

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 Newsletter **12th January 2025** **The Baptism of The Lord**

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Can I join our Capuchin Brothers in thanking everyone for the kindness and generosity at Christmas. I am very grateful to you all.

Our services at Christmas were well attended, especially our Vigil Masses, which seem increasingly the preferred choice of many.

A new year is upon us now. New challenges. Exciting challenges, too! A new generation of younger parishioners are now stepping up to ensure the marvellous commitments of their elders is continued, and built on. Let's support each for a Peaceful and Healthy New Year.

“And so it seems certain to me that the Church is facing very hard times. The real crisis has scarcely begun. We will have to count on terrific upheavals. But I am equally certain about what will remain at the end: not the Church of the political cult, which is dead already, but the Church of faith. It may well no longer be the dominant social power to the extent that she was until recently; but it will enjoy a fresh blossoming and be seen as man's home, where he will find life and hope beyond death.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Continued over/.....

Bishop Stephen has restructured the Diocesan Vicariates into larger Deaneries, with Deans taking a more responsible role. Fr Andrew Downie will now be the area Dean with responsibility for what was the old vicariate. Our prayers and best wishes are with Fr Andy, and the rest of the Diocesan Deans.

Also, rather than one Vicar General, Bishop Stephen has appointed two. Fr Mark Milward is now VG for the southern part of the Diocese, and Fr Jeff Dodds for the northern part. Again, prayers and best wishes to both.

Feast Days

Saturday, 11 January	St. Aelred of Rievaulx Ab
Sunday, 12 January	The Baptism of The Lord
Monday, 13 January	St. Hilary Bp, D
Friday, 17 January	St. Anthony of Egypt Ab

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Kitty Trainor	Tony Twomey
Ann Hourican	Ian Hamilton
Mary Armstrong	Ann Close
Sheila Owens	Margaret Graham
Margaret Nancarrow	Veronica O'Reilly
Freda March	Judith McLean
Michael Farmer	

Anniversaries:

Rafete Meqa	Paul Hann
Bessie Hirst	Harry Troughear
John Doyle	Peter Barry
Alan McNamee	Colin Armstrong



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to Norman, Nicola and Christopher on the sad loss of Kathleen Brown, whose Funeral Service will take place at St. Joseph's on Thursday, 30th January at 2.00pm.

Requiescant in pace

Journey in Faith

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith will take place at St. Joseph's on Thursday, 16th January, at 2.30pm.

A Note of Thanks from the Friars

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your generous Christmas greetings and thoughtful gifts. Your kindness has made this Christmas season even more special for us.

We are grateful for your continued support and prayers, inspiring us to serve you joyfully. May God bless you and fill your hearts with the joy of Christmas throughout the coming year.

With sincere thanks and blessings,

The Friars

Durham Martyrs' Walking Group

Our next walk will take place on **Saturday 18th January**

The walk will be based on The Saints of Durham Churches walking trails produced by Durham Churches Together. There is the option of doing 2.5 or 5 miles depending whether you wish to do one or both of the trails.



Trail one takes in St Nicholas; St Margaret of Antioch; St John; St Cuthbert and St Godric.

Trail two takes in The Eastern Orthodox Church of St Cuthbert and St Bede; St Antony; St Giles; St Cuthbert(RC); St Oswald; St Mary the Less and the Cathedral.

Both trails are on good footpaths and start and end at 'The Journey' Statue in Millenium Place commencing at 10am.

CAFOD - A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse.

Saturday 18th January, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

From the Diocese

Pilgrimage: Hearts in Search of God - Webinar

Why go on Pilgrimage? All are welcome to join us for this online Year of Jubilee formation opportunity based on pilgrimage.

We are delighted to welcome our guest speaker Dr Phil McCarthy, project lead for Hearts in Search of God: Pilgrim Ways, who will share his wisdom and experience based on the history, significance and spirituality of pilgrimage. The session will also explore and consider some of the options and practicalities for embarking on a local pilgrimage during the Year of Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope.

Date: **Wednesday 15th January** | Time: 7.00pm – 8.00pm | Online via Zoom

Please contact adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk or call 0191 243 3316 to book your place. Booking deadline is **Monday 13th January 12 noon**. You can register online by clicking the link:

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/whats-on/event/pilgrimage-hearts-in-search-of-god-webinar/>

Forthcoming Events at Ushaw

Vespers (Evening Prayer)

On **Sunday 19th January at 4pm**, please join us for Sung Vespers in St. Cuthbert's Chapel at Ushaw. This is an opportunity to pray together the Evening Prayer of the Church. All are very welcome to join us for the service.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity runs from 18th to 25th January. There will be a Service for Christian Unity at Ushaw on the afternoon of **Friday 24th January at 3pm**. There is no need to book tickets. Please do come along, and pass on the invitation to friends from other Christian churches.

Sharing the Rosary – You are very welcome to join us at **Holy Name Parish Hall on Towers Avenue, Jesmond** for a 4-week course exploring the Rosary, its history and its significance in Catholic prayer traditions. Each one-hour session will include opportunities to learn about the Mysteries of the Rosary, pray a shared Decade, and even make your own set of Rosary beads.

The course will run on Saturdays 25 January, 1 February, 8 February and 22 February 2025. Refreshments will be available from 2:00 pm, with sessions finishing at 3:30 pm. We warmly invite participants from other parishes, families, and young people to join us in this Jubilee Holy Year on this journey of faith and community. Whether you're new to the Rosary or have prayed it for years, all are welcome. Rosary beads will be available for anyone who needs them, but feel free to bring your own—especially if they hold a special story you'd like to share. To join the course, please either email welcome@holynamesjesmond.co.uk or telephone (0191) 2810940.

Durham Churches Together

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Lunch

Tuesday 21st January at 12 noon to 1.30pm, the Durham Churches Together lunch for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is at Waddington Street United Reformed Church. All welcome – no booking needed.

Mass Intentions for the Week

12th January 2025

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 11 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pauline Inglis Anniversary, and a Special Intention (PQ)
Sunday 12 January	9.00am Matthew Bowler	10.30am John Hannon
Monday 13 January	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 14 January	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Vocations to the Priesthood	NO MASS
Wednesday 15 January	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Priest's Intention
Thursday 16 January	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Victims of War and Conflict	NO MASS OR SERVICE
Friday 17 January	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am World Peace
Saturday 18 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Anniversaries of Bede Murray and John Doyle
Sunday 19 January	9.00am Frank Wilson	10.30am Arthur Binks Anniversary

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 12	Mon 13	Tue 14	Wed 15	Thurs 16	Fri 17	Sat 18	Sun 19
10.00am And 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	10.00am and 6.30pm