

Masses, Services and Devotions

	St Bede's Church Bedlington	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth
Saturday 15 th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm-5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: David Robertson	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Margaret Jenkins 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11am - 12noon Confessions
Sunday 16 th December 3 rd Sunday Advent C		9.00am Mass: Desmond, Mary Ellen & Frank McLaughlin 11.00am Mass: Deceased members of the Dalton Family
Monday 17 th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: In Thanksgiving	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion 2.00pm Baptism: Lula Mary Evans and Ayla Mary Evans
Tuesday 18 th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Mass: Margaret & Raymond Taylor Walker & John Bell
Wednesday 19 th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: Kathleen & Jimmy Crilley	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
Thursday 20 th December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Mass: Deceased members of the Wright Family 7.00pm Divine Mercy Devotions
Friday 21 st December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: Eunice & Lawrence Attard 7.00pm Service of Reconciliation	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 22 nd December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: John & Sarah Sutherland	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Bobby Turnbull 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11am - 12noon Confessions
Sunday 23 rd December 4 th Sunday Advent C		9.00am Mass: Harry & Margaret Bell 11.00am Mass: Des McLaughlin

The Pope's Intention for December

Evangelization: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith; that people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

EDGE

The last Edge meeting will be held on Thursday 20th December in the Hall at St Robert's and then will resume after Christmas on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 6pm. If you have children of Middle School age, please try to encourage them to come along, even if its only for a taster evening, to see if they enjoy it. You never know ... they might decide they like it!



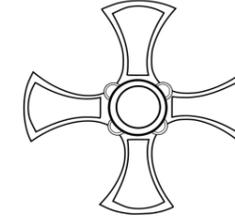
Northumberland Listening Service

A free and confidential Listening Service, is available for those who wish to talk about issues such as Loss and Bereavement, Stress, Anxiety, Relationship Difficulties, Loneliness or other concerns. To make an appointment please telephone 07732 980740.

Journey in Faith

The next Journey in Faith Meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd January 2019 at 7pm in the Presbytery at St Robert's.

**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**Saint Robert of Newminster
Catholic Church**
Oldgate
MORPETH
NE61 1QF

PARISHES OF THE BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND

Parish Priest: Father Peter Stott

St Robert's Presbytery, Collingwood House, Oldgate, Morpeth NE61 1QF
Tel 01670 513410 | Email morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk | peterjstott@aol.com

Parish Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter

St Bede's Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS
Tel 01670 823258 | Email bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk

www.strobertmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

Sunday 16th December - Third Sunday Advent C

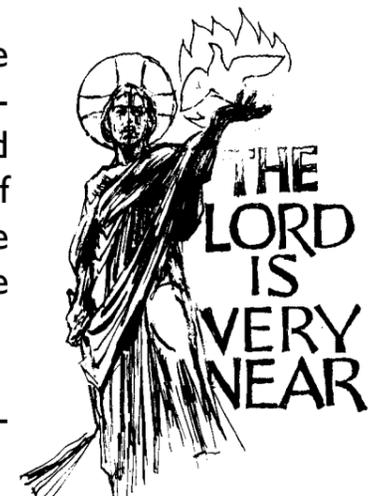


Today John the Baptist points his finger at the scribes and the Pharisees. As religious leaders, the scribes and the Pharisees might have thought they were beyond repentance, but John makes no distinction between the sinners and the religious.

Repentance is a challenge for each and every one of us to take a good long look at ourselves. We might be nice people; we might have kind and caring dispositions; we might have values and good intentions, but what legacy do we leave in practical terms? How important is it to a starving child on the other side of the world that we go to church on Sunday? How much does it matter to someone lonely, sick poor or marginalised that we sit and read our bibles each night? Today we are being asked to put our money where our mouths are. Our faith is void if we don't live by it. We are asked to share by giving up our time and our money. We are asked to share by not exploiting others.

Before we can firmly celebrate the joy of Christmas we are asked to ensure that the less well off are also experiencing the joy of Christmas in practical terms, food warmth and security. We have all experienced the joy of giving a gift. Today we are asked to experience the same pleasure in sharing what we have with those who have nothing.

Most importantly this Christmas, we remember that happiness comes from being content with what we've got.



Please pray for: The Harvest, the Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their families. Please pray for those who are sick; for all who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Offertory Collections 8th / 9th December
St Bede's: £220.22 / St Robert's: £756.55

Advent Alms ... diocesan fundraising

This year the Advent Alms will go towards "Giveaway Days" organised by St Cuthbert's Care, at targeted community centres and food-banks, including the diocesan homeless projects in Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead and Stockton, and also support St Cuthbert's Care Social Workers who receive requests seeking support from desperate families, some facing eviction from their accommodation. Many thanks for your support. Collection baskets will be available on the way out of church each week during Advent.



Tea and Coffee after Mass

We have tea and coffee available after the Vigil Mass at St Bede's each Saturday evening. The proceeds from donations for tea and coffee at St Bede's are going towards "The Alan Shearer Centre", run by St Cuthbert's Care for people with complex disabilities and their families ... www.alanshearercentre.org.uk We also have tea and coffee available after the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's on Sunday morning.



Newsletter Items

Please drop in a note at the Presbytery or e-mail items for the parish newsletter by 7pm on Wednesday to the parish office email address at St Robert's.

St Robert's Christmas Fayre

Very many thanks to everyone who arranged the Christmas Fayre and the Christmas Raffle at St Robert's last week and to everyone who supported the Fayre in the School Hall and the Refreshments and soup in the Church Hall. It was a great effort by all involved. We have managed to raise a total of **£1,905.28**. Very many thanks to everyone for the wonderful support. There is a list on the noticeboard in the Church Porch of the amount raised by each stall and there is a list of raffle prize winners too. There are still some prizes unclaimed. Please see Anne Beattie for details of how to collect unclaimed prizes.



Nativity Rhyme Time

A story and singing session around the nativity for babies and toddlers will be held at St Roberts parish on 20th December from 10:15am. For more information and to confirm numbers please contact Jodi Harrison on jsn-harrison@outlook.com or Eileen Dutt (usually at 9am Mass).



Bonus Ball

The 9th draw of the Bonus Ball was on Saturday 8st December. The lucky winners receiving £25 with Bonus Ball number 17 were Barbara McCole and Agnes Gee. Congratulations to our winners. Only one more draw left this time so fingers crossed!

School Masses this week

St Robert's School will be joining us in Church for Mass on Thursday at 9.15am and St Bede's will be joining us in Church on Friday at 10am.

Christmas Mass Times

The Christmas Mass times for 117 Catholic Churches in the Diocese are now accessible on the diocesan website ... www.rcdhn.org.uk. There are posters in our churches about the Mass Times in our Brinkburn Partnership; and the Mass times for Christmas for our two churches are as follows ...

St Bede's, Bedlington

Christmas Eve, Carols at 5.30pm, Vigil Mass at 6pm

St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth

Christmas Eve, Carols at 11.30pm, followed by Midnight Mass
Christmas Morning Mass at 10.00am

Partnership Service of Reconciliation

We have organised a Partnership Service of Reconciliation for Advent and in preparation for Christmas. Which will be held on Friday 21st December at 7pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington. There will be several priests available for individual Confessions.



Confession before Christmas

Please note that in addition to the above Service of Reconciliation, Confessions will also be available at the usual time on Saturday 22nd December, 11am onwards at St Robert's and 5pm at St Bede's, but after that day, no other times organised times, other than on request.

"It's a Wonderful Life"

The movie showing of 'It's a Wonderful Life' will be TODAY [Sunday, 16th December] at 5pm. We hope that you will join us in the Church Hall at St Robert's. There will be coffee, tea, biscuits and popcorn available. You are welcome to bring a comfortable folding chair and a friend! Hope to see you there (this is a family event, so children are very welcome to attend!)



SVP - Sudan Crisis Appeal

Once again the SVP is appealing for your help for the impoverished peoples of Sudan and South Sudan. In South Sudan the SVP provides emergency food and water, including baby-feeding, for 11,000 people in two camps. SVP medical centres provide free life-saving treatment and medication to 50,000 people a year. An SVP water tanker provides 35,000 people a day with fresh water but is 30 years old and in need of replacement. And there is so much more we could do if we have the funds. Can you help? Of course a one-off donation would be welcome but better still if you can sign a standing order to give regular support on a long-term basis. We know many parishioners are already doing this, and a massive thank you to all of them. Can you join them? There are information/donation leaflets with details of the work the SVP are doing at the back of church.



Big Christmas Clean at St Robert's

There will be the BIG CLEAN for St Robert's Church on Friday 21st December at 9.45am. All welcome!



New Cleaning Rotas

New Church Cleaning Rotas are now available

Flower Arrangers Rota

We have been considering for some months the possibility of establishing a Flower Arrangers' Rota at St Robert's Church, rather than leaving it to the Cleaning Groups to do the Flowers ... ie, having a regular rota of people willing to arrange the flowers for the Church. If this is something that you would like to be involved with please let Fr Peter or Bernadette (in Parish Office) know and a meeting will be arranged for the beginning of the New Year.



Wansbeck Valley Food Bank

The Wansbeck Valley Food Bank will have many demands on their services in the coming weeks. If you can donate items of food, particularly something seasonal, please drop into the Wansbeck Valley Food Bank Box in the Church Porch at St Robert's Church. Every help is greatly appreciated

Justice and Peace Refugee Project

Thank you to those of you who have donated food and clothing to help the refugees and asylum seekers. They have come from over 50 countries and at this time of the year are especially grateful for your help. Warm winter clothing and men's shoes are especially needed as well as regular gifts of food. There is a leaflet in the Church Porch giving more details about the project.

St Robert's School and Nursery

St Robert's School has a pre-school Nursery, offering up to the 30 hour childcare provision to children aged 3 and over. They also have spaces currently in Reception to Year 3 within school. If any parents would like to arrange to visit our School and Nursery, or for further details on either of the above please contact the school office on 01670 512031. For parents of children due to start school in September the online portal is now open and is accessed via Northumberland County Council.



The Northern Catholic Calendar

The 2019 edition of The Northern Catholic Calendar is now available at the back of Church, price £3 each.

Parish Website Support

We would love to have a parishioner who would be able to help out with our parish website and assist with regular maintenance and updates, and who would help out especially when we run into difficulties, particularly someone who has knowledge of "Wordpress" website software. So many people now use computers or tablets or smartphones to access local information, including our parish information, so this is one area of parish life that we need to keep on top of. Is there anyone in our parish who would be willing to help with the maintenance of the website?



Baptism Preparation Meetings

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held at St Bede's Church on Thursday 17th January at St Bede's Church, Bedlington., and then the February Preparation Meeting will be held at St Robert's. Any parents who are wishing to organise a Baptism should contact either Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen to make arrangements to attend this meeting. Once that has been arranged then a date can be considered for the Baptism.



Settlement Scheme for EU Citizens

The Government will soon launch a Settlement Scheme offering EU citizens living here in the UK a legal route to remain. The Bishops Conference opposes the charges that will apply to this scheme and feel that is unjust and divisive. Nonetheless they wish to support all those EU citizens who wish to remain in the UK. The UK Bishops are asking all parishes to support and bring the Settlement Scheme to the attention of all who need to avail of it and they urge the Catholic community to take up Pope Francis' call to welcome, protect, promote and help to integrate everyone who has made their home here - with particular concern at present for our European brothers and sisters. ... gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families ... the Bishops' Statemen can be found on <http://catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Settlement-Scheme>