

Masses, Services and Devotions

	St Bede's Church Bedlington	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth
Saturday 30th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm—5.20pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Jim Craik / Private Intention	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Nora Gleghorn 10.30am Stations of the Cross 11am - 12noon <i>Confessions</i>
Sunday 31st March 4th Sunday of Lent C	4.00pm Stations of the Cross	9.00am Mass: George Beattie 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish
Monday 1st April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	PARTNERSHIP LENTEN STATION MASS (Private Intention) 7pm at St Bede's Church, Catholic Row, Bedlington	
Tuesday 2nd April <i>Weekday of Lent</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: Gillian Martin
Wednesday 3rd April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: May Lowe 7.00pm Partnership Reconciliation Service	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
Thursday 4th April <i>Weekday of Lent</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: Jean Craig (Sheila) 1.30pm Funeral Service: John Dickinson 7.00pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Divine Mercy Devotions
Friday 5th April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.15am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: George & Ellen Arkle	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 6th April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm—5.20pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Thomas McArdle 10.30am Stations of the Cross 11am - 12noon <i>Confessions</i>
Sunday 7th April 5th Sunday of Lent. C	4.00pm Stations of the Cross	9.00am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

The Pope's Intention April 2019

For Workers in War Zones: For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others

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.

Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne for Young Adults

A time for young adults (20s & 30s) to walk along part of St. Cuthbert's way, reflect and pray with other young adults and spend time on the beautiful island of Lindisfarne from Wednesday 24th April to Sunday 28th April 2019. Accommodation is in a basic bunkhouse near St Cuthbert's cave. Cost - £85 to cover food and accommodation. For more information email lynnefcj@hotmail.com or find us on facebook (FC) Young Adult Network



Holy Week and Easter Ceremonies

Our Holy Week and Easter Masses and Services will follow the same pattern as last year ...

Palm Sunday 13th / 14th April

5.30pm Vigil Mass at St Bede's, Bedlington
9am Mass at St Robert's, Morpeth
11am Mass at St Robert's, Morpeth

Holy Thursday 18th April

7.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Robert's,

Good Friday 19th April

3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, St Robert's
3pm Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, St Bede's

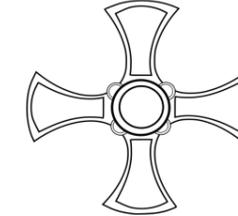
Holy Saturday 20th April

8.00pm Easter Vigil at St Bede's, Bedlington

Easter Sunday 21st April

9am Mass at St Robert's, Morpeth
11am Mass at St Robert's, Morpeth

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

Sunday 31st March 2019 – 4th Sunday of Lent

It doesn't matter how far we've travelled from God, there is always a way back. The parable of the Prodigal Son is great comfort for those of us whose lives are in such a mess that we can see no glimmer of hope. But does that mean that the parable is not relevant for the rest of us?

The wonderful thing about the seemingly simple parable that Jesus tells us today, is that it is really two parables rolled into one. Whichever part of the story speaks loudest to us is dependent upon the son with whom we most identify. The story of the wayward son, who squandered his father's money and then returns home for forgiveness, speaks to anyone who has turned away from God but wants to put his or her life on track again. This parable is for anyone who has made bad decisions without much thought of the consequences. Bad decisions take us in the wrong direction and we might only realise it when we finally hit rock bottom. Only then might we admit the truth to ourselves; only then might we confess "I can't carry on like this... something has to give... something must change!"

If our sympathies lie with the prodigal son's older brother, then this parable speaks to us from a different point of view. The parable is for all who judge others as unworthy of our respect or companionship. This parable is for all those who lack empathy. Like the older son who resents his brother's welcome home party, we disappoint God when we resent others being given a second chance, or when we are unable to forgive.

The one character in the story that is beyond reproach is the father. Like God, the father is loving and compassionate. The father's love enables him to look beyond the transgressions of his younger son. Similarly, the father is patient and understanding towards his self righteous son. The father is ready to forgive even before he is asked to forgive. The father doesn't give up on either son. His love is exemplary.

Today we can further our Lenten journey by not putting ourselves above others, by not being judgmental and by allowing others their second chance in life just as we may one day need our second chance.





Please pray for: Peace on Earth; Christian Unity, The Sick and those who care for them; Victims of Trafficking and those who work to combat it; the Unemployed. Please pray for those who are sick, including Fr Jim Doherty; and Sylvia Thompson; for all who have died recently including **John Dickinson**, of Shilbottle, whose Funeral Service will be on 4th April at 1.30pm in St Robert's Church; for **William Gray**, of Morpeth, whose Funeral Service will be on Monday 8th April at 11.45am in St Robert's Church; and **Evelyn Twist**, of Bedlington, whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 10th April at 10am at St Bede's Church; for **Father James Keane**, Parish Priest of St George's Church Bells Close, Newcastle who died during the week; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections 23rd/24th March
St Bede's: £243.91 / St Robert's: £893.87

Tea and Coffee after Mass

We have tea and coffee available after the Vigil Mass at St Bede's on Saturday evenings and tea and coffee available after the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's on Sunday mornings.

CAFOD Emergency Cyclone Idai Appeal

CAFOD have announced an emergency appeal for the people of South Eastern Africa in the wake of the Cyclone disaster. There will be a **RETIRNG COLLECTION TODAY**. We ask for your support for this appeal. Your donation will give food, clean water and healthcare to people in desperate need. Gabriel, the CAFOD expert working with the Church in Mozambique at this time, reports: "We know that Idai has wiped out crops and livestock, damaged water supplies and wrecked sanitation facilities, leaving vulnerable families even more exposed. With the support and generosity of the Catholic community, we can reach the people who really need urgent emergency aid."



Stations of the Cross

Please remember that we continue to pray the Stations of the Cross during Lent: St Robert's on Thursdays at 7pm & Saturdays at 10.30am and at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Sunday afternoons at 4pm.

Station Masses in the Partnership

Our Station Masses continue to very popular and I was particularly please to see so many from Bedlington and Morpeth at Mass at Ashington on Wednesday evening. This week the Station Mass will be celebrated on Monday evening at 7pm at St Bede's Church at Bedlington.

Becoming a Catholic at Easter

Since the end of September last year, Anne Douglas has been attending the fortnightly Journey in Faith meetings. Anne and her husband Michael and son Josh are members of St Bede's Parish Community and at the Vigil Mass every week. At our Easter Vigil on Saturday April 20th, we will have the great pleasure of receiving Anne into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. This is a great celebration and we look forward to it. Please keep Anne in your prayers over the coming weeks.

Journey in Faith

The next Journey in Faith meeting will be held on April 11th at 7pm. This will be the last meeting before Easter.

Lenten Lunches

Many thanks to everyone who is supporting the Friday Soup Lunches throughout Lent. We will continue again at 12noon this Friday. Proceeds of these lunches will be split between CAFOD and Marys Meals.

"Life Though Death in St John's Gospel"

St Aidan's, Ashington are exploring chapter 18 onwards of the Gospel according to St John. To be held in St Aidan's Parish Hall, Ashington on Tuesday 2nd April, starting at 2.00pm. All are Welcome!

Partnership Service of Reconciliation for Lent

We will be celebrating a Partnership Service of Reconciliation for Lent on Wednesday 3rd April at 7pm at St Bede's, Bedlington. We hope parishioners will feel able to come along and join in the celebration of Confession.

Lenten Penitential Service

On Monday 1st April at 7pm the Lourdes Hospitalité and Monkwearmouth Partnership invite all to attend a Lenten Penitential Service with the theme, "Happy are the Poor in Spirit" at St Benet's, Sunderland. Please see the poster in the Porch.

Diocesan Lent Course

The talks on "Gods Gifts of Love and Mercy" continue this week, at St Robert's Church Hall on Friday from 7pm – 8pm; and then on 12th April also at St Robert's, Morpeth. Everyone welcome to come and along and join the discussions.

Easter Rhyme Time

There is to be a craft and singing session focused on the Last Supper for pre-schoolers held at St Roberts parish hall on Thursday 18th April from 10:00 till 12:00. To help manage numbers please advise if you wish to bring older siblings. For more information please contact Jodi Harrison on jsnharrison@outlook.com or Eileen Dutt (usually at 9am Mass). The session is free - any donations will go to the Parish Lenten charity St Cuthbert's Care.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Information sheets are available from Fr Peter. Most people who are expressing an interest are opting for the longer 10 day pilgrimage, so please keep that in mind. So far we have sixteen people from St Robert's who have said Yes to going on this pilgrimage.



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. We are looking for a couple of people to help with the typing of the Newsletter. Anyone who is useful with desktop publishing should speak to Fr Peter, Marian Bell or Mary Beaton. (We use Microsoft Publisher to put the newsletter together, but Word will also be acceptable)

Partnership Development Group

The next Partnership Development Group meeting will be held at St Aidan's, Ashington at 7pm on Thursday 4th April.

First Holy Communion Preparation

The children's catechesis continues next weekend (Saturday at 4.15pm at St Bede's and Sunday 10am at St Robert's); and we look forward to welcoming the children to either the 5.30pm Mass at St Bede's or one of the morning Masses at Morpeth.

Diocesan Property Fire Safety Checks

The Diocesan Property Office has authorised a Fires Safety Check on all parish properties throughout the diocese. This will happen at St Bede's, Bedlington and St Robert's Morpeth on Wednesday 3rd April

St Robert's Parish Finance Committee

The next St Robert's Parish Finance Committee meeting will be held on Friday April 5th at 6pm.

St Robert's Church Hall Committee

The next St Robert's Church Hall Committee meeting will be held on April 4th after 9.15 Mass.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The next meeting of the SVP meeting at St Robert's, will be on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30 pm.

Young People

For more information on events for Young People, or if you have any questions, please contact Thomas on 07483 347646 or at youth.brinkburnheavenfield@rcdhn.org.uk

Edge

Thursday April 4th: Edge continues for those aged 9-13 at St. Robert's Parish Hall, Morpeth, at 6pm to 7:30pm, when we will be continuing to explore how we find our true freedom as human beings by following Christ and keeping His commandments. A fun time is sure to be had by all, with the usual games, discussions, and social time. Please note this will be the last Edge group of the half term, and we will be taking a break over the school Easter holidays. We're looking forward to seeing you again on Thursday 25th April!

Youth Alpha

Youth Alpha will also be taking a break over the school Easter holidays, so we'll see you again on Sunday April 28th, when we will be asking "Fill: How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit?".

New counters

If anyone has time to help with the counting teams at St Robert's, we are looking for a few new people to assist. Please contact Fr Peter if you are able to help or require further information.

Music Practices for Holy Week

There will be three practices for Holy Week Music and we invite all singers and musicians to come along to familiarise themselves with the music for Holy Week and Easter

- TUESDAY 2nd April at St Bede's Church, Bedlington, 7pm
- Wednesday 10th April at St Robert's Morpeth. 7pm
- Wednesday 17th April at St Bede's Church Bedlington, 7pm

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

Thank you to everyone that has agreed to continue providing coffee's on Sunday morning for the parish. The new rota is now available from the notice board in the hall. Please take a copy.

Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto.

The Brinkburn Partnership would like to organise a day visit to the Carfin Grotto - near Motherwell in Scotland on Thursday 5th September 2019. To this end we would like to know if anyone is interested. Therefore, please sign the list at the back of church (as soon as possible), to register your interest. For more details contact Elizabeth Dixon.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from 26th July — 2nd August. The Pilgrimage organisers are appealing for Nurses to assist with the Pilgrimage and for all other adult helpers so that that they can take 40 sick pilgrims. There is also a Youth Section for those aged 16-25 for the Youth Section. Those who need Nursing Care can also apply to travel. There are 40 places available for sick pilgrims needing nursing care. Please see Fr Peter for booking forms. Full information is available on the pilgrimage website, which is www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk and on the Facebook page



Appeals Panel

The Diocesan Department for Education welcomes applications from people willing to serve as lay or non-lay members of appeal panels for school admissions. Suitable people will be appointed to serve on panels hearing appeals for Catholic schools within The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. People are eligible to be a lay member if they have no personal experience in the management of any school or in the provision of education in any school (disregarding any such experience as a governor or in any other voluntary capacity). People are eligible to be a non-lay member if they have experience in education, are acquainted with educational conditions in the local authority area, or are the parent of registered pupils at school. Application forms can be obtained from our Diocesan website www.edurcdhn.org.uk by emailing education@diocesehn.org.uk or by phone on 0191 2433313. The closing date for applications is **Thursday 18 April 2019**.

St Robert's: Gift Aid and Planned Giving

The planned giving boxes for St Robert's Parish for the new tax year commencing in April are available in the church porch. However, there are IMPORTANT CHANGES to this years Envelopes, to assist the counting teams and make it a little easier for recording of amounts received

- **ONLY those who are registered for the Gift Aid scheme will have numbered envelopes.**
- **Boxed sets of un-numbered envelopes available for other parishioners who wish to use them.**
- **As a result, everyone's envelope number will change.**
- Because of this, it is very important that you **DO NOT** use any left-over envelopes from last year: the number will be wrong and this could lead to an error in the claim. **Therefore, any leftover envelopes must be thrown away after Sunday 30th March.**
- **You must ONLY use the new envelopes from the start of April.**

If you are in the Gift Aid scheme but there is not a box for you please contact Gerry Harber (Tel 517829) or Peter Smith (tel 516433), who is taking over as St Robert's Parish Gift Aid Organiser from the start of the new financial year. Anyone who is not currently in the Gift Aid scheme but pays tax and would like to join please take a Gift Aid Declaration form from the plastic pocket on the noticeboard and return it to Peter Smith or hand in to the presbytery. If you are in the Gift Aid scheme but your circumstances have changed so and no longer pay tax, please let Peter know as soon as possible. Similarly, please advise any change of address or other details. Thank you.

Fundraising for Syrian Refugees

The Tandoori Mahal restaurant in Morpeth are holding a fundraising evening on Monday the 1st April for Ruhi a nurse from Morpeth who regularly works in the Syrian refugee camps. The money enables Ruhi to purchase medicines and other essentials to take with her to the camps. Tickets are £20 with £10 going to the restaurant and £10 to the fund. If you fancy a night out with friends for a good meal and a good cause please contact Maura Illingworth at St Roberts or Amanda Gallagher at St. Bede's to get your Tickets.

Vocations Discernment

If you are aged 16 or over and thinking about the priesthood why not come along to one of the Diocesan Vocations Discernment evenings held at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. These evenings provide an opportunity to listen to speakers talk about their discernment, faith journeys and vocations, and are followed by a meal. Forthcoming dates: Wednesday 22nd May; Wednesday 26th June. For more information, please contact Fr Christopher Warren, Diocesan Vocations Director.