

Masses, Services and Devotions

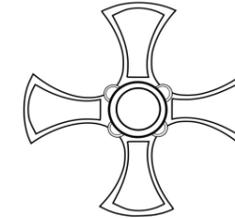
	St Bede's Church Bedlington	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth
Saturday 22 nd December <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm-5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: John & Sarah Sutherland	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Bobby Turnbull 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11am - 12noon Confessions
Sunday 23 rd December 4 th Sunday Advent C		9.00am Mass: Harry & Margaret Bell 11.00am Mass: Des McLaughlin
Monday 24 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
Monday 24 th December <i>Christmas Vigil</i>	5.30pm Carols 6.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass: Jim McKee	11.30pm Carols Christmas Midnight Mass: People of the Parish
Tuesday 25 th December The Nativity of the Lord		10.00am Mass: George Beattie
Wednesday 26 th December <i>St Stephen</i>	10.00am Mass: Jim Craik	10.00am Service of Word and Communion
Thursday 27 th December <i>St John the Apostle</i>		10.00am Mass: Elsie Holland
Friday 28 th December <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	10.00am Mass: No Intention	10.00am Service of Word and Communion 12.00pm Funeral Service: Graham Lynn
Saturday 29 th December <i>St Thomas Becket</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm—5.20pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Craik & Creel families	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Intentions of loved ones
Sunday 30 th December The Holy Family C		9.00am Mass: Molly McKee 11.00am Mass: Sarah Crosby

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.



**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

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Sunday 23rd December 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Advent. C

It's easy for us to take promises with a pinch of salt. Whilst growing up, we've learned that promises are easily made and easily broken. We make promises of our own with varying degrees of commitment. In short, promises are not always made to be kept, and our faith in a promise is seriously undermined. No wonder the promises we read in the bible don't always make us jump for joy.

Does a promise made to us by God carry any more weight? If we were truly convinced that God was making us a promise then it probably would. There's a saying that goes, "We question all our beliefs, except for the ones we really believe, and those we never think to question." It seems that belief is key in getting excited about a promise. Mary obviously had no doubts; this is illustrated in her promptness to act on his commands. We might not confess to doubts, but why then do we hedge our bets. Why do we squash God into a small corner of our busy lives and get on with other things.

Mary is a perfect role model for us all. She believed in God's promise. She acted on God's commands. She didn't push God into a small corner of her life God was her life. "Blessed is she," writes St Luke in today's gospel, "who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Today's gospel is an invitation for us to take God's promises to heart, to make them real in our minds, and act on them.





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 especially Graham Lynn, of Ashington, whose Funeral Service will take place on Friday at St Robert's at 12noon; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections 15th / 16th December
St Bede's: £234.90 / St Robert's: £833.77

Advent Alms ... diocesan fundraising

Throughout Advent we have been supporting the work of St Cuthbert's Care, especially for what they do at community centres, foodbanks, and the diocesan homeless projects in Newcastle, Sunderland, Gateshead and Stockton. Today is the last day for Advent Alms. Many  thanks for your support.

Crib Donations Friends of the Holy Land

Bishop Seamus has asked that the Crib Offerings this year be sent to the Friends of the Holy Land to enable them to give hope and practical support to the most vulnerable Christians in and around Bethlehem



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.



Wansbeck Valley Food Bank

The Wansbeck Valley Food Bank has many demands on their services at this time of the year. 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.

The Northern Catholic Calendar

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

Bonus Ball

The 10th draw of the Bonus Ball was on Saturday 15th December and the lucky winners receiving £25 with Bonus Ball Number 19 were John Shepherd and Brian Gregory. Congratulations to them both. This was the final draw for this year and thanks to your enthusiastic support we have raised £695 for St Robert's. Congratulations again to all our lucky winners and if you weren't successful - there is always next time!! Merry Christmas from the CWL. Many thanks to members of the CWL for organising this and helping raise funds for the parish.



SVP - Sudan Crisis Appeal

If you wish to support the SVP Sudan Crisis Appeal, please make cheques payable to "SVP England and Wales" and either hand directly to a member of the SVP or put into the ordinary collection and it will be passed on.

St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of the St Robert's SVP conference will be on Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm.

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.



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.



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.

Treasurer Wanted

The local Women's World Day of Prayer organisers are seeking to appoint a treasurer. Do you have 8 hours to spare spread over the year? We are required by the Charity Commission to have a Treasurer for the annual event to continue in solidarity with the rest of the world. It would be a very great shame if such a witness were to cease to exist for want of someone to keep track of our meagre finances. So if you have 8 hours to spare, you'll help to ensure that this important event in the life of the Morpeth community continues. Full training and support will be provided. If you are moved to say 'yes' to this request for help, please get in touch with Suzanne Hamnett on 01670 518485 or email suzhamnett@hotmail.com by 6th January 2019.



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.

"Outstanding" Raffle Prizes

The following prizes from the Orphanage quiz night held on 10th November at St Bede's are still to be collected ..

- ♦ Raffle ticket Blue 5 Jane—Bottle of wine.
- ♦ Raffle ticket Orange 17 Micheal S - Body brush.
- ♦ Raffle ticket pink 109 Jane B - Bag
- ♦ Raffle ticket Green 72 John O - Bottle of wine.

Epiphany Carol Service

On Sunday 6th January we will be celebrating an Epiphany Carol Service at St Robert's Church at 6pm. We hope you will be able to come along and join in this special celebration. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Hall.

Edge Middle School Journey of Faith

Edge resumes 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!



Times of Masses and Services

Please keep an eye on the times of Masses and Services this week on the back of this newsletter. There are changes to the usual times of Mass and Services of Word and Communion. Please Note - No Confessions Saturday morning.

School News

The portal for Reception Class applications for Sep 2019 opened on the 1st November via the Northumberland County Council website and will close on the 15th of January. Please make sure all application are completed before then as they will be unable to accept any after this date.

St Bede's Governors

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Parish to thank Joe Gallagher who recently stood down as Chair of Governors of St Bede's School and to thank him for all the great things Joe accomplished during his time as Chair; and we thank and congratulate Diane Wallace who has taken on the role of Chair of Governors and we wish her well for the next year.

It was a wonderful movie!

Thank you to the small group of parishioners who attended last Sunday night's showing of 'It's a Wonderful Life' at St Robert's. Enjoyed by all, and the discovery that a ringing bell signifies more than last orders! Watch this space: we plan to have another movie night in February.

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, they ask all parishes to bring the Settlement Scheme to the attention of all who need to use it urging 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 Statement can be found on <http://catholicnews.org.uk/Home/News/Settlement-Scheme>.

Diocesan Vacancies

The Diocese has the following vacancies:

Health and Safety Officer - required to co-ordinate all aspects of health and safety across the Diocese, ensuring that all Diocesan properties and activities conducted in and around them are safe and without risk as far as reasonably practicable. Based at the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle with extensive travel throughout the Diocese. Closing date: 11 January.

Administrator for St John XXIII Parish, Washington and St Joseph's Parish, Birtley ... 16 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 15th January.

Administrator for the Department for Safeguarding ... a full-time post on a 12 month fixed term contract. The closing date: is 16th January. For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us 0191 243 3301, email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk