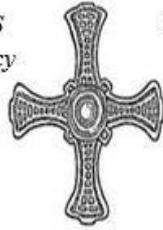


**The Parish of the Durham Martyrs**  
*Incorporating the Churches of Our Lady of Mercy  
& St. Godric, St. Joseph and St. Bede*

*Parish Priest: Fr. Colm Hayden*



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*Parish Secretary: Mrs M. D. Towers*

**Parish Newsletter: 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 – 1<sup>st</sup> 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



*First  
Sunday  
in Lent*

What is done to be seen by others is poured into the wind .... what is human praise but the sound of the whistling winds.” *An anonymous early Christian writer.*

And so begins the theme of Lent – being true to ourselves and discover what is authentic. What is our truest self. I’m sure many of us feel that we’ve had more enforced time alone to be real than we’d care for. The challenge to our mental well-being has been very real also. And so, as we begin to emerge from a year like no other, we are really challenged to keep an eye to the purpose of it all – Easter.

I can say all of this, of course, from the comfort of not really being on the frontline. But there are those, especially hospitals and schools’ staff – of which there are many of you in the parish – who were, and still are, in that same frontline to make sure essential services are still functioning. We say a big “thank you” to your courage.

At parish level, our group of stewards also continue to keep our churches open. Ironically, it is probably the younger members of our parish community that are probably more vulnerable now, as the older members will have had their first vaccine jab. Let’s not be too hasty in wishing to return to normality. The scientists are very clear about the dangers of impatience. They are clear that its too early to tell how safe those who have one jab, or even two of the vaccine injections, are. Caution and patience, words that don’t roll off the tongue easily, are still very much required. None more so than within our churches.

Please continue to take care. “Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you, and scorn in the one ahead.”

## Feast Days

Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	The Chair of St. Peter Apostle
Tuesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	St. Polycarp Bp, M

## Parish Contact

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. Please do not ring the parish landline.



**Sympathy** – we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Liz Scott, who passed away this week.

## Funerals

The Requiem Mass of the late Kathleen Greenwell, will take place at St. Joseph's on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.00am.

Please do not try to attend if you have not been invited by the family, as government restrictions still apply.

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:

Sheila Owens	Nellie Stoker
John Copple	Sheila Wressell
Sheila Patterson	Margaret Nancarrow
Liz Scott	

## Anniversaries

Catherine Hannigan	Billy March

## Cafod Family Fast Day – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Owing to current restrictions, we won't be using the usual donating envelopes this time. Should you wish to make a donation, it's easy to donate online and more information about CAFOD's Lent Appeal can be found [here](#) which takes you the Cafod website. This includes recipes, a prayer card and an interactive Lent calendar, children's activities, together with many other suggestions as to how you can support the appeal.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

After careful review by the Finance Committee and Management Group, we are delighted to report that after working in our Parish for three years, Katie Flood, our Youth Ministry Coordinator now has a permanent contract with Durham Martyrs Parish.

We are thrilled to have such a creative and energetic Youth Worker to support and inspire our young people and look forward to Katie building on her wonderful work in the future. Thank you Katie and well done !

## 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** - Now that our churches are open we can restart collecting for the diocesan refugee project. Boxes are at the back of church.

> There have been some changes to the requirements for the food bags. They are 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.



## Lenten Events

A Parish Lenten talk will take place on March the 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.00pm (via Zoom).

- 'Post-Vatican 11, Post-Vaccine, where are we, the People of God, heading?'. The talk will be given by Professor Thomas O'Loughlin, Professor Emeritus of Historical Theology at The University of

Nottingham. Zoom joining instructions to follow.

## Finchale Partnership News

The February edition of the partnership newsletter is now available. You can view it on the parish website and a copy will be enclosed with the next set of packs.

## Spirituality series

Our series on the spirituality of the religious orders is taking place on Zoom. Since October we have heard about the Franciscans, the Dominicans, the Benedictines and the Jesuits.

In our next session we will be hearing about the Oratorians from our Bishop. Bishop Robert Byrne CO will be talking to us on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February** at 7.00pm, and the Zoom dial-in details are available in all the parish Facebook groups or by contacting [margaretdoyle1066@sky.com](mailto:margaretdoyle1066@sky.com)

## Events at Minsteracres during March

### Compassion and Care

Connecting with God, creation, others and ourselves. A retreat led by Lya Vollering, Scott Haddow and Michael O'Hallaron from the The New Story eco-community based at Minsteracres. Taking place on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7.00pm to 8.30pm and Saturday 13 March, 10.00am to 1.00pm. Register online via eventbrite or email us. See poster for detail.

### Minsteracres Retreat Centre present '*From Praise to Lamentation, A Journey with the Psalms*'

This a second chance to take an opportunity to step aside and listen to God in scripture as we journey towards Easter. This event will run online (Zoom). Please join us on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 10.30am until 3.30pm. See poster for details how to register.

## Change of Mass time – St. Joseph's

Please note that Mass on Friday morning, 26<sup>th</sup> February will be at **9.00am**.

# Mass Intentions for the Week

21<sup>st</sup> February 2021

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 20 February	10.00am  NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Vigil Mass Alf Carr Anniversary Claire Louise McCann 2 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary
Sunday 21 February	9.00am Colin Armstrong	11.00am Hugh and Sabina Conway Joe Lyons Birthday Remembrance
Monday 22 February	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Tuesday 23 February	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Una Peacock	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Wednesday 24 February	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Kathleen Cosgrove Norman and Alex Wright
Thursday 25 February	9.30am- Exposition 10.00am Veronica Meakin	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER
Friday 26 February	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	9.00am Anne-Marie Melvin 1 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary
Saturday 27 February	NO MASS OR PRIVATE PRAYER	5.00pm Vigil Mass David Adams Deceased members of the Conway and Barrett Families
Sunday 28 February	9.00am Cara Armstrong McKay	11.00am Austin Flynn Birthday Remembrance Florence Jones Anniversary

## 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	9.15am	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm (Pre booked attendance only)