

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

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Sunday 5th May 2024
6th Sunday of Easter
Parish Newsletter

Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden
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Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818544/01913332183
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

“We are not living an epoch of change so much as an epochal change, Pope Francis says.

The forms of religion and their roles in different societies and cultures are also changing. Secularisation has not brought about the end of religion but rather its transformation. While some forms of religion are experiencing major upheavals, others are so vibrant that they have transcended their former boundaries. Traditional religious institutions have lost their monopoly on religion.

The culminating process of globalisation is encountering resistance: manifestations of populism, nationalism, and fundamentalism are on the rise. The world community of Christians is not united – today the greatest differences are not between churches but within them. Differences in doctrine, and in religious and political attitudes, often have roots hidden in the deeper layers of people’s intellectual and spiritual lives. Sometimes people reciting the same creed in the same church pew have very different ideas about God. Among the transformations of today’s spiritual scene is the collapse of the wall between “believers” and “nonbelievers”, noisy minorities of dogmatic believers and militant atheists are being marginalised, while there is a growing number of those whose minds and heart faith (in the sense of proto-faith) and unbelief (in the sense of doubting scepticism) are intertwined.

I am finishing this book in the midst of a coronavirus pandemic; around me many sick people die daily in overcrowded hospitals, and many of the living and healthy are slipping into existential insecurity. The certitudes of our world are also shaken by this experience. In addition to the long-standing crisis of traditional religious certitudes, there is also a crisis of traditional secular certitudes, especially the belief in humans’ dominium over nature and their own destiny. Continued over/.....

The state of the Catholic Church today in many ways resembles the situation just before the Reformation. When an unsuspected number of cases of sexual and psychological abuse were exposed, it shook the credibility of the Church and raised many questions about the whole system of the Church.

I regarded the closed and empty churches during the coronavirus pandemic as a prophetic warning sign: this may soon be the state of the Church if it does not undergo a transformation”

Tomas Halik

Feast Days

Tuesday, 7 th May	St. John of Beverley Bp
Thursday, 9 th May	The Ascension of the Lord
Friday, 10 th May	St. John de Avila P, D

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Sean Casey	Tony Twomey
Brian Harland	Jared Howarth
Bridget Grehan-Bradley	Helen Tumelty
Kitty Trainor	Ian Hamilton
Ann Hourican	Ann Close

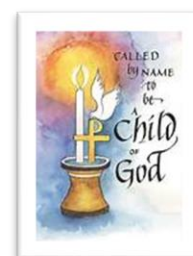
Anniversaries

Bob Wilson	Agnes Henderson
Nancy Newcombe	Veronica Crilley
Estelle Wild	



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to Andrew Hughes, on the sad loss of his brother, David, whose funeral will be held in Walton-le-Dale, Preston. *Requiescat in pace.*

Baptism – we welcome into our parish community, Estella Beddoes, who will receive the Sacrament of Baptism at St. Godric’s this Sunday, 5th May, after the 9.00am Mass.



Eucharistic Services – St. Bede’s Chapel

There will not be a Eucharistic Service in St Bede’s Chapel this coming Monday, 6th May, owing to the Bank Holiday, and will resume on Wednesday, 8th May at 9.15am.

Holy Day of Obligation – The Ascension of The Lord

On Thursday, 9th May, there will be Mass at St. Godric’s at 10.00am and at 7.00pm at St. Joseph’s.



Grateful thanks to all from Halusia Good for the much-needed prayers and support she received from the parish after her accident and during her on-going recovery.

Volunteers Needed – Children’s Liturgy

“Whoever welcomes a child in my name, welcomes me” Matthew 18:5

Can you help children to feel more welcome at Mass and able to take part? Could you help us deliver the Liturgy of the Word to the children at St Joseph's Church?

Children's liturgy is aimed at proclaiming the Scriptures to young people in a way that is suited to their age and ability. It is a way to help them understand by using language and symbols relating to their childhood experience. Leaders of Children’s Liturgy of the Word have a great privilege and responsibility. They help break open the words of the Gospel for the children, enabling them to hear God’s Word.

If you are interested in joining the team at St. Joseph's, or would like to find out more about it, we would love to hear from you - please contact Catherine Taylor at catmarytaylor@gmail.com or 0771 919 3401.

Please note - those involved in this ministry must adhere to the Diocesan Safeguarding requirements and go through the Disclosure and Barring procedures.

Concert in Durham Cathedral

‘From Dusk ‘til Dawn’

Durham Choral Society and Orchestra will perform: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik -Mozart
Mass in G - Schubert Sunrise Mass Ola Gjeilo on Saturday 18th May 7.30pm Durham Cathedral. Tickets are available from the Cathedral, or the website: www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/calendar

Dates for the Diary

Corpus Christi – Sunday 2nd June

Corpus Christi: Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Ushaw - On Sunday 2nd June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, and starting at 3pm in St. Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees will be available after the service.

To assist with Ushaw's estimated numbers and to manage the car park, signing-up forms will be available at both St. Joseph's and St. Godric's this weekend and Marjorie will return these to Ushaw the following week.

Workshop on Synodality – Saturday 8th June

On Saturday 8th June, Ushaw will be holding a day workshop on what the Synod on Synodality means for us. There will be sessions on the current stage of the worldwide Synod, including an opportunity to look at some of the outputs of last October's General Assembly in Rome. The workshop will also look at some practical examples of synodality in our local parishes and church groups. The day starts with welcome and refreshments at 10.30am and will finish by 4pm. Bring a packed lunch, or you will be able to buy lunch in Ushaw's café. The workshop costs £10. You can book for the workshop on Ushaw's website at <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/>

For those who are new to synodality and would like to find out more about what the Synod is, and why it is important for our local church, there will be an optional introductory session starting at 9.30am.

Homelessness Support – Sanctuary 21

There has been a significant increase recently in the number of people attending Sanctuary 21 who are officially registered by the County Council as homeless and in need of fresh clothing.

Whilst we currently have good stocks of clothing in large and extra-large sizes, we are particularly short of medium size T-shirts, hoodies, casual trousers/ jeans and jogging bottoms.

If you have any of these items, in good condition, that you are able to donate, please leave them in the clearly marked containers that will be available at the back of both churches between 4th and 18th of May. These will be collected by our Parish volunteers and taken to Sanctuary 21 for distribution as needed. Please note that these are the only items we require at the present time.

Thank you in anticipation of your help.

Appeal for Prison Visitors

Matthew 25:31-36: "...For I was...in prison and you came to see me"

Official Prison Visitors (OPVs) befriend prisoners, at the prisoner's request, during their time in custody. There is currently a shortage of volunteers willing to be OPVs in Frankland prison. Some prisoners do not have a single visitor and would much

appreciate one. At present any prisoner requesting a visitor faces a wait of 2 years due to the shortage.

Visits at Frankland take place between 2pm and 4pm most days of the week in a relaxed atmosphere in a large open hall with plenty of prison officers around the perimeter to ensure safety. OPVs are ordinary people from all walks of life and may be male or female, indeed the majority of current visitors are female. How frequently you visit would be up to you, but it is common for visits to take place once every 3 to 4 weeks. Being able to listen and talk in a non-judgemental way is the main requirement.

If Jesus's words above cause you to reflect, if you think you might be in a position to help and would like more information, please contact either Pat Morton (many years' experience) on 07546 566028 or John Wells (recent recruit) on 07724 714932 who will be happy to explain more about the role.

Br. Paul is a prison chaplain in Stockton and he too would be pleased to talk to any parishioner interested on 0191 3293660.

Belmont Mothers' Union

The annual Ecumenical Service will be held on Monday, 20th May at 1.30pm. An invitation to the event has been extended from Belmont St. Mary Magdalene Mothers' Union to any ladies in our parish who would like to attend.

The meeting will be held in the church, and refreshments will be provided afterwards.

Change of Mass Time – St. Joseph's

Please note that the Friday morning Mass
at St. Joseph's on 10th May
has been moved to the earlier time of 9.00am

Mass Intentions for the Week

5th May 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 4 May		5.00pm Vigil Mass Pauline Inglis
Sunday 5 May	9.00am – Gloria Hughes Anniversary and The Nurowski Family 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.3am The Charlton Family
Monday 6 May	NO MASS	9.15 am Service of Word ad Holy Communion
Tuesday 7 May	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Wilf Savage (SVP)	NO MASS
Wednesday 8 May	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese
Thursday 9 May ASCENSION	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am – Ascension of the Lord Mass Sally Kealey	7.00pm Ascension of the Lord Mass Liam Hayden
Friday 10 May	NO MASS	9.00am Wilfred and Margaret Brennan
Saturday 11 May	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Hannah Mary & Ken Drane and Belle Blakey
Sunday 12 May	9.00am Bill Harris	10.30am Thomas and Lucy Hunt and John Russell (Dublin)

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 5	Mon 6	Tue 7	Wed 8	Thurs 9	Fri 10	Sat 11	Sun 12
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	6.30pm (Chaplaincy Mass in Durham Cathedral)	12.15pm & 7.00pm (Solemnity of the Ascension)	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm