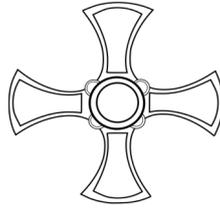


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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](mailto:morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) | [peterjstott@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk)

[www.strobertsmorpeth.com](http://www.strobertsmorpeth.com) | [www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk](http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk) | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

## **Sunday 16th August 2020 — The Assumption of Our Blessed Lady**



As Catholics we have a very special place in our hearts for Mary, the Mother of God. Our devotions might seem a little sentimental to some, but this is not the case. Mary, often depicted as meek and mild, was in fact a woman of great strength and insight. More to the point, Mary is on the side of ordinary men women and children everywhere.

Today, as we listen to the gospel of the Magnificat, the Blessed Virgin Mary tells us about a liberating God who is all about turning human values upside down. We may look up to the rich the successful and the glamorous but God doesn't. We may aspire to be like our X Factor idols but this isn't the Christian aspiration. Of God, Mary tells us, "He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly." "The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away."

Mary voices God's opposition to oppression, injustice and greed. Mary, herself a 'lowly servant', is on the side of all those who find life a daily struggle. Is it any wonder we so often pray for her intercession, particularly in these days of difficulty?

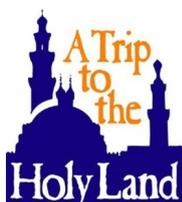
Luke does not mention the death of Mary in his writings, but by the sixth century, Christians had already begun to speculate about the nature of Mary's death. They could not believe that Mary's body underwent decay after the unique role she had played in history. The dogma of the Assumption, founded in the origins of popular faith, was proclaimed in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.



**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 **Father Malcolm Cairns and Father Ian Hoskins** who are both poorly at this time; for all who have died recently including **Father Tony Duffy**, former Parish Priest of St Joseph's, Birtley who died on Wednesday; for **Mary Alberta Paynter** of Church Walk, Morpeth; for **Tony Munley** of Walton Drive, Guidepost; for **Margaret Johnson** of Priors Walk, Morpeth; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land—delayed

After a further discussion this week with our Tour Operator, Tangney Tours, it has been decided that we are going to postpone our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, planned for November of this year, to April 2021. Tangney Tours will be contacting all pilgrim travellers with this information in the very near future. There is still a lot of uncertainty about travelling in 2020 and so hopefully it will be much better for us to delay to April.



### 90th Birthday

On Wednesday 19th August, Mrs Eileen Simpson will be celebrating her 90th Birthday. We offer all our prayers and best wishes to Eileen on this very special occasion.

### Wedding Anniversaries

Three couples from St Robert's Parish are celebrating Golden Wedding Anniversaries during the coming week. We offer our prayers and our best wishes, to ...



**Trish and Laurie Walker**  
**Anne and Peter Dawes**  
**Dorothy and Tony Smith**

We pray also for **Alison and Dan House**, who are celebrating their 30th Wedding Anniversary at this time. Congratulations.

### 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 send an email to the parish with your updated information. If you have recently moved into the parish and haven't yet given us your details, please let us know your details by email.

### Newsletter by Email

We now have 23 people receiving the weekly newsletter via email. If you would like to go onto our mailing list for the Newsletter please send your email address to Fr Peter at St Robert's and you will be added and it will be emailed each weekend. *A limited number of paper copies are available in St Bede's Church at Mass on a Monday morning.*



### 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 to have a look if you are able to, just to keep up to date. The diocesan website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk) and the Bishops' Conference website [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) contain many useful links that may be helpful to you at this time.

### 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](http://wednesdayword.org) Using this website can be a good way to prepare for Sunday Mass (online) and reflect on the readings.



### Mary's Meals

Mary's Meal is a charity that is focused on one goal – that every child receives a nutritious daily meal in a place of education. Mary's Meals works in 19 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean. Can you support them in their work. With a donation of **£15.90**, Mary's Meals can provide a child with both education and a meal each day at School for one whole year. You can easily donate online at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/> Please try to support this wonderful charity.



### 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, or BACS payments. **Thank You!** I am very grateful to all those who are continuing to make regular offerings.

### Standing Order or BACS Payments

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.



**If you have set up a new Standing Order in the last few months, can you please inform the Parish Office so we can identify your payment on the Bank Statement. If you make or have made an online BACS payment, it would be helpful to let the Parish Office know so that we do not confuse it with a Standing Order.**

#### 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

### Coming back to Church

The Church continues to relax the Sunday obligation to attend Mass while we continue to work our way through the Coronavirus Pandemic, so please remember, no matter how strange this may sound, that you still do not need to fulfil that obligation, even though we are beginning to start more Masses. There are also many people who are still not ready to come back to Mass because of underlying health conditions or other concerns and this is perfectly understandable. It is though, very uplifting to be able to celebrate public Masses once again. For those who do come to Mass, it is safe and we are following all the recommended guidelines to keep everyone safe. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to speak to Fr Peter.

### Need for More Volunteers - fairly urgent

It is hoped that in the middle of September I can resume the Saturday Vigil Mass at St Bede's, as well as both weekday and Sunday Masses at St Robert's. However, we can only do this if we have more volunteers for the stewarding and cleaning. At St Bede's we currently have only 10 volunteers (only 7 of these are from St Bede's) and we need 16 if we are to run a two week cycle for the rota. At St Robert's we have 18 volunteers signed up but we need at least 20. Can you help? **Unless we get the volunteers to help, we will not be able to begin all the Masses as hoped.** Stewards are also the leaners and the cleaning of the church only takes about ten minutes after each Mass.

Those who volunteer may also be called upon for other Services held in Church, because stewards are needed and the church has to be cleaned after every event, so for every Funeral, or in the future for Baptisms and Weddings, we will have to follow the same cleaning protocols until such time as the Government tell us it not necessary to do so. It could be quite a while! That is why I am appealing for more volunteers so that it does not become a hard task for the few who have so far volunteered.

Fr Peter

### Please remember Social Distancing

When attending Mass, we ask you to respect the 2m social distancing guidelines. You should only be in close contact with those you live with or those in your "bubble". You shouldn't lean in to talk to fellow parishioners, nor attempt to shake hands.



It is good to talk to people outside Church after Mass, but please remember to keep your 2meter distance. In benches, please also respect this guideline and try not to touch benches, other than the one you're sitting in.

### Face Coverings

As from Saturday 8th August the Government stated that face coverings must be used in all places of worship. We ask you to make sure you have a face covering when you come to Mass. Please remember that when receiving Holy Communion, you are supposed to remove the face mask from the ear loops, not by pulling down under your chin!!



### What is different at Mass?

The main changes at Mass: St Bede's Church opens at 9.30am; sanitize your hands on entry to Church; check your name off with the stewards; stewards will lead you to your seat; Holy Communion is to be received in the Hand only; no words are spoken as Holy Communion is distributed; and Holy Communion is distributed at the end of Mass; sanitize your hands on the way out of church.

### St Bede's Church, Bedlington:

Masses this week will be celebrated on Monday 17th August at 10am, Wednesday 19th at 10am and Friday 21st at 7pm. PLEASE book your place at Mass by ringing St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258 any evening from 6.30pm. We do not want to turn anyone away from Mass, but if we fill our places we cannot exceed our seating allocation, so we ask you to book. You can just turn up to attend Mass without telephoning in advance, but we ask you to wait in the church entrance, so that the welcomer can find out if there are any free places available in Church and you will be asked for your contact details. Please do not attend if you do not feel well, or if you are showing symptoms of the coronavirus. In line with Government and Episcopal recommendation, we are keeping information for NHS Track and Trace. When booking your seat at Church, we take your information [name / telephone number] and hold it for 21 days.

### St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth

We have been approved for re-opening St Robert's Church and will hear from the Diocesan Health and Safety Department sometime in the next few weeks for the Risk Assessment that will determine how we open up for Masses. Until this is complete we are still unable to celebrate a public Mass, or other celebrations in our Church. I am hoping that we will be open by the middle of September.

Fr Peter

### Lebanon Appeal

People throughout the world were shocked to see and read about the explosion in the port of Beirut earlier this week. Aid to the Church in Need Lebanon expert Father Samer Nassif, said that the Christian zone of Beirut was "completely devastated", with at least 10 churches destroyed, 300,000 people homeless and many others suffering,



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

**CAFOD**

Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

with livelihoods "totally destroyed" by the blast. He said: "Yesterday in one second, more damage to the Christian quarter of Beirut was done than throughout the long years of the civil war. "We have to build it again from the ground up."

"Aid to the Church in Need UK" and "CAFOD", have both opened up Appeals for the People in Lebanon. If you can help perhaps you would consider donating via their websites. [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) / [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)

### DEC Coronavirus Appeal

The Disasters Emergency Committee, of which CAFOD is one of 14 active members, have launched a nationwide Coronavirus Appeal to reach out to the poorest people of the world who are suffering from COVID-19, especially in Refugee Camps in war-torn countries of Yemen, Syria and South Sudan. You can visit the DEC website - [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk) - to donate online, or visit the CAFOD website - [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) - and also donate online.



**DISASTERS  
EMERGENCY  
COMMITTEE**

# Masses and Intentions this week

<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Weekday	[no public Mass]	Intentions of Laurie & Trisha Walker (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	[no public Mass]	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Weekday	<b>10am at St Bede's Church</b>	Marie Davies (EEN)
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Weekday	[no public Mass]	Sheila Brown
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August</b>	St Oswin	<b>10am at St Bede's Church</b>	Alan Nixon (EEN)
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August</b>	St Bernard of Clairvaux	[no public Mass]	Jerome Thompson
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August</b>	Dedication of St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle	<b>7pm at St Bede's Church</b>	Pat Ibbotson
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August</b>	The Queenship of Mary	[no public Mass]	Intentions of Peter and Anne Dawes & Dorothy and Tony Smith (Golden Wedding Anniversaries)
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>21st Sunday of the Year</b>	[no public Mass]	People of the Parish



**The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for August 2020**  
 The Maritime World: We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.



**Appeal for the Diocesan Justice and Peace Group**  
 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 can 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.

**Northumberland Listening Service**  
 The Northumberland Listening Service has been running for several years, set up by the local catholic parishes in Northumberland, and has helped many people during that time. If there is something troubling you, if you feel affected by the difficulties around us with coronavirus, or trying to "get back to normal" or if there is any other issue troubling you that you need to talk to someone about, the number is "Northumberland Listening Service" ☎ 07732 980740.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**  
 For those who are unable to attend Mass at the moment, and therefore unable to receive Holy Communion, this prayer for an Act of Spiritual Communion may be helpful. *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.*

**Guidance for Masses and other Sacraments**  
 The Bishops Conference website gives all the guidance that we have to follow for the Masses and other Services and celebrations ... [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk) ... interesting reading!!

**Confession or An Act of Perfect Contrition**  
 The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is now available, but has to be celebrated according to the social distancing guidelines. Please contact Fr Peter and we will try to arrange this for those who wish.  
 For those who are unable to celebrate this Sacrament it is possible at the moment to make an Act of Perfect Contrition, as given in the Catechism [§1452] for these times. To make an act of Perfect Contrition, we simply need to turn to God and be, as it were, overwhelmed by God's mercy, acknowledge our sins, 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.

**A Level Results**  
 It has been a really strange time for our young people, especially those who were expecting to sit exams this year. There was no school attendance for four months and then exams were cancelled, even after lots of preparation and studying; and on Thursday their 'A Level' results were published.  
 We would like to pass on our congratulations to all our young people for their hard work and endurance during these difficult times. To those, who perhaps were downgraded, and didn't get the grades they expected, we offer our prayers and support and hope that changes can be made; and to those who achieved what they expected or, even more, we offer our best wishes and hope they are all able to choose their desired path in life. This is also probably a very good time for us to thank all the staff in our High Schools for the work they have done to help our young people during this extraordinary school year.

