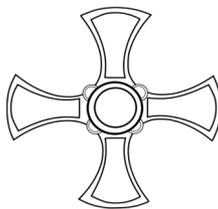


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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 30th August 2020 — 22nd Sunday Year A**

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering and death at the hands of the elders, chief priests and scribes. Peter took Jesus aside, "This must never happen to you," he said.

Surely Peter only had Jesus' best interests at heart. Imagine how mortified he must have felt to hear Jesus reply, "Get behind me Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

What kind of deal is it to get everything you want in life but lose your soul? So often when we finally get what we want in life, the euphoria is short lived. We might feel elated for a few days at achieving one of our closest held ambitions, but then we are left with that hollow, 'what next?' kind of feeling. Today Jesus is talking about the necessity for suffering and dying. But why does Jesus see accepting the cross as a necessity? Why does he not stop to consider the alternative that Peter suggests?

As Christians and as Catholics, we are asked to live life differently from those who struggle to fill life with pleasure and enjoyment. There is a saying that goes, 'It is better to die a meaningful death, than live a meaningless life.'

As Christians we have to transcend, self-interest, self-preservation and ego trips. The person who tries to indulge in every enjoyment may find him or herself chasing impossible rainbows. Could this be Satan's favourite trick? By trying to make life perfect by our own human agendas, are we in danger of reaching the end of life only to realise we have not lived life at all?





**Please pray for:** Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work; The Reverent use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their families. 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 for **Tony Munley** of Walton Drive, Guidepost; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land—April 2021

After discussion with our Tour Operator, Tangney Tours, it has been decided that because of the Coronavirus, we have postponed our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, planned for November of this year, and hope to travel in April 2021. Tangney Tours have now contacted those who were booked to travel. Unfortunately, some people have apparently cancelled their booking because of the change of date .... So there are now some spaces if anyone feels they would like to travel. Please contact Gill at Tangney Tours if interested on email - Gill@tangney-tours.com



### Gift Aid Annual Declarations 2019-2020

Due to churches not yet being fully re-opened as a result of Covid-19, staff at the Diocesan Gift Aid Office 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."



### 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 recently 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.

### 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.



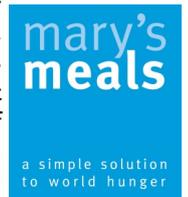
### Newsletter by Email

We now have 25 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.



### Mill Hill APF Red Mission Boxes

Mill Hill Mission Boxes can be brought to Church so that the Mission Box representatives can bank the money and send it off to Mill Hill. Because of the Coronavirus, we ask, if you are able, that you sanitise the outside of your mission box and bring it in a bag to Church. We will then leave the boxes for several days before they can be emptied. We will let you know at a later date when these boxes can be collected. Many thanks.



### 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! At St Robert's we have been able to bank £999.10 that has been handed in recently. 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 at St Bede's Church. 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 dispenser 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 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 and away from the church doors to allow others to safely exit church. 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 31st August at 10am, Wednesday 2nd September at 10am and Friday 4th August at 7pm. There will be No Masses from Monday 7th—Saturday 12th September.

**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

Our Diocesan Health and Safety Risk Assessment was due to be carried out on Saturday afternoon. Until I get the go ahead, I cannot say when we will open but I am still hoping that I will be able to do this sometime in the middle of September. When we do open for Mass, it will be via a telephone Mobile Phone Booking System, and we will be asking you to book for Mass because of limited places. More details in next two weeks hopefully!  
*Fr Peter*

### Volunteer Welcomers and Cleaners

Many thanks to everyone who has offered to help. We have received 22 offers to help at St Robert's which is good, thank you. At St Bede's, we only have 9 volunteers to cover 4 Masses per week from the middle of September and I am very grateful to the current volunteers at Bedlington who are going to be quite busy in coming weeks!

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 continue to appeal for 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*

### Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings

When we resume the celebrations of Baptism, Weddings and Funerals, we have to follow all guidelines we have been given, which limits attendances to 30 people in Church, following a "track and trace system" for all attending and a cleaning protocol after every event. There are other specific guidelines for all these celebrations which can all be found on the Bishop's Conference website [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

### Meeting for Volunteers at St Robert's

Father Peter needs to meet with all volunteers who have offered their help for the reopening of St Robert's. It's important that this meeting is held before we reopen in a couple of weeks time as volunteers need to know what to do as stewards and then also what the cleaning protocol is for the cleaning of the Church after each Mass. **There will be a meeting on Wednesday 2nd September evening at 6.30pm in Church and another on Thursday morning (3rd September) at 10.30am, following all social distancing rules and with face masks.** You only need to come to one of these, but as some people work it is important to offer alternatives. Please email / telephone the parish office to let us know which meeting you will be attending.

### Cleaning of St Robert's Church—THANKS

Very many thanks to those parishioners who have helped to clean St Robert's Church over the last week. Although the decorators had "cleaned" the Church, there was still a lot of hard work to be done. Thank you to all who were involved in cleaning the church to enable us to prepare for reopening for Mass soon.

### Personal items left in Church

During the cleaning we have found a number of personal items left in St Robert's Church which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic cannot be left in church when we re-open. If you know anyone who has left personal objects especially in the Choir/Organ Loft, please collect as soon as possible. If these are not collected they will be thrown away by 14th September.

### 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.



# Masses and Intentions this week

<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<i>The Beheading of St John the Baptist</i>	[no public Mass]	Rosaleen Curran
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	<b>22nd Sunday of the Year</b>	[no public Mass]	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<i>Saint Aidan and the Saints of Lindisfarne</i>	<b>10am at St Bede's Church</b>	Elizabeth Dymond
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	Weekday	[no public Mass]	Paul McCole
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	Weekday	<b>10am at St Bede's Church</b>	Private Intention
		<b>11.30am Funeral Service at St Bede's Church for Tony Munley</b>	
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<i>St Gregory the Great</i>	[no public Mass]	Eilis & Charlie Glancey
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<i>The Translation of St Cuthbert</i>	<b>7pm at St Bede's Church</b>	Thomas Hamill
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<i>St Teresa of Calcutta</i>	[no public Mass]	
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>23rd Sunday of the Year</b>	[no public Mass]	



## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for September 2020

Respect for the Planet's Resources:

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.



### 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.



### 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](http://www.cafod.org.uk) / [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)



Aid to the Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

### 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.



### Virtual Gospel Reflection Group

St Aidan's Parish, Ashington is running a Gospel Reflection Group by Zoom conferencing. Each week they read and reflect on the coming Sunday Gospel then share thoughts. It lasts about an hour. There are currently 6 people involved but are inviting anyone from other parishes who are interested to join them. The Zoom meetings are every Friday 3pm - 4.30pm but people can come or leave as they wish. Anyone interested should contact Margot Mitchell at [margotact@gmail.com](mailto:margotact@gmail.com) or on 07837760041

### 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.

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.



**RECONCILIATION**

**STAY ALERT**

**CONTROL THE VIRUS**

**SAVE LIVES**