

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



TELEPHONE: (0191) 384 3810
EMAIL: secretary.stjandstg@btconnect.com
WEBSITE: www.durhammartyrs.co.uk
Mill Lane, Gilesgate, Durham DH1 2JG

Parish Secretary: Mrs. M. D. Towers

Parish Newsletter - Sunday 15th 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

As you will see from the parish briefing, there are stringent measures now in place to cope with the **Coronavirus**. Much thought and conversations have gone into these notes, and I am very grateful to the Parish Council for the input, but decisions have to be made, and it falls to me to make them.

And so: there will be **no Sunrise Services, Eucharistic Services at St. Bede's (St. Godric's School)**. There will be **no Sunrise or Eucharistic Services at St. Joseph's**. There will be **no Eucharistic Services in St. Godric's Church and all weekday Masses will move into the main church**.

All gatherings are suspended. That means all social assemblies. Stations of the Cross, soup lunches, International Mass, Wednesday lunches, Scripture Study on Sunday mornings. There are more, but you appreciate the seriousness of the situation.

Can I address those who **are housebound and feeling isolated**. We are with you very much at this time. You are foremost in our thoughts in this time of health emergency. The safety measures we are putting place are daunting, as we are all asked to isolate ourselves from what was 'normal' - travel, reaching out to others, and worshipping in enclosed groups. This seems so contrary to our ideals and the last thing we want is to isolate the Good News. The Gospel ideal of loving our neighbour is now vital. So how can we support each other when such gatherings might be potentially dangerous? What can we do as a church (parish)?

1. We can encourage each other by phone, texting, emailing on a daily basis.
2. We can pray together. Perhaps agreeing to join each other in your separate home at a set time. Perhaps Mass times?

3. We could use certain Apps to assist with this prayer. Pray as You Go is an excellent prayer app.
4. We could join with those in prayer for Exposition. Between 2.00 and 3.00pm each day, we could simply remember each other, especially you who are housebound. You could let a friend (parishioner) know that you might like to be included in this prayer.
5. We could all pray for the eradication of Coronavirus. We could include health workers in the NHS. Perhaps a special prayer for the return of the 50,000 medical staff no longer with us. Lots to pray for. So why not begin by joining the parish in prayer each morning at 9.15am?

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - I have discussed this with the organisers and the risks are high. It is best we cancel, and to limit financial loss, that we cancel now.

We also have to cancel **the First Holy Communion Penitential Service** next week. I had hoped that Mass might be possible in St. Godric's school hall next Wednesday, but this too is cancelled.

BRIEFING NOTE RE MEETING OF THE DURHAM MARTYRS PARISH COUNCIL

10 MARCH 2020 - PRECAUTIONS RE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have issued a new version of the guidelines for Parishes, for immediate implementation. At our Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, we discussed the guidelines and agreed to the following

1. **Attending Mass**
 - a. The recommendation is that you should stay at home if you are in a vulnerable group, that is the elderly and anyone with underlying health conditions.
 - b. If you are in a vulnerable group but otherwise well and wish to receive a home visit for Holy Communion, let Marjorie know.
 - c. It is also recommended that if you have any cold symptoms, you should stay at home as a precaution.
2. **Arrival**
 - a. Please follow the good hygiene guidelines - wash hands before coming to church, avoid touching surfaces while you are here, avoid touching your face, wash hands when you get home. We have put the NHS posters up as a reminder.
 - b. Mass books and hymn books have been removed, so the bulletin provides some of the responses for the Mass.
 - c. The collection plates are placed in the porch and will not be passed around, please give your usual donation. The plates are

there on the way out today, they will be there on your way in in future so they can be used for the Offertory.

3. Holy Communion

- a. We will continue to receive the host in the hand only.
- b. Two ministers will distribute to minimise risk to priests.
- c. Blessings will be given without physical contact.

4. After Mass

- a. We will be not be serving refreshments, to reduce the chance of cross infection.

5. Social gatherings

- a. Our coffee mornings, lunches etc are suspended for the time being, but will be restarted as soon as possible, as these are a vital part of our community.

The position and guidelines re the coronavirus COVID-19 disease are changing every day and we aim to keep you informed of any steps we need to take as soon as possible.

Liturgy of The Word

- 1st Reading** **A reading from the Book of Exodus, 17:3 - 7**
- Psalms 94 - Response** **O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts**
- 2nd Reading** **A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 5:1 - 2; 5 - 8**
- Gospel Acclamation** **Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty.**

PARISH CANCELLATIONS

We will keep you informed as situations change for the remaining Services/Masses leading up to Easter.

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Confession:

- St. Godric's Saturday: 10.30am-11.00am
- St. Joseph's Saturday: 9.15am-9.45am and 4.15pm-4.45pm

Feast Days

Tuesday, 17th March	St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland
Wednesday, 18th Mar	St. Cyril of Jerusalem Bp, D
Thursday, 19th March	St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday, 20th March	St. Cuthbert, Bp, Patron of the Diocese



Sympathy - we extend our sympathy to the family and friends of the late Sharon Minns. Her Funeral Service will take place at St. Joseph's on Wednesday, 25th March at 10.30am., followed by cremation in Durham.

.... and also to the family and friends of the late Tom Charlton, who passed away on Thursday morning.

Funeral Arrangements

Cara Armstrong-McKay - Her Requiem Mass, will take place on Monday, 23rd March, St. Godric's at 1.30pm followed by cremation in Durham at 3.00pm. *Requiescat in pace.*



The children from St. Joseph's and St. Thomas More schools on the First Holy Communion Programme will be completing session 6 in the school during the regular school day and not, Sunday 15th March in church as previously indicated.

Change of Mass Time - St. Joseph's

Tuesday, 17th March - Exposition at 8.30am followed by Mass at 9.00am

Exposition - Each day, at St. Godric's in the centre of Durham City, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for one hour. If you can help us to maintain this visible sign of Jesus' loving presence among us, please contact Kathleen. (077591308 37) Thank you!

Gardening Morning - St. Joseph's

Are there any volunteers willing to come and help tidy up the grounds/gardens on Saturday, 21st March at 10.00am. No previous experience necessary!



St Cuthbert's Hospice

Strictly St. Cuthbert's

Thank you ALL so much for your wonderful support and generosity for St. Cuthbert's Hospice. In total we have collected over £2,104.74 and have been overwhelmed by your kindness. Last Saturday was the 'Strictly' event which we loved even being awarded our own Glitterball for achieving second place! We definitely had the most vocal supporters in the venue and felt the amazing goodwill of our Parish supporters and friends !
Renewed thanks, *Erica and Norbert*

School News

Proposal for St Godric's RC Primary School to join Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust

As advised in the parish newsletter dated 22nd December 2019 the Diocesan Academy Policy has been revised with the aim that all Diocesan schools will become academies within one of four Diocesan Education Trusts by July 2022.

Underpinning the diocesan academy policy is the desire and need to ensure the promotion, preservation, protection and future development of Catholic education within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle so that it is fit for the mission of the Church.

It is therefore the intention of the Governing Body that St. Godric's RC Primary School joins The Trinity Catholic Multi Academy Trust, soon to be known as Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust. It is anticipated that this will be completed by September 2020. Further details can be found on the St Godric's RC Primary School's website.



Missio Red Boxes

St. Joseph's - Please bring your boxes or money to weekend Masses during March. Or contact Alison or John Balmer on 01913665372 to have them collected. Your box doesn't have to be full, every little helps.

Ss. Godric and Bede - In 2019 a fantastic £4,839 was collected from the holders of red mission boxes and direct members of MISSIO at St Godric's and St Bede's. A very big **THANK YOU** to sponsors and contributors for your continued generosity. Please continue to support the work of the red box by bringing your mission boxes to Sunday morning Mass for emptying and counting by **Sunday 29th March**.

News from the Partnership : Finchale Partnership Prayer & Spirituality:

(i) In the first of a series of sessions on different prayers and devotions, we'll be talking about the Stations of the Cross. We'll be exploring the history and practice of the Stations, so whether you are very familiar with praying the Stations, or if you've seen them in church and simply want to know how it works, join us on Thursday 2nd April at 7.00pm, at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham. There will be a talk, the opportunity to ask questions and we will finish with Stations of the Cross in church.

(ii) **Bible Basics:** a casual and informal overview of the Bible, looking at the major events and the different books of the Bible. This is for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Bible. Beginners welcome! This will be facilitated by Dori Berahya, who has 20 years of experience in Adult Religious Education. **Saturday 21st March** at 10.30am at **St. Cuthbert's Durham**, and repeated on **Thursday 26th March** at 7.00pm at **St. Joseph's, Langley Park**. See poster.

Health & Safety - First Aiders required

The Diocese require us to have appointed first aiders to take charge of any first-aid arrangements for weekend masses at each church. Names of appointed persons are to be shown on First Aid notices in each church. If you are an existing appointed first aider could you please confirm that you are still willing to continue. If you are a medical practitioner or have a first aid qualification that is still valid and are willing to be an appointed person for weekend mass either at St Godric's or St Joseph's please let me know. Many thanks. John Wells, parish health & safety representative. johnwells2911@gmail.com, 07724 714932.

Durham Martyrs Walking Group - 21st March 2020

The Walk organised by Friends of the Camino from Finchale Priory again coincides with our scheduled walking date. For people who would like to do this walk, details are as follows:-

Finchale Priory to Durham Cathedral

The walk marks the historic link between St Godric, Finchale Priory and the Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. St Godric of Finchale was one of the first British pilgrims to follow the pilgrims' way to Santiago de Compostela. This year we will be joined at Finchale by those doing St Cuthbert's Walk from Chester le Street. A special service will take place in Durham cathedral at 4.00p.m.

Transport to Finchale Priory for walkers is provided from Durham County Hall (DH1 5UL) at 12.00, but pre-booking is essential by booking a ticket with Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/camino-walk-organised-by-friends-of-the-camino-tickets-96402842497>

A contribution towards the bus hire is asked of attendees. The length of the walk is about 4 miles (6.7 km). A certificate will be available to all who complete the walk. This certificate is recognised by the Xacobeo and will allow all those doing the Camino Inglés from A Coruña in North Spain, to receive the Compostela (that certifies that the pilgrim has done at least 100 km of the Camino).

For anyone not wanting to do this walk, the following option is available:-

Bishop Auckland Walk - 4 miles

Starting at the Market Place, this short walk will take us through woodland and along old railway tracks.

Meet at St Joseph's Car Park at 10am to arrange to share lifts. (No morning Mass).

Forthcoming Musical Events

(i) **Spring Concert** with extracts from Mozart's Requiem, Thursday, 2nd April at 7.00pm in St. Leonard's Sports Hall. Tickets, including refreshments, £5/£2.50 under 19. *See poster.*

(ii) **Gala Concert with the Durham Constabulary Male Voice** and Essex Constabulary choirs, St Godric's Church Saturday 28th March 7.00pm. Tickets £7.00/5.00 concessions, are now on sale at both churches.

(iii) **Sung Latin Vespers with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament** St. Joseph's Church, High Street, Gateshead, Thursday 19th March at 7.00pm. *See poster.*



Votive Mass for St. Cuthbert

Wednesday, 18th March at 12.30pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel

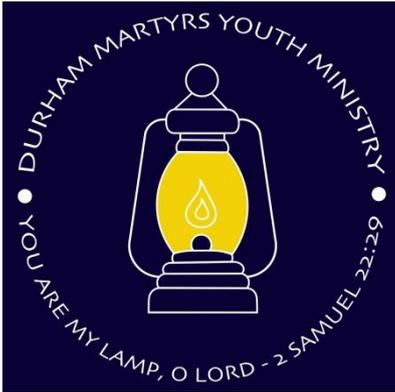
Chief Celebrant: Most reverend Malcolm McMahon, Archbishop of Liverpool. There will light refreshments in the Refectory afterwards. Everyone welcome.

Also at Ushaw - Fr. Chris Jackson has circulated the following information for the **Year of the Word Roadshow** that is being held at Ushaw College, from 9th -10th May. The Year of the God Who Speaks is a wonderful opportunity for us as a diocese to grow in Christ. He speaks to us throughout the Scriptures as he spoke with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. As they listened to him their hearts burned within them; this was the power that impelled them from their fear and isolation to go to all the world with the good news that Christ is risen. The same can happen here and now if we will open ourselves to his life in the Word and the Eucharist. All are welcome to come to the Roadshow. It is hoped that it will encourage everyone to be inspired by the Bible and as you see from the programme at the back of church, there's something for everyone. For further information contact adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk *See poster.*

From the Diocese

Lourdes Hospitalite Fundraiser

The Hexham and Newcastle Lourdes Hospitalite presents 'Diggin the Dancing Queen, a 'nearly' ABBA show on Friday 27th March at Gateshead Fell Cricket Club, Low Fell. All are warmly invited to join in the evening's entertainment and fundraising activities. All monies raised go towards the Hospitalite funds. Door and the bar open at 7.30pm. Fancy dress optional! Tickets cost: £5 adults, £3 for Lourdes youth, children- free. For tickets please call 07896581835.



DURHAM MARTYRS' YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry Co-ordinator - Katie Flood

email: youth.durhammartyrs@rcdhn.org.uk

Mobile: 07483 369 561

St. Leonard's Lenten Retreats at St. Godric's Church

From Monday 23rd March to Thursday 26th March St Godric's will be hosting year 7 pupils from St. Leonard's for our Lenten Retreats. A great success last year, we pray that the young people will enjoy the experience of being in St. Godric's and take some time to reflect on the many prayer stations available. Mass will be as usual in the John Boste room and exposition will also run as usual in the main church. Whenever you are in the church please feel free to read the prayers and look at the things our young people have made as part of the retreat.

Save the Date

There will be a **Parish Retreat on Friday 18th - Sunday 20th September** to Castlerigg Manor in Keswick. Prices and travel arrangements are yet to be confirmed but booking will be available in the next couple of weeks - (There will be a limit on numbers). This retreat is open to all ages and will be a great opportunity for us to grow a s a Parish community.

The Retreat will cost £100 - this includes accommodation, travel and all meals (It has not been decided what the travel provision will be, further details will be provided once we have a rough idea of numbers).

There are 72 places available and the accommodation is mainly dorm rooms with bunk beds and shared facilities. There are also a very limited number of rooms with disabled access.

If you would like further information do give me a call or drop me an email.

If you would like to attend the Parish Retreat please email me with your details and provide a £25 deposit to the parish office in an envelope with your name on.

We are very aware that, although the cost of the weekend is very reasonable, some may not be able to afford the trip, or pay for an entire family to attend. If this is the case do get in touch with me via the details above and provisions can be made. Also if anyone who is able, would like to support other parishioners by donating an amount or adding a donation onto their own ticket cost (For example paying £120 instead of £100 then the £20 would go towards another ticket.)

We are hoping to receive final numbers by the end of the Easter holidays.

Mass Intentions for the Week

14th - 22nd March 2020

Exposition at St. Godric's Monday - Saturday afternoons from 2.00pm-3.00pm
and on Sundays. from 3.00-4.00pm

	St Bede's/St Godric's School	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 14 March		10.00am	10.00am Special Intention 5.00pm - David Adams and Belle Blakey
Sunday 15 March		9.00am - Rose Carr (Birthday Remembrance) and Alan Bradley 3.00-4.00pm Exposition	11.00am Mary Bowling (Bromsgrove) and Jim Pickering (Anniversary)
Monday 16 March	9.15am NO MASS OR SERVICE	10:00am Holy Mass	9.15am NO MASS OR SERVICE
Tuesday 17 March	9.15am NO MASS OR SERVICE	10.00am Special Intention (CB)	8.30am - Exposition 9.00am Pat Reagan
Wednesday 18 March	9.15am NO MASS OR SERVICE	10.00am Frances and family	10.00am Requiem Mass of Anne- Marie Melvin
Thursday 19 March	9.15am NO MASS OR SERVICE	9.30am Exposition 10.00am Caroline McGowan	9.15am The intentions of Richard and Rita Harrison
Friday 20 March	9.15am NO MASS OR SERVICE	10.00am	9.15am NO MASS OR SERVICE
Saturday 21 March		10.00am	10.00am NO MASS OR SERVICE 5.00pm John and Olive Doyle
Sunday 22 March		9.00am Patrick Devery 3.00-4.00pm Exposition	11.00am Joan Davies
See below for St. Cuthbert's Mass times			

Sun 15	Mon 16	Tue 17	Wed 18	Thurs 19	Fri 20	Sat 21	Sun 22
10.00am and 6.30pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm