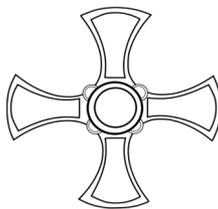


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

PARISHES OF THE BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND

Parish Priest: Father Peter J 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 12th July 2020 — 15th Sunday of the Year

“In one ear and out of the other;” is an expression that could be applied to most of us, for at least some of the time. Today's gospel is about the difference between simply hearing something and really listening. Jesus uses the parable of the sower and the seeds to illustrate the different ways in which God's word can be received or not!

Firstly the sower drops seeds on a path only to be eaten by the birds. Jesus is describing those of us who hear the word but neither understands nor even tries to understand it. Next the sower drops seeds on rocky ground and the plants grow quickly but die off because the roots are not nourished. Jesus is describing those of us who receive the word without any real thought or commitment. Without foundation our faith can soon falter when put to the test. Then Jesus describes the seeds which fall among thorns. Sometimes we want to live by Jesus' teachings but worldly demands and temptation choke our good intentions. Lastly Jesus praises the good soil which enables the seeds to grow and bear fruit.



The parable of the sower and the seeds is clearly challenging us to be better prepared to receive the seed of the gospel. It is all too easy for us to go through the motions of listening when really not much is going on between our ears at all. The Bible is a treasure trove of inspiration but because it was written such a long time ago in words that aren't always easily understood we are often inclined to switch off. Do we come to church expecting to be bored by the readings or confused and indifferent before one word is even read? How different things might be if we allowed God's Word to impact our lives.

Listening is more than just opening our ears. Listening is about studying, learning, understanding ...and most importantly, turning that understanding into action.



Please pray for: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression, and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; we have a number of parishioners from both parishes who are quite unwell at the moment and we ask you to pray for them; for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery, all suffering from COVID-19; for all who have died recently including **Father Michael Hickey**, whose Requiem

Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 15th July at St Cuthbert's Church, North Shields; for **Terry Macy**, Gail Swift's brother who has died; for **Marie Davies**, daughter of Ellen and Eddie Nixon who died on Friday 3rd July and whose Funeral Service (Private Funeral) will take place at Bockenfield on Thursday; 16th July; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Sea Sunday

Today, Sunday 12th July is Sea Sunday, a world day of prayer in which we as Catholics are asked to pray for the work of the Apostleship of the Sea and all seafarers. However in the light of the continued uncertainty around coronavirus, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have decided to postpone Sea Sunday to December. The date has not yet been finalised, but it is likely to be either Sunday 13th or 20th December. As you know, the income generated from Sea Sunday is crucial in maintaining our support for seafarers and fishers, but it is also an excellent opportunity to spread awareness of our work to others. The AoS are very grateful that the Bishops have found a way to rearrange Sea Sunday and they look forward to celebrating seafarers and fishers in churches in December.



Websites and Facebook Pages

Our Parish Websites and Facebook pages are updated regularly, and the Parish Newsletter is available on our website each week. Please remember also that the diocesan website www.rcdhn.org.uk and the Bishops' Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk contain many useful links that may be helpful to you at this time.



Newsletter by Email

If you would like to go onto our mailing list for the weekly Newsletter, as we are not printing paper copies, please send your email address to Fr Peter at St Robert's and you will be added and the Newsletter will be emailed each weekend.



The Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word website contains reflections on the forthcoming Sunday readings for both adults and children and can be accessed at wednesdayword.org. Using this website can be a good way to prepare for Sunday Mass (online) and reflect on the readings.



Streaming Masses from the Diocese

For those who are unable to join us for Mass at St Bede's, parishes are still streaming their Masses: St Charles Church, Gosforth is now streaming Mass on churchservices.tv; St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle, Holy Name at Jesmond, St Patrick's at Consett, Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert Church at Crook, St Elizabeth's Church at Minsteracres, St Mary's Sunderland and St Mary's Hexham are all streaming on YouTube Channels. There are also several Masses streamed on Facebook, details of which can be found on the diocesan website. The "churchservices.tv" site and "mcnmedia.tv" site both host many churches in Ireland and the UK for the broadcast of Mass.



Listen to Mass over the Telephone

If you don't have access to the Internet and would like to listen to Mass you could use the service provided by the Middlesbrough Diocese. The number to call is ☎ 01642 130120. Calls are charged at local rate and free if in your included minutes. You can call at any time and will find yourself listening to Mass from the beginning.

Reopening of our Churches

St Bede's Church, Bedlington:

- We will be re-opening for Mass at St Bede's Church this week and Mass will be celebrated at **10am on Monday, 10am on Wednesday and 7pm on Friday.**
- PLEASE book your place at Mass in advance. We do not want to be in the position of turning anyone away from Mass, but if we fill our places we cannot exceed our seating allocation.
- If you just turn up to attend Mass, you will be asked to wait in a queue, so that the stewards can find out if there are any free places available. Due to the 2m socially distancing rules, we have 35 spaces available.
- To attend Mass you will need to ring ☎ **01670 823258** to book a Mass for this week. Please ring anytime over this weekend to book for this week. If your call is not answered, please try again later.
- After this weekend we ask that you call the above number Monday - Friday from 6pm - 7pm to reserve a place. Please only book one Mass per week, to enable other people from St Bede's and St Robert's, or even elsewhere, to come to Mass.
- We have to follow NHS Track and Trace guidance. By telephone Booking we take your information and hold it for 21 days
- Thank you to those who have offered to help. We have 9 from St Bede's and 3 from St Robert's who are willing to help at St Bede's Church. If anyone else would like to be involved please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible. At the moment we are planning Masses up to September, but we expect this to last longer, so extra volunteers would be greatly appreciated.
- If we have any younger members of the Parish, anyone above 18 years of age to 70, willing and able to help, it would be a great advantage. The volunteers would be required to act as both stewards and cleaners.
- If you are in the "extremely clinically vulnerable" category, then unfortunately you are not able to volunteer and we also advise that you do not come out to go to Mass.
- Please note that there will be no toilet facilities. If this would be problematic, it may be best not attending.
- Funerals are now possible in St Bede's Church, but only with 30 people attending. Government guidelines state that there should be no singing in Church at Mass or at Funerals.
- Please remember all our stewards and cleaners are volunteers, from our parishes, trying their best to make it possible for us to reopen the Church for Mass. What they will ask you to do, is for your safety and the safety of those attending Mass.
- I ask your patience please, as we do our best and make this work for everyone.

St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth:

- Decorating of St Roberts Church will begin on Monday 13th July, which we are advised will last four weeks.
- We then await permission from Bishop Robert for the opening of the Church. Then we will have to undertake a Risk Assessment for the safe opening of St Robert's Church.
- At the moment we are still unable to celebrate a public Mass, Baptisms, Funerals or Weddings in our Church.
- We need to recruit our volunteers now, so that when permission is given we are ready. Based on the same principles for St Bede's (see above) please consider offering some time as a volunteer Steward and Cleaner so that we can reopen St Robert's Church. Many thanks to those who have already offered.
- Please let Fr Peter know of your offer to help and the necessary paperwork / safer recruitment documents will be forwarded to you by email. The number of volunteers will determine whether we are able to safely reopen or not.
- When we do open, because of the 2m social distancing guidelines, we will have to 28 spaces available for people in church.

St Aidan's Church, Ashington:

St Aidan's Church at Ashington is opening for Mass this weekend and information on their times are available on their website and Facebook page. They too are using a telephone Booking system for attendance at Mass.

Praying together in a time of need

Since the beginning of "lockdown" we have been encouraging you to pray at the same time as other parishioners. While we are still not able to come together, it is important that we all try to pray each day, to pray for ourselves, for one another and for all who need our prayers at this time of uncertainty.

Keeping us updated with your contact information



If you are reading this and realise that you have not updated a recent change of address, telephone number or email address, please try to send an email to the parish with you updated information. If you have recently moved into the parish and haven't yet given us your details, please let us know your details.

Rainbows Bereavement support for children

Would you consider donating the "coffee" money you have saved while social distancing to Rainbows Bereavement Support? We expect to be very busy once schools return and need financial help to support children who have experienced a significant loss in their lives.



Thank You! You can make donations

- by BACS to: Rainbows Bereavement SupportGB to: HSBC Sort code: 40-39-15, Account 21395785
- By cheque to; "Rainbows Bereavement Support GB " to: The Chair of Trustees, Rainbows Bereavement SupportGB, Hall Lane, Magull, Liverpool L31 3DZ
- OR through their website at: <http://www.rainbowsgb.org/support-our-work>
- Or if you have cash, please give it to Ruth Higginbottom (518546), when you can.

Northumberland Listening Service

If you are struggling with "lockdown", "shielding", "self-isolation" or any other issue and need to talk to someone? If there is something bothering you and you need to talk, please remember that we have the Northumberland Listening Service set up by parishes in this area of Northumberland several years ago. The number is "Northumberland Listening Service" ☎ 07732 980740.

"The Catholic Times" and "The Universe"

At the moment you are unable to collect your catholic newspaper at Mass, but you can get it delivered to your home every week, post free. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on ☎ 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange this for you. There is a "special offer" for 3 months for £18 or £72 for 12 months subscription.

The Catholic Herald

The Catholic Herald is becoming a monthly catholic news magazine, instead of a weekly newspaper. You can subscribe direct at www.catholicherald.co.uk/subscribe at an annual cost of £59.99.

"The Northern Cross"

Father Dennis Tindall has written an appeal to try to save the future of "The Northern Cross". It is not being printed at the moment due to the coronavirus, and because of this are losing sales and finding it difficult to remain financially viable. There is an appeal for you to subscribe and read the paper online. Full details are on their website at www.northerncross.org.uk



New Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain

Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Claudio Gugerotti as Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain. Claudio Gugerotti was born in Verona, Italy, in 1955 and ordained a priest of the Diocese of Verona in 1982. He studied Eastern Languages and Sacred Liturgy and was a professor of Patristics and Eastern Liturgy. In 1985, he was appointed as an official working at the Congregation for the Eastern Churches in Rome. He has also taught at the Pontifical Oriental Institute. Pope St John Paul II appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to Georgia and to Armenia and then as Apostolic Nuncio to Azerbaijan. Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to Belarus and Pope Francis appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to Ukraine in 2015. He now come as the Pope's Representative, Ambassador for the Holy See, here in Great Britain.

School Holidays

Our Schools break for their Summer Holiday at the end of this week. It has been a very strange time in our schools because of the coronavirus. I would like to record my thanks here to all the staff in our three Catholic schools for their dedication to looking after our children throughout this most strange time for us all. We thank all our children as well, and in particular those who are leaving our First and Primary Schools to move on to their Middle and High Schools. We have not been able to celebrate their achievements but hope they will know that we remember them in our prayers. We hope everyone has a great break before the return to school in September, which will be another strange experience for everyone, as we try to return to full time education for all in our schools. Happy Holiday!!

Pauline Books and Media, Newcastle

To all Priests, Deacons, Catechists and Teachers, Although our Pauline Books & Media Centre at St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle has been closed throughout the lockdown, our Management Team has kept in regular contact with our employees. In addition to regular Zoom meetings we also have been reflecting on the way forward for the Pauline Centre. We are staying connected with our customers via social media and have gained new followers to our Facebook page. Fr Sean Hall has been offering some reflective insights into the daily Scripture readings and other interesting reflections are posted regularly. Our younger followers posted their art work of Rainbows of Hope, and their thank you messages for NHS and key workers cheered and kept us hopeful. The Trustees of Pauline Books & Media are well aware of the implications this lockdown has on us as a Charity. Although we aim to focus on our on-line presence, which is currently being redesigned, we are optimistic that our Centre in Newcastle will continue to be supported by you all. Now that the Cathedral has reopened for private prayer, we are discussing with our staff how we might have a phased reopening of the Centre. In the meantime you can visit our website: www.pauline-uk.org or telephone 017535 77629 to order online. Suppliers are gradually reopening and so we will be happy to help source whatever you may need. We are most appreciative of your on-going support for the ministry of the Daughters of St Paul in the Diocese over the past seventeen years. This support enables us in turn to support our committed and loyal staff. With all good wishes and blessings, Sr Angela Grant

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

The Little Sisters of the Poor are committed to providing safe accommodation and professional care for vulnerable older people. However, due to the recent Government restrictions, St Joseph's Care Home in Newcastle has been forced to implement emergency measures to aid efforts to fight the Coronavirus pandemic. Unfortunately, along with residential visitations, this also includes cancelling charity events and collections which has had a massive impact on the donations we rely on to help with our increasing running costs. We are appealing for your crucial support at this uncertain time, to help us safeguard our Homes and meet the ever-evolving needs of our Sisters, staff and residents. Your crucial donations will enable us to purchase extra essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, sanitising gel, eye protection, face masks, safety clothing and chemical cleaning products to ensure we can continue to comply with all health and safety regulations.

Make a Donation All donations, no matter what size, will be very gratefully received and will make a real difference to the lives of our vulnerable elderly residents. Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' for PPE supplies can be sent to; St Joseph's Home, Westmoreland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, you can make a secure, online donation, by visiting: www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/. Thank you so much

Appeal for the Diocesan Justice and Peace Group

Destitute clients are now receiving digital vouchers on their phones which they can spend at Tesco or Asda. This new system is expensive for the charity as each client receives £30 a month. If you are in a position to help, it would be much appreciated if you could support the charity. Bank transfers can be sent to HSBC DHN Destitute Asylum Fund, Sort Code 40-34-18, Account No 52854058. Cheques made payable to "DHN Destitute Asylum Fund" and sent to Justice and Peace refugee project c/o Fr. Adrian Tuckwell, St Anne's Presbytery, Half Fields Road, Winlaton, NE21 5RW.

Masses and Intentions this week

Saturday 11th July		St Benedict	Isobel Walker
Sunday 12th July		15th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish
Monday 13th July	10am Mass at St Bede's	St Henry	Maureen Uezzell (AC)
Tuesday 14th July		St Camillus de Lellis	Betty Dymond (GD)
Wednesday 15th July	10am Mass at St Bede's	St Bonaventure	In Thanksgiving (AC)
Thursday 16th July		Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Betty Dymond (AB)
Friday 17th July	7pm Mass at St Bede's	Weekday	Marie Davies & Health of Alan Nixon (E&EN)
Saturday 18th July		Weekday	Mirabella & Dennis Burnett
Sunday 19th July		16th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for July 2020



Our Families: We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

Your Church Offering—THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who is making regular payments, either by dropping off envelopes at the Presbytery or by Standing Order. Standing Orders and BACS payments received at St Robert's in June amounted to **£3,382.92**. Many Thanks. These are difficult times for many people, and I am very grateful to all those who are continuing to make regular offerings. If you wish to set up a Standing Order, **Mandates** are available on our websites. Alternatively, if you wish to make a donation by BACS directly from your own bank account, please use these details.



Morpeth

Sort Code 40-34-18
Name of Account "DHN Morpeth St Robert of Newminster"
Account Number 32010755

Bedlington

Sort Code 40-34-18
Name of Account "DHN Bedlington St Bede"
Account Number 81163620

Prayer to Our Lady Health of the Sick

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.
At the foot of the Cross
you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.
You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide,
so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,
joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform ourselves to the Father's will
and to do what Jesus tells us:
He who took our sufferings upon Himself,
and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross,
to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.
We seek refuge under your protection,
O Holy Mother of God.
Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test –
and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Prayer For those who miss going to church

God of the last supper, who knew real presence:
*a beloved one reclining into you,
holding dusty feet as you poured water over them,
the tug at the hem of your garment,*
touch us now, unable to receive your risen body in church,
Unable to gather as your body; touch us with your word,
*handed on from your mouth, from memory,
written down, broken and shared over centuries
from the pulpit, the kitchen table;*
touch us with the glimpses we can see of spring,
of our vulnerable brothers and sisters,
of your presence within.
Raymond Friel

An Act of Spiritual Communion

When we are unable to receive Holy Communion, it has long been the catholic tradition to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. St. Thomas Aquinas defined a Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament [in Communion] and lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him." One composed by St Alphonsus Ligouri in 1870 is ..

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

An Act of Perfect Contrition

It is difficult not being able to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time and go to Confession. The Catholic Church provides an Act of Perfect Contrition [Catholic Catechism §1452] for these times. Cardinal Vincent Nichols recently spoke these words,

"What the Church teaches us, is that God in His mercy, forgives our sins when we are truly sorry for them. And when we turn to Him and express our sorrow in an Act of Contrition, it's called an Act of Perfect Contrition when its focus is on the mercy and the love of God rather than on the burden of our guilt. So to make an act of Perfect Contrition, we simply need to turn to God and be, as it were, overwhelmed by God's mercy, and then express in our own words or in the words of the traditional Act of Contrition, the sorrow we feel for our offences against the goodness of God. When we do that in all sincerity of heart, we may rest assured that God forgives our sins and that we come away from that Act of Perfect Contrition freed from those sins. And, as I say, the only thing we have to remember is, when it is possible to make a Confession again, that we mention the grievous sins which were forgiven by this Perfect Act of Contrition."