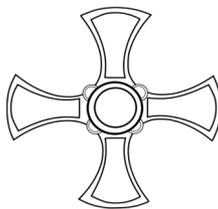


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 23rd August 2020 — 21st Sunday Year A

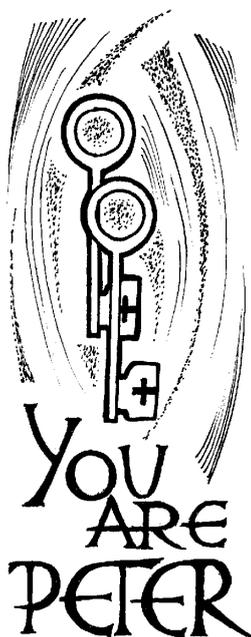
Who do you think Jesus is? As small children we are told that Jesus is the Son of God, and we accept it readily. When we are children God is a kindly father figure who lives in Heaven and listens to our night prayers. When we are small, Jesus is the baby we see in the Christmas Nativity scene. When we are a little older, Jesus is the teller of all those intriguing parables. Once we are young adults we see Jesus as a great teacher, a healer, a worker of miracles and a revolutionary. For some of us, doubts creep in. Is Jesus really the Son of God or simply a good man and a great prophet?

In today's gospel Jesus asks his disciples "Who do you say I am?" "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." replies Peter promptly. But this wasn't Peter's opinion from the start. Peter and the other disciples first met Jesus as a fellow human being. By working with Jesus and following his ministry daily, Peter and the other disciples gradually came to the extraordinary conviction that God was working through Jesus; speaking, healing, working miracles and offering eternal salvation.



Today we listen again to Jesus' question. "Who do you say I am?" It seems that the question is stretching over the centuries. It seems that the question is aimed not just at the disciples but at us. Jesus doesn't want us to give the answer we've been taught to give ... our answer has to be from the heart. Our answer might be, "I don't know!" Our answer might be, "I'm not very sure right now." Or our answer might be a resounding, "You are Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus knows that faith is a journey and our answer reflects at exactly what stage of that journey we have reached.

It may be that we think of Jesus as little more than a good man and a great prophet. If this is what we believe, the Bible becomes little more than a book filled with good stories and sound philosophy. If like the disciples we are convinced that Jesus is the Son of God, all at once we are opening ourselves to great possibilities.... all at once we have found the key to life's greatest adventure.





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 Requiem Mass takes place on Monday; 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.

After discussion 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.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land—delayed

Due to churches not yet being fully re-opened as a result of Covid-19, The Diocesan Gift Aid Office Staff have decided that this year they will only provide Gift Aid Declarations when specifically requested by an individual. "This is because it would be unfair to expect our Gift Aid Organisers to distribute the letters when most parishioners are not able to attend Mass as normal. We did consider posting the letters direct to donors but this would be very costly across the Diocese and was not considered a good use of funds in the current circumstances. Taking both of these points into consideration, we have therefore decided it will not be possible to produce letters for everyone this year. If anyone does specifically request confirmation of their donation details however, please direct them to either the Gift Aid Office (gift.aid@diocesehn.org.uk) or Michelle Dixon (michelle.dixon@diocesehn.org.uk) or Andrea Emson (andrea.emson@diocesehn.org.uk) and we will provide confirmation for them on an individual basis."



Gift Aid Annual Declarations 2019-2020

A key was found in the Car Park at St Robert's on Friday 14th August. If you think it may be yours, please contact Fr Peter at the Presbytery to verify. It has a distinctive key fob.

Key Found

Key Found
A key was found in the Car Park at St Robert's on Friday 14th August. If you think it may be yours, please contact Fr Peter at the Presbytery to verify. It has a distinctive key fob.



Local Clergy Moves

It was announced this week that Father Stephen Watson at Ashington has been appointed as Parish Priest of the parishes of St. Paul, Alnwick, St. Aidan, Seahouses, St. Agnes, Rothbury and All Saints, Thropton, and will step down as Hospital Chaplain but was also recently appointed the new Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Director; and Father Oliver Keyes, CSsR will move from Alnwick to be an Assistant Priest in the parishes of English Martyrs & Ss. Peter and Paul, St. Bede and St. Joseph in Stockton-on-Tees and will work with Father Jeffrey Dodds.

Wedding Anniversaries

Three couples from St Robert's Parish are celebrating Golden Wedding Anniversaries. 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 24 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.



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 celebrate more Masses throughout the diocese. 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.

What is different at Mass?

The main changes at Mass: St Bede's Church opens half an hour before Mass; sanitize your hands on entry to Church; check your name off with the stewards; stewards will lead you to your seat, please do not go on your own; remain in the seat you have been given. Holy Communion is to be received in the Hand only; please stretch out your hands as far as possible to maintain a social distance with the priest; no words are spoken as Holy Communion is distributed in silence; Holy Communion is distributed at the end of Mass; stewards will let you know when to move forward to receive Holy Communion; sanitize your hands on the way out of church using either the gel in church or in the Church porch; please remember to keep your social distance as you are leaving church.

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 or touch others. It is good to talk to people outside Church after Mass, but please remember that you should keep your two meter distance. In benches, please

also respect this guideline, stay in your own bench, in the seat you have been given, not moving to "a better seat"; please do not cross through other benches, so that we can avoid cross contamination and try not to touch any benches, other than the one you're sitting in.

Face Coverings

We now have to wear face coverings 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!!



St Bede's Church, Bedlington

Masses this week will be celebrated on Monday 24th August at 10am, Wednesday 26th at 10am and Friday 28th at 7pm.

PLEASE book your place at Mass by ringing St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258 any evening from 6.30pm.

This is our preferred option for you coming to Mass rather than just turning up. It is much better for our volunteers at the entrance to church, who just need to tick your name off rather than taking 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 the 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 I am still unable to celebrate a public Mass, or other celebrations in our Church. I am hoping that I will be able to open the Church sometime in the middle of September. *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 cleaners 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 who have free time throughout the week so that it does not become a hard task for the few who have so far volunteered. *Fr Peter*

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.



Parish 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. There is a new video from the Bishop on Facebook about reopening our churches.



GCSE Results

This week we extend our support and congratulations to all our GCSE students from our parishes. It has been a very strange time over the last five months and especially getting the results on Thursday without having sat a summer exam, but we realise that the hard work done throughout the years and the mock exams have contributed to the results this week.

Lebanon Appeal

People throughout the world were shocked to see and read about the explosion in the port of Beirut several weeks ago. 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, with livelihoods "totally destroyed" by the blast. "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 / www.acnuk.org



Masses and Intentions this week

Saturday 22nd August	<i>The Queenship of Mary</i>	[no public Mass]	Intentions of Peter and Anne Dawes & Dorothy and Tony Smith (Golden Wedding Anniversaries)
Sunday 23rd August	21st Sunday of the Year	[no public Mass]	People of the Parish
Monday 24th August	<i>St Bartholomew</i>	10am at St Bede's Church	David and Angela Robertson & Andrew Wright
			1.30pm Funeral Service at St Mary's Cemetery, Morpeth for Margaret Johnson
Tuesday 25th August	Weekday	[no public Mass]	Evelyn Givens
Wednesday 26th August	<i>Blessed Dominic Barberi</i>	10am at St Bede's Church	Owen and Dorothy Tomlinson & David Robertson
			11.15am Funeral Service at St Bede's Church, Bedlington for Alberta Paynter
Thursday 27th August	<i>St Monica</i>	[no public Mass]	Ken and Eileen Percival
Friday 28th August	<i>St Augustine of Hippo</i>	7pm at St Bede's Church	Gerard Molloy
Saturday 29th August	<i>The Beheading of St John the Baptist</i>	[no public Mass]	Rosaleen Curran
Sunday 30th August	22nd Sunday of the Year	[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.



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 - to donate online, or visit the CAFOD website - www.cafod.org.uk - and also donate online.



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 Father 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.*

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.



RECONCILIATION

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.

Diocesan and Bishop Websites

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.

