

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

Sunday 7th July 2024
14th Sunday of the Year
Parish Newsletter

Parish Priest Fr. Colm Hayden
Parish Secretary: Mrs. M, D. Towers
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8.30am-4.00pm
Hospital Chaplain Fr. Paul Tully-01388 818544/0191 3332183
(Please telephone Fr. Paul if you have someone in hospital)

Following a Hometown Boy: Reflections on Mark 6: 1-6, Alyce McKenzie

I picture Jesus' hometown family and friends squirming in their synagogue seats and craning their necks to see if he's coming up the centre aisle as they wait for his arrival that day. The hometown boy is coming to bring the morning message. He's bringing his entourage with him. As his family and former neighbours sit waiting, I bet they were preparing to give him the benefit of the doubt. Perhaps they were saying to each other, "Even if he's not that good a speaker, we need to encourage him, because he's just getting started." His home townies don't know who they're waiting for. They think they're waiting for the boy who knows how to make the best shelves in town. They think they're waiting for the familiar sibling of James, Joset, Judas, Simon, and his sisters (unnamed!). They think they're waiting for the obedient son of Mary. They're prepared to excuse the shortcomings of someone safe and familiar who is from where they live and known by all of them.

In C.S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*, Aslan, the Lion King of Narnia, represents a Christ figure. Lucy, conversing with Mr. Beaver, is curious about Aslan. She has never seen him but has heard that he is "on the move," and anticipates meeting him. "Is he safe?" she asks. "Who said anything about being safe?" said Mr. Beaver. "Course he's not safe, but he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

Jesus is "on the move." And his hometown folks can't wait to see him. They want him to be both safe and good for their economy. The town sign maker is yawning; he stayed up late last night finishing the banner that is now draped across the entry gate to town that says "Welcome to Nazareth, home of Jesus."

Now here he is striding down the aisle of the synagogue.

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Mark, with his usual taciturnity, simply tells us that "he began to teach." Luke 4:16-30 gives us a much fuller account of what he said, why they responded as they did, and what they then tried to do. Luke has him reading from Isaiah 61:1-2, strongly implying a Messianic identity, and then offering a litany of non-Jews who had more faith than his hometown congregation. No surprise that this lovely homecoming ends not with a strawberry festival in the grove, but with a mass attempt to hurl the hometown boy off a cliff.

His hometown folks are, I would suspect, be willing to give him the benefit of the doubt as long as he doesn't say anything unexpected or challenging. They would not be inclined to doubt the source of his teachings if he had not made them feel uncomfortable.

Their response to whatever it was he said reflects a combination of belief and incredulity. They seem to believe that what he said was of divine origin ("What is this wisdom that has been given to him?"), yet they are unable to believe that such a great gift would be given to someone they know and whose family they know.

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Here are the kinds of thoughts that may have been going through their minds.

1. How dare he have something we don't?
2. How could something this powerful have grown up in our midst and we not know about it?
3. How dare God send such astounding teachings and do such deeds of power this close to home through someone we know?

All these guesses have a common focus on themselves. When we are focused on ourselves, on maintaining our superiority and control over our surroundings and others, we are not open to the truth God seeks to speak to us, sometimes through people we know and in places we thought we knew like the back of our hand.

I guess there is a reason that prophets are never honoured in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own houses.

I like to think that if I had been one of Jesus' hometown folks, I would have heard him gladly and changed my ways in any way he thought I should. But I guess I'll never know what I would have done then. The question is, what am I going to do now?

Alyce McKenzie is the George W. and Nell Ayers Le van Professor of Preaching of Theology, Southern Methodist University

Feast Days

Tuesday, 9 th July	St. Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions MM
Thursday, 11 th July	St. Benedict, Ab, Patron of Europe
Saturday, 13 th July	St. Henry

Prayers – please keep in your prayers:



Brian Harland	Tony Twomey
Kitty Trainor	Jared Howarth
Ann Hourican	Ian Hamilton
Mary Armstrong	Ann Close

Anniversaries

Susan Finney	Vida McAllister
Jake Morley	John McManus
David Adams	Elizabeth Gaffing
Ann Jackson	

Children's Liturgy

Please note that there **won't be** Children's Liturgy at St. Joseph's this Sunday, 7th July.



Note from the SVP

This Thursday, 11th July, the SVP members are hosting a summer event for the elderly of the parish. There will be a film show and Afternoon Tea for everyone, starting at 1.00pm. Please let us know if you require a lift and get in touch with any member of the SVP. Also, there is a sign-up sheet at the back of each church.

Note from Br. John

The Next *Laudato Si* Meeting will be held at the Friary this Monday, July 8th at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Cancellation of Eucharistic Services – St. Joseph's

The scheduled Services of Word and Holy Communion on Mondays at St. Joseph's will not take place during the month of August. The last one will be Monday, 29th July and will re-start on Monday 2nd September at 9.15am.



There will be a parish coffee morning on **Wednesday 10th July**.

It will take place immediately after the 9.15 Service of the Word and Holy Communion in St. Bede's Room in St. Godric's School.

All proceeds are for Women in Need in India. Everyone is very welcome.

The family of the late Helen Tumilty wish to thank parishioners for the lovely sympathy cards and for their attendance at Helen's Requiem. Many thanks also to Fr. Colm for such a lovely funeral Mass.



Adoration & Worship for Young Adults

Join us for praise, worship and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Cuthbert's, Old Elvet, Durham, this Sunday 7th July, 2.00pm-4.00pm. There will be refreshments afterwards.

Retiring Collection

Next Sunday, 14th July, is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need.

Should you wish to donate you can use one of the envelopes which will be at the back of church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Thank you.

Durham Martyrs Walking Group – July 2024

Our next walk will be a lovely six-mile scenic walk starting and finishing in the village of Osmotherly on **Saturday 20th July**.

The walk is on well surfaced tracks and road and provides beautiful views of the surrounding countryside. There are a couple of inclines on the route, one of about 400ft and the other 150ft. The village offers a choice of pubs and cafes for food and refreshment at the end of the walk which takes approximately three hours including a refreshment / snack break.



We will leave Durham at 9.30am and it is essential to know **not later than 16th July** who plans to join this walk so that we can arrange to share transport. (Approximately 45min journey each way). Please contact Peter Thompson 07721 056 260 or leave a message on the Walking Group What's App if you plan to attend.

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancy:

Parish Secretary 25 hrs pw, St Mary's, Hexham

We're seeking a well-organised person with excellent planning and IT skills and strong experience in general office management and administrative procedures to support the parish and Clergy with general administration. Duties are wide-ranging and include book-keeping, dealing with enquiries, managing bookings and minute-taking. You must be able to work on your own initiative and maintain complete confidentiality. Further details are available on the Diocese website and Indeed. Closing date 08 July 2024.



Liturgy Day for Readers and the New Lectionary

The Diocesan Liturgical Formation team are running a day for readers of all levels of experience to explore the new translation of the Lectionary on **Saturday 9th November at St. Augustine, Darlington, DL3 7RG.**

This day will provide an opportunity to look at the background of the new Lectionary and to be ready to proclaim the Scriptures.

For more information and to book, please visit: bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents. Details of other Liturgy days are also available on the Diocesan website.

You can also make your booking through Marjorie. Please let her know if you wish to attend. Alternatively, if you wish to book online, could you also let Marjorie know, so that we have a complete list of attendees.

Cancellation of Masses

Please note that the Tuesday and Wednesday morning Masses scheduled for 9th and 10th July have been replaced with Services of Word and Holy Communion

Mass Intentions for the Week

7th July 2024

	St Godric's	St Joseph's
Saturday 6 July		5.00pm Vigil Mass Birthday Remembrances of Peter Reid and Anthony Farmer
Sunday 7 July	9.00am Tom Lowe 3.00-4.00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am Roger Charlton and John Maughan
Monday 8 July	NO MASS	9.15 am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Tuesday 9 July	10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion	NO MASS
Wednesday 10 July	NO MASS	10.00am Service of Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 11 July	9.30am - Exposition 10.00am A safe journey for Marie-Claire, Sam, Rex and Rafi	NO MASS
Friday 12 July	NO MASS	9.30am – Exposition 10.00am Deceased Priests of the Diocese
Saturday 13 July	NO MASS	5.00pm Vigil Mass David Adams Anniversary
Sunday 14 July	9.00am John Finn	10.30am Norman and Alec Wright and Bryan Moran

St. Cuthbert's

Sun 7	Mon 8	Tue 9	Wed 10	Thurs 11	Fri 12	Sat 13	Sun 14
10.00am and 6.30pm	NO MASS	12.15pm	7.00pm	12.15pm	12.15pm	9.15am	10.00am and 6.30pm