

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
22nd December 2024 – 12th January 2025
The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden
Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers
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(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

As we reach the finale of the Christmas season, can I wish you all a very Happy Christmas. There is so much to be thankful for, but also much to be concerned about in a turbulent world. Let's hope the word 'Peace' has a more active voice in 2025. I hope you can join us for one of the Masses over Christmas.

I Am the New Year

I am the New Year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time.

I am your next chance at the art of living.

I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have-these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."

- Author Unknown

Feast Days

Monday, 23 rd December	St. John of Kanty P
Thursday, 26 th December	St. Stephen, First Martyr
Friday, 27 th December	St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Saturday, 28 th December	The Holy Innocents MM
Sunday, 29 th December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Wednesday, 1 st January	Mary The Mother of God
Thursday, 2 nd January	Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen Bps, DD
Friday, 3 rd January	The Holy Name of Jesus
Sunday, 5 th January	The Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, 12 th January	The Baptism of the Lord

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
Kath Brown	Judith McLean

Anniversaries: 22 December – 12 January

Kieron Shaw	John Boyes
Frank Crawford	Margaret Madden
Joan Bennet	Peter McLoughlin
Joe Fewster	John Shaw Junior
Doreen Haggerty	Vince McPartlin
Norman Wilson	Kitty Tisdall
Eileen Ingleby	John & Winnie Muldowney
George Armatage	Lily Parry
Pamela Neill	Rafete Meqa
Joseph Owens	Nancy Edgerton
Paul Hann	



Sympathy – we extend our sympathy to Cynthia Dunn and family on the sad loss of her Mum, Maureen. Funeral arrangements are not known at this time.

Our sympathy also to Theresa Galloway and family on the sad loss of her Dad, John.

.... and to the family and friends of Fr. Kevin Cummins who died on 12th December.

Requiescant in pace

St. Joseph's Christmas Morning Mass - Children's Nativity Procession

Would any children attending St. Joseph's Church on Christmas morning like to take part in the Christmas morning Mass procession of the Nativity characters. If so, please arrive at church no later than 10:15am. Children will then process down the aisle during the opening hymn and place Jesus in the manger.

All costumes will be supplied or if you have your own, please feel free to come dressed as your favourite character.

Cleaning at St. Godric's

There **won't be** any church cleaning on Tuesday 14th January. Maria Melia and her prayer group are coming in to do the church cleaning next month, and they will be there on **Wednesday, 8th**.

Northern Catholic Calendar

The 2025 edition of the NCC is now available for sale at the back of each church. Ringbound NCC's are £4.00 and flat - £3.50.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish office will close at 4.00pm on Friday, 20th December and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday, 7th January.



Saturday, 21st December (as normal) St. Joseph's 5.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, 22nd December (as normal) St. Godric's 9.00am Mass

St. Joseph's 10.30am Mass

Tuesday, 24th December evening

St. Joseph's Vigil Mass of Christmas, 5.00pm

St. Godric's Vigil Mass of Christmas, 7.00pm

Preceded with readings and carols at 6.30pm

Wednesday, 25th December

St. Godric's 9.00am Christmas Day Mass

St. Joseph's 10.30am Christmas Day Mass



Parish Christmas Trees

Our three primary schools are delighted that the parish community and visitors have chosen to write the names of loved ones on the Christmas Angels. The angels were lovingly decorated by every child in school and those who attend the children's liturgy which takes place during the Sunday Masses. The Christmas Angels will be placed on the Christmas Trees in both St. Josephs and St. Godric's Church during this special time.

We hope you have a peaceful and holy Christmas time.

Journey in Faith – will resume on Thursday, 9th January at 2.30pm. All welcome.

The SVP will be holding their annual Christmas Party on **Saturday, 6th January** in the Jubilee Room at St. Joseph's from 12.00 noon. There is a list at the back of both churches for you to put in your name and a contact number if you would like to attend. Alternatively, you can contact Margaret White on 3869437 or any member of the SVP.



Christmas Party

Parish Christingle



Thank you to everyone who supported our Parish Christingle last Sunday. Around twenty children attended with their families. We had a lovely, simple service where we made our Christingles before lighting them. The children then read some prayers to conclude the afternoon.

SVP Sudan Appeal

For a number of years we have appealed for your support in relieving the suffering of mothers and babies in a war torn country. Through the generosity of people like you, 700 children are fed nutritious meals each week at feeding stations. 2800 adults have been trained on our vocational training schemes over the past 5 years. In addition, 13000 people have received medical treatments provided by our medical centres a year.



If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause please make out a cheque payable to 'SVP Sudan Appeal', put it in an envelope, with your name on the front, and give it to Chris Brennan or any other SVP member. To make a donation directly to the SVP please click the following link:

<https://fundraising.svp.org.uk/page/134642/donate/1>

Thank you, once again, for your generosity.

200 CLUB – RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions for January 2025 - December 2025 are now due, before the January draw. The annual cost is still £12 per number and cheques should be made payable to SVP 200 Club.

Could members please put subscriptions, cash or cheque, in an envelope with your name and address and place them in the box at the back of church. Thank you.

All profits from this enterprise go to the SVP food bank in Newcastle so members not only have the opportunity of winning a prize in the monthly draw but, more importantly, will be helping to provide emergency food parcels for needy families and hot meals for the hundreds of homeless people who visit St Vincent's each week.

Can I take this opportunity on behalf of The Tyne Central Council President and his Board, to thank you all for your past and hopefully future support for this very worthwhile cause. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, God Bless. Janet.



Durham Martyrs' Lunch Club has enjoyed another successful year. We couldn't do that without our lovely guests, the super kitchen staff at St. Joseph's School and of course our volunteer drivers and kitchen helpers from the Parish. Our numbers continue to increase as we welcome those who live alone and would like to enjoy a hot meal and good company.

We enjoyed Christmas Lunch on Wednesday this week and we're taking a break until **8th January 2025**. If you would like to join us as a guest or a very welcome volunteer, or just to find out more, contact Pat Conway 07943016225 or Kathleen Murray 07759130837.

THANK YOU to everyone on our team for your magnificent efforts! Christmas blessings to all!

Durham Churches Together

Durham Churches Together New Year's Eve Service, Tuesday 31st December, will be held at the Cathedral at 5.30pm; the Procession - to the Cathedral - leaves the Market Place at 5.00pm. All are welcome.

Mass Intentions for the Week

22nd December 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 21 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Louise Birney, Pauline Inglis, and Anthony farmer
Sunday 22 December 4 th of Advent	9.00am John Carré	10.30am Maureen Coulthard, Rev. Peter Smith and In thanksgiving for successful surgery
Monday 23 December	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 24 December	7.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas	5.00pm Vigil Mass of Christmas
Wednesday 25 December	9.00am The Nativity of The Lord	10.30am The Nativity of The Lord
Thursday 26 December	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am John and Johnny McBride	NO MASS OR SERVICE
Friday 27 December	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am James and Dorothy Sweeney
Saturday 28 December	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Brian Harland, and Ernest Layton
Sunday 29 December	9.00am Frank Wilson	10.30am Anniversaries of Norman Wilson, and John and Winnie Muldowney

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 22	Mon 23	Tue 24	Wed 25	Thurs 26	Fri 27	Sat 28	Sun 29
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	9.15am and 10.0pm Midnight Mass	10.00am	10.00am	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am (No evening Mass)

Mass Intentions for the Week



29th December 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 28 December	NO MASS	5.30pm – Vigil Mass Brian Harland and Ernest Layton
Sunday 29 December	9.00am Frank Wilson	10.30am Anniversaries of Norman Wilson, and John and Winnie Muldowney
Monday 30 December	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 31 December	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Steven Bunton	NO MASS
Wednesday 1 January	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Priest's Intention
Thursday 2 January	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am World Peace	NO MASS
Friday 3 January	NO MASS	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am Audrie Walsh Anniversary
Saturday 4 January	NO MASS	5.30pm – Vigil Mass Belle Blakey and Ernest Layton
Sunday 5 January EPIPHANY	9.00am The sick of the Parish	10.30am Brian O'Conor

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 29	Mon 30	Tue 31	Wed 1 Jan	Thurs 2	Fri 3	Sat 4	Sun 5
10.00am (No evening Mass)	NO MASS	12.15pm	10.00am	NO MASS	NO MASS	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm

Mass Intentions for the Week



*Monday, 6th January
to
Sunday, 12th January
2025*

	St. Godric's	St. Joseph's
Monday 6 January	NO MASS	9.15am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 7 January	9.30am - Exposition 10.0am Victims of war and conflict	NO MASS
Wednesday 8 January	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese
Thursday 9 January	9.30am - Exposition 10.0am World Peace	NO MASS
Friday 10 January	NO MASS	9.30am Exposition 10.00am Special Intention
Saturday 11 January	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass Pauline Inglis Anniversary
Sunday 12 January	9.00am Vocations to the Priesthood	10.30am John Hannon

St. Cuthbert's – Monday 6th January – Sunday 12th January

Mon 6 Jan	Tue 7	Wed 8	Thurs 9	Fri 10	Sat 11	Sun 12
NO MASS	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	NO MASS	12.15pm Service of Word & Holy Communion	NO MASS	9.15am	10.00am & 6.30pm