

# Masses, Services and Devotions

	St Bede's Church Bedlington	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth
<b>Saturday</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm-5.20pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass: Andrew Wright</b>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10.00am Mass: Msg Marek Martiska (MIC)</b> 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11am - 12noon Confessions
<b>Sunday</b> <b>9<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Advent C</b>		<b>9.00am Mass: Lily &amp; Pat McCafferty</b> <b>11.00am Mass: Alan Smith</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>10<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church <b>10.00am Mass: David &amp; Angela Robertson</b> <b>1.45pm: Funeral Service Joyce Ayre</b>	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> December</b> <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 <b>9.15am Mass: Deceased Members of the Watson &amp; Almond families</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church <b>10.00am Mass: Joseph &amp; Nancy Riley</b>	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Thursday</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Lucy</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 <b>9.15am Mass: Paul McCole</b> 7.00pm Divine Mercy Devotions
<b>Friday</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church <b>10.00am Mass: Doyle &amp; Quinn Families</b>	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Saturday</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm—5.20pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass: David Robertson</b>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10.00am Mass: Margaret Jenkins</b> 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11am - 12noon Confessions
<b>Sunday</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Advent C</b>		<b>9.00am Mass: Desmond, Mary Ellen &amp; Frank McLaughlin</b> <b>11.00am Mass: Deceased members of the Dalton Family</b>

## 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.

### 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.

### The Northern Catholic Calendar

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

### Journey in Faith

The next Journey in Faith Meeting will be held on Thursday 13th December at 7pm in the Presbytery at St Robert's.

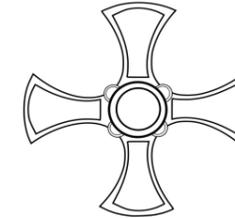
### New Address

Father Tom Cunningham recently moved into the Little Sisters of the Poor Home in Newcastle, joining both Pat Ibbotson and Alice Anderson from St Robert's Parish who are also resident there. The address is ... Little Sisters of the Poor, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA.

### Justice and Peace Refugee Project

Thank you to those who have donated to help 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.

**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 9<sup>th</sup> December - Second Sunday Advent C

We can be good at digging ourselves into holes. We dig ourselves deep into places from which we cannot climb back out. Suddenly there is no way back from an argument we've had with a relative or a friend. Perhaps we've said things that can't be retracted or we've heard something we can't forgive. Suddenly there is no way back to a simpler way of life because we've somehow managed to over complicate or over commit. Suddenly there is no way we can get back to feeling good about ourselves because we have made mistakes that seem impossible to rectify.

Today John the Baptist points us in a better direction. He tells us "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made straight."



Preparing a way for God in our lives is no different from any other preparation. Before we go Christmas shopping we make a list of people we are going to buy for. Before we cook the Christmas dinner we make a list of what we are going to need right down from the turkey to the tin foil. So too when we plan to make better paths for God to work in our lives, we need to make a list of holes we need to dig ourselves out of, and how exactly we are going to fill them back in.

The holes that were once filled with doubt and worry need to be filled with positive thoughts and fresh determination. The holes that kept us trapped in feelings of guilt and regret need to be filled with belief in God's forgiveness. Where once we struggled with overly burdened lives we now need to stop and refocus on what's important.

Rebuilding our lives might not be something we can do overnight, but we can all begin with the will to be different; the will to climb out of the holes we have dug and choose a better path.





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 including **Joyce Ayre** of Chester Court, Bedlington, whose Funeral Service will take place on Monday 10th December at St Bede's at 1.45pm; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Offertory Collections 1st / 2nd December**

St Bede's: **£267.80**: November SOs: **£826.00**  
St Robert's: **£957.59**: November SOs: **£2858.92**

**St Bede's Parish Fayre**

Very many thanks to everyone who supported St Bede's Christmas Fayre last Saturday and to all who arranged and ran stalls. As a result of the hard work and support, **£955.15** has been raised for St Bede's Parish Funds. Many thanks.

**Social Evening Fundraising**

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Social Evening at St Bede's Hall recently. It was a really enjoyable evening. We also managed to raise a little profit .... **£510.00** (thanks for the extra donations this week), which we are sending to "The Friends of the Holy Land" who will forward this on our behalf to the School of Joy for children with special needs and learning difficulties, in Shepherds Field, Bethlehem. This School is run by Father Mamdouh Abusada, who is known to some of us from his visits several years ago. He has written recently to Fr Peter with a special appeal for his students, so we are pleased to be able to assist him with this special gift.



**Advent Alms ... diocesan fundraising**

Throughout Advent we are asked to raise funds for St Cuthbert's Care. This year the Advent Alms will go towards "Giveaway Days" 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](http://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.

**Celebration of Confirmation**

Many congratulations to all the young people from three of our partnership parishes who were Confirmed by Bishop Seamus at Mass on Friday evening at St Bede's. We take this opportunity also to offer our thanks to Thomas and the adults from the local parishes who helped in their preparation on a Sunday evening.



**Morning Prayer during Advent at St Bede's**

We are praying the office of Morning Prayer during the Season of Advent at 9.30am at St Bede's Church.



ADVENT

**Partnership Advent Service**

There will be a Partnership Advent Service at St Aidan's Church, Ashington on Friday 14th December at 7pm. If you haven't been to any of the Partnership events yet, why not try to come along to this one and join in prayer with other members of our partnership parishes. Everyone very welcome.

**Partnership Service of Reconciliation**

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



**CWL Bonus Ball**

The 8th draw of the Bonus Ball was on Saturday 1st December. The lucky winner receiving £25 with Bonus Ball number 57 was Paul Davison (a lovely surprise for him as he didn't know he'd bought a ticket!). The second number 57 wasn't sold so the £25 prize will go into the funds. Congratulations to our winner.



**Catholic Women's League**

The Catholic Women's League Christmas Lunch will be on Monday 10th December. Please meet at The Riverside at 12.15pm, for lunch at 12.45pm.

**Christmas Mass Times**

The Christmas Mass times for over 90 Catholic Churches in the Diocese are now accessible on the diocesan website ... [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://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

**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 [jsnharrison@outlook.com](mailto:jsnharrison@outlook.com) or Eileen Dutt (usually at 9am Mass).



**Christmas Cards**

We will have the final Christmas Card sale this weekend 8th / 9th December at both churches.

**"EDGE"**

Our partnership is now running an Edge group in St Robert's Parish Hall at 6pm on a Thursday evening for all in years 5, 6, 7 and 8. Do you have children of middle school age ... can you encourage and support this with your children? At the moment we only have two children attending from across the whole partnership. Can we do a little more in our parishes to encourage young people to attend?



**Youth contact for our parishes**

We need to promote the activities for our young people that our Youth Coordinator is organising. It would be good if we had a point of contact for our Youth Coordinator, to help Thomas to publicise and encourage support for events in our parishes. If anyone is willing to be an active supporter with Thomas in encouraging our young people to get involved, and to help promote the youth activities that Thomas is organising please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible

**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.



**New Voices Choir Christmas Performance**

New Voices will be performing at St Robert's Church on Tuesday 11 December, at 8.00 pm. We will be singing for about 45 minutes, and will offer an interesting and mixed set of seasonal songs and carols. There will be opportunities for the audience to join in the singing of well-known carols. The choir, which has just celebrated its 21st Anniversary, is looking forward to singing for friends, family and people who enjoy the run up to Christmas with lovely carols. Everyone is welcome to come and listen to the concert. Entry is free, but we would like everyone to bring a non-perishable gift to put in the Food Bank Christmas Box. **Bring a cushion and a warm coat.** We look forward to seeing you.



**"It's a Wonderful Life" - Change of date and time**

We have decided not to compete with the finals of 'Strictly Come Dancing', so the movie showing of 'It's a Wonderful Life' will now be on Sunday, 16th December at 5pm. We hope that you will join us in the Church Hall. 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. £50 can feed a baby for a year. Last year the TYNE area raised over £36,000 for this cause. We know many parishioners are already doing this, and a massive thank you to all but can you help with this SVP Appeal? Donations for this Sudan Appeal can be handed to any member of the SVP at either St Bede's Church or St Robert's Church or an envelope clearly marked SVP SUDAN APPEAL can be put into the collection bags or handed to the Presbytery. Cheques should be made payable to "SVP England and Wales" and please write "Sudan and South Sudan Appeal" on the back of your cheque. There are information/donation leaflets with details of the work the SVP are doing at the back of church.



**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.

**Website Support**

This week have had some problems with our Parish Website (St Robert's) which was hacked and therefore not available online. Fortunately we have been able to restore most of the content on the website, but not all. 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?

