

Masses, Services and Devotions

	St Bede's Church Bedlington	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth
Saturday 16th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	5.00pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.00pm The Rosary 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Madeleine Potter	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Fr. James Doherty & dec'd mbrs Doherty & Devitt families 10.30am Stations of the Cross 11.00am to 12 noon Confessions
Sunday 15th March Third Sunday of Lent	4.00pm Stations of the Cross	9.00am Mass: Elphin Conroy 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish
Monday 16th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.40am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: No intention	8.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion 12:30 pm Funeral Service: Marie Burke
Tuesday 17th March <i>St Patrick</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 9.40am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Mass: Ken & Eileen Percival
Wednesday 18th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	Partnership Mass at St Bede, Bedlington at 7.00pm	
Thursday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 9.40am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Mass: Norman Barker 7.00pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Divine Mercy Devotions
Friday 20th March <i>St Cuthbert</i>	9.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.40am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: No Intention	8.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 21st March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	5.00pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.00pm The Rosary 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Sylvia Thompson 10.30am Stations of the Cross 11.00am to 12 noon Confessions
Sunday 22nd March Forth Sunday of Lent	4pm Stations of the Cross	9.00am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



The Pope's Intentions March 2020

Catholics in China: We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

St Patrick's Day – 17th March

We now have a selection of St Patrick's Day cards on sale on the stand at the back of St Robert's Church.

Easter Cards

Easter cards will be on sale at St. Bede's after Mass this evening (14th March) and at St. Robert's in the Church Hall after both Masses on Sunday 22nd March.

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion will be celebrated in June. We have a selection of gifts, bookmarks, rosary beads, pewter standing crosses, Communion Mass books, sterling silver necklets, pins, brooches, cards, etc. There will be a sale of these items after Easter, however if you need them before please call into St Robert's office.

St Robert's SVP Meeting

The next meeting of the St Robert's Conference of the SVP will be on Sunday 22nd March at 10am in the upstairs room of the Hall.

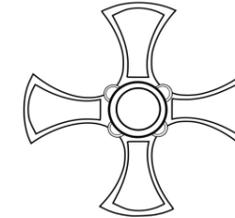
Christian Aid News

The latest edition of Christian Aid News is available on the stand in St Robert's Church porch. It is free, so please take one home and read it. It contains important information about the very real effects of Climate Change on people in the developing countries, and what we need to do urgently to mitigate this crisis. We must respond to the cry of those in desperate need.

Climate Change

Are you interested in finding local solutions to climate change? The Comrades Club is hosting a meeting on Wednesday 18th March 7pm-9pm and invite local people to identify real solutions that can have an impact in our communities. Everyone welcome.

**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

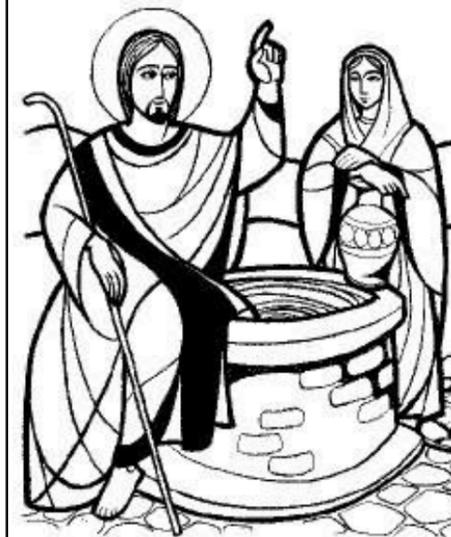
St Bede's Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS
Tel 01670 823258 | Email bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk

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

Sunday 15th March 2020 — Third Sunday of Lent

“Are you hiding anything?” It's an uncomfortable question that probably invites a heated denial from most of us; yet most of us are probably hiding something. We might be trying to shrug off a nagging guilt or an unforgiving sin. We might be trying to forget an episode in our lives where we behaved unwisely. We might be trying to cover up the agony of a failed relationship or putting a brave face on a lifetime of loneliness and rejection. How many of us are covering up weaknesses and flaws in our character? Most of us are trying to hide something, yet we would all acknowledge that burying something isn't the best way to find healing or improvement.

The woman at the well in today's gospel was struggling through life with a great deal of baggage. Firstly she was a woman with a lesser role in society, not only that, but a woman without a husband and to add insult to injury, a woman with a bad reputation. Secondly the woman was a Samaritan, a foreigner, and as such, regarded by most Jews as a person to be avoided altogether. Jesus puzzles the woman. He is a man and he is a Jew, in other words, the very last person she would have expected to strike up a conversation. Life had taught the woman to expect something very different. Life had taught her to expect contempt and rejection. Is this why we keep our own failings under wraps? Do we, like the Samaritan woman expect our friends family and work mates would be unforgiving and uncompromising if they knew the real us?



God's love is like a sprinkler system spreading Christ's unconditional life giving water without prejudice or judgement. Lent is the time to unravel all our hidden pain and set it before God. Lent is the time to take a leaf out of Jesus' book, to see the pain in the lives of others and break down the barriers society has built.



Please pray for: Peace on Earth, Racial Justice Day, Christian Unity, Victims of Human Trafficking, The Sick and those who care for them, The Unemployed, Candidates for the Sacraments, Women, The Needy and Hungry of the World, Penitents and Wanderers, Survivors of Sexual Abuse. Please pray for those who are sick and unwell, for all who have died recently including Marie Burke (Morpeth) whose Funeral Service will take place on Monday 16th March at 12:30 in St Robert's Church; Mary Watkin (Morpeth) whose Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday at 3:15pm at Cowpen Crematorium; Betty Diamond, (Morpeth) whose Funeral will be on Thursday 26th March at St Robert's Church; and Brian McGurk (Morpeth) - funeral details to be announced later; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections 29th / 1st March

St Bede's: £219.38 / St Robert's £829.64

St Bede's Parish Gift Aid & Planned Giving

In preparation for the new financial year the planned giving boxes will be available soon. Anyone new to the parish, or anyone not in the scheme wishing to contribute to the support of the parish, please contact the office on Monday or Tuesday mornings on 01670 823258. If you are a tax payer, please consider signing a Gift Aid Declaration whereby the parish will reclaim 25 pence for every £1 donated from the Inland Revenue.

Tea and Coffee after Mass

Tea and coffee are available at St Bede's after the Saturday Vigil Mass and after both the 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday at St Robert's Church Hall, everyone is welcome. Donations at St Bede's during Lent will go towards our Lenten Alms appeal for St Cuthbert's Care .

St Bede's Saturday Evening Tea and Coffee .

The proceeds from January to the beginning of Lent, for Mary's Meals, were £425.37

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.

Lenten Alms

Throughout Lent we collect for St Cuthbert's Care for our Lenten Alms. This year the Appeal supports their Hardship Fund, offering financial support to older Catholic people wishing to live in one of their nursing homes in Newcastle or Sunderland. There will be a box or basket on the way out of church at the of every Sunday Mass throughout Lent.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Why not try to come to Adoration, a valuable period of quiet prayer before Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. We have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the week before Mass at both St Robert's and St Bede's. Churches. Please check back page for all times.

Confessions

We have Confessions available on Saturday morning at St Robert's Church between 11am—12noon and at St Bede's Church on Saturday evening from 5pm—5.20pm. We will also be having a Partnership celebration of Reconciliation with Mass and Confessions from 10am on Saturday 4th April at St Robert's. Please use these weeks of Lent to make use of this wonderful sacrament. Don't lose this opportunity ...Come along ... if you know you haven't been for some time, ask yourself why? reflect on your need for God's love and mercy, and then come along ... we are all sinners, we all need to be absolved from our sins. Please pray about coming to confession during Lent.

* Journey in Faith * * *

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith will be **THURSDAY 19th March at 7.30pm.**

Stations of the Cross

We will celebrate Stations of the Cross every Thursday evening at 7pm and every Saturday morning at 10.30am at St Robert's. At St Bede's, Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at 4pm on Sunday afternoons.

Lenten Lunches for Charity

Lenten Lunches continue every Friday throughout Lent in the church hall at St Robert's, from midday—1.30pm . Offers of help and soup, bread rolls gratefully accepted. If you are willing to help please sign up on list at the back of church. Proceeds will be split between **CAFOD and Mary's Meals.** Thank you. Please remember that Fridays during Lent should be days of Fast and Abstinence. These Lunches are meant to support those in need with our proceeds and are not meant to be a Feast for us; they are to help enable us to Fast from our normal lunches and remind us that from what we save, we are able to support those in need.

Partnership Station Masses

During Lent we will be celebrating Partnership Masses on Wednesday evenings, using a different Partnership Church each week and we hope that people will be able to travel around the different churches for Mass and refreshments afterwards. All Masses will begin at 7pm.

- 18th March at St Bede, Bedlington,
- 25th March at St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
- 1st April at St Aidan, Ashington
- And Saturday 4th April at St Robert's Mass followed by Confessions from 10.45am—12.45pm

Precautions Against Coronavirus

Following advice given the precautions outlined below will be taken in all Churches in Northumberland.:

- The distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds is suspended.
- Holy Communion will be distributed in the hand only.
- Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are to wash their hands in hot soapy water or use sanitised gel before and after they distribute Holy Communion.
- The Sign of Peace is suspended.
- Holy Water stoups are to be emptied and/or removed.
- Everyone attending Mass is asked to sanitise their hands as they come into church using sanitised gel dispensers available in porches and entrances.
- Everyone is asked to maintain good personal hygiene, especially at Mass and parish gatherings.

We are all aware of the rapidly changing situation of the spread of this virus and will make updated as and when necessary.

Open House, Bedlington

Please note that Open House at St Bede's will not meet on Tuesday evenings until further notice.

Partnership Spirituality Group

A one hour prayerful reflection, "A Pause on our Lenten Journey"- as we Celebrate, Live and Share God's word will be held on Friday March 20th at 7pm in St. Robert's Church Hall. We hope you will be able to come and join with others in the Partnership.

Altar Servers for Holy Week and Easter

Coronavirus permitting, we will need Altar Servers to volunteers for Holy Week and Easter Services. Servers are very welcome to serve at either St Robert's or St Bede's and in particular, we have only one server at the Easter Vigil at St Bede's so we could do with some extra Servers. Please let Fr Peter and John Kinghorn know.

Mary's Meals Backpack Appeal

During Lent St Bede's School Mini Vinnies and the young people of St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy are supporting the Mary's Meals Backpack Project. To help them, do you have any of the following items to fill a 4-12 year old school child's backpack for use in impoverished countries of the world? You An empty backpack or any of the following: pens, rulers, towels, flip-flops or sandals, new toothbrushes, notepads, crayons, sharpeners, shorts, shirts, pencil cases, toothpaste, pencils ,erasers, spoon, bars of soap, small balls e.g. tennis balls. If you think that you can support this appeal please could you take all donations to St. Bede's Primary School labelled 'Mini Vinnies Appeal' or to St Benet Biscop's School labelled Mary's Meals Backpack Appeal.

Rededication of England to Mary

On Sunday 29th March, every parish is being asked to celebrate the Rededication of England to Our Blessed Lady. The first dedication was made by King Richard II in Westminster Abbey in 1381, as he sought the protection of Our Lady in the face of great political turmoil. At this point, England received the title 'Mary's Dowry;' meaning that England was 'set aside' as a gift, a dowry, for Our Lady under her guidance and protection. On Sunday 29th March, the Re-dedication will take place throughout our country. As King Richard II once gave England as a gift to Our Lady for her guidance, so we too, seek Mary's protection and prayers, giving ourselves through this act of dedication. This will be at 12noon, following on from the I am Mass on Sunday 29th March.



Lourdes Hospitalite Fundraiser

The Hexham and Newcastle Lourdes Hospitalite presents 'Diggin' the Dancing Queen, a 'nearly' ABBA show on Friday 27th March at Gateshead Fell Cricket Club, Low Fell. All are warmly invited to join in the evening's entertainment and fundraising activities. All monies raised go towards the Hospitalite funds. Door and the bar open at 7.30pm. Fancy dress optional! Tickets cost: £5 adults, £3 for Lourdes youth, children- free. For tickets please call 07896581835.

Pilgrimage to Holy Island

To coincide with the 40th anniversary of the martyrdom of St Oscar Romero (24th March 2020) a one-day pilgrimage to Holy Island (Lindisfarne) taking place on Saturday 4th April. This pilgrimage will be a day with prayer and liturgy, a film, dance performance and a pilgrim walk around the island. Safe crossing times for the causeway mean that all participants need to be on Holy Island no later than 10:30am and the Welcome Gathering and Prayer will begin in the Anglican Parish Church of Mary the Virgin at 11am. The day will end around 5pm after an ecumenical service and key-note address. The day is sponsored by the Romero Trust, with the collaboration of CAFOD staff and volunteers in the North East and Br Ken Vance SJ. organising Scottish participation. The key-note speaker is Edgardo Colon-Emeric, a Methodist theology professor at Duke University in North Carolina.

Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on May 14th at 730pm at St Robert's. Church Hall. Any parents who are looking to have their child Baptised are asked to speak to Fr Peter of Deacon Stephen about filling in the Baptism paperwork and attending the Baptism preparation meeting. **Reminder:** For Baptism, one parent of the child to be baptised must be a baptised Catholic. Mass on a Sunday (or Sat. vigil) is expected. One of the godparents is also expected to be a practising Catholic. Attendance at the Baptism Meeting must be completed. Dates for Baptism are not usually given out before the Baptism Meeting is completed. People living outside the Parish will need their own Parish Priest's permission to have their child Baptised here.



Churches together Lenten Lunches

Churches Together in Bedlington Lenten Lunches are at Stakeford Methodist Church every Tuesday in Lent. Soup and a bun between 12 - 12.40, followed by a short service ending at 1pm. All welcome.

St Robert's Sunday Morning Coffee' Rota

We are in the process of drawing up the new rota of volunteers to serve coffee in the Church Hall following the Masses on Sundays. A huge thanks goes to the current volunteers. However, it would be wonderful to have a few more willing helpers to share the load. If you are able to help please contact Elizabeth Dixon or Bernadette Rich at the Parish Office for more information. At the moment most volunteers are on duty once every two months, some are more regular. Of course, if you are currently on the rota unless we heard from you, we will presume that you are willing to continue. Thank you once again for your support.

European Union Citizens

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusetledstatus. Please bring this to the attention of friends, relatives and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme. The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with EU citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

Tents of Encounter at Ushaw College

From Friday 8 May to Sunday 10 May, The Word on the Road comes to Ushaw. This is part of a national Scripture Roadshow organised jointly by The Bible Society and the Bishops' Conference Scripture Working Group. For further details, please contact adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk.

Windows Into Heaven

From 13 April to 31 May there will be an exhibition at Ushaw College of icons of the life of Christ, as depicted in the Rosary. This has been arranged to mark the Year of the Word and the Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary. The exhibition will be open every day.. There are accompanying booklets and an opportunity for group prayer every Thursday at 2.00pm. Additionally, volunteer guides will give talks on the exhibition every Friday at 2.00pm.

Garabandal, Only God Knows

A film about apparitions of Our Lady in Garabandal, Spain is being shown at The Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim St, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6QG, UK. Sunday, 5 April 2020 at 16:00. You can buy your tickets to see the film in Newcastle from the eventbrite website. <https://www.eventbrite.sg/e/garabandal-only-god-knows-screening-in-newcastle-upon-tyne-tickets-96940131543> If you would like to see the film in a cinema near you and are willing to help organize a private screening, please contact Mater Spei at english@materspei.com ,or complete the petition form, indicating your interest in helping to organize a screening: <https://www.garabandalthemovie.com/en/see-it/form> You can follow the movie's progress on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/garabandalthemovie/> There is more information available on the official website: <https://www.garabandalthemovie.com/en/>

The God Who Speaks

The Year of the God Who Speaks is an opportunity for us, as a diocese, to grow in Christ. He speaks to us in the Scriptures as he spoke with the disciples on the road to Emmaus; as they listened their hearts burned within them; This was the power that impelled them from their fear and isolation to go to all the world with the good news that Christ is risen. The same can happen here and now if we open ourselves to his life in the Word and the Eucharist. There will be a Scripture Roadshow on 9th - 10th May 2020 at Ushaw College. There are flyers available at the back of Church. Please come to the Roadshow. My hope and prayer is that it will encourage everyone to be inspired by the Bible and as you see from the programme there's something for everyone. Fr Chris Jackson

Scripture Retreat at Stanbrook Abbey

This takes place on Saturday 16 May 2020 at Stanbrook Abbey, North Yorkshire. It is a day with the God Who Speaks led by Benedictine nuns from the Abbey. For further details, or to register an interest in attending, please contact adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk.