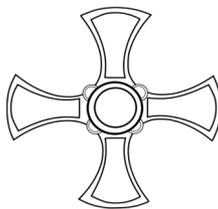


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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
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Parish Deacon: **Reverend Stephen Boulter**

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

Sunday 9th August 2020 — 19th Sunday of the Year

In these days of Coronavirus, there has been much talk of a 'new normal'. For those of us stuck at home there has been time to sit and re-evaluate what is truly important in our lives. Perhaps there are those who have decided that the 'old normal' is something they definitely don't want to go back to. What was it that kept us tied into that 'old normal'. What was it that kept us tied in meaningless jobs or hollow lifestyles. Was there an expectation that we live out our retirement sitting in front of daytime TV? Were we tied by fear of the unknown? Were we tied by a need to cling to what was familiar and safe? There's no doubt about it, life is a big tumultuous sea full of hidden dangers. Is it any wonder we seek to carve a little niche in which to tuck ourselves away?

In today's gospel, Peter displays some odd behaviour. The disciples have gone ahead of Jesus and are sitting alone in a small fishing boat. Suddenly a storm brews up and the disciples are terrified for their lives. Just then, Jesus walks over the water telling them, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Surely any of us at this point would have decided to sit tight and wait to be rescued. Not Peter! Peter scrambles out of the boat and begins in all faith to walk towards Jesus. The great news is that when Peter suddenly got frightened and his faith faltered, Jesus was there with a strong arm to hold him up.

Just as Jesus called Peter from the boat, so Jesus calls us over life's storms. What is it we might venture to do? We might venture to change our jobs for something more worthwhile. We might venture to take on some kind of voluntary role that we might not previously have considered or initiate a local community project a global one even! We might think it makes more sense to stick to what we know, but if Peter hadn't have obeyed the call to walk on water he might never have had the great opportunity to experience God's life changing support. So too if we spend our lives splashing around in the shallows, we are in danger of missing the opportunity to truly recognise God and so deepen our faith.



It's said that the safest place to be is not in the boat at all; the safest place is out on life's seas, because that's where Jesus is!



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, especially those who died as a result of the explosion in Beirut during the week; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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 for St Robert's for July came to **£3,327.12**. **Thank You!** 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. If you do this please send an email to let us know.



Morpeth

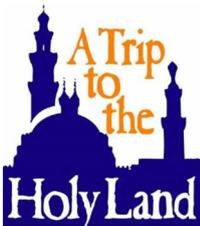
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Name of Account "DHN Morpeth St Robert of Newminster"
Account Number 32010755

Bedlington

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

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land November 2020

Fr Peter has had brief discussions with Tangney Tours about the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November and discussed the possibility of delaying the pilgrimage until April 2021. It may be much easier and safer to travel next year rather than later this year. We are currently exploring the possibilities of travelling from 18th—28th April, seeking clarification with El Al re the flights already booked and checking with the agent in Bethlehem about change of hotels. Other flight options are available. There is nothing definite yet but discussions are ongoing. When Fr Peter knows something more definite he will advise or ask Tangney Tours to contact those who have already booked.



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 Diocese of Middlesbrough. 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.

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 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

If you would like to go onto our mailing list for the weekly Newsletter 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. 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 and the Bishops' Conference website 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 Using this website can be a good way to prepare for Sunday Mass (online) and reflect on the readings.

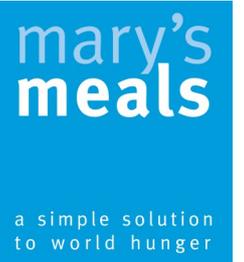


Northumberland Listening Service

Are you struggling with the current situation that surrounds us with the coronavirus, have you been struggling with "shielding" or "self-isolation" or is there any other issue worrying you? 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.

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



Reopening of our Churches

St Bede's Church, Bedlington:

- **Masses this week will be celebrated on Monday 10th August at 10am, Wednesday 12th at 10am and Friday 14th at 7pm.**
- PLEASE book your place at Mass in advance. 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 volunteer welcomer can find out if there are any free places available in Church and you will be asked for your contact details.
- Due to the 2m socially distancing rules, we have 35 spaces available instead of the 180+ capacity.
- To attend Mass we ask you to ring 📞 01670 823 258. Please ring any evening to reserve a place. If your call is not answered, please try later.
- You may now book more than one Mass per week.
- Mass is open to anyone from all parishes; all we ask is that you call us to book a place.
- 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 and telephone number] and hold it for 21 days.
- **We need some more stewards for Masses in September.** We will not have enough help to cover Masses in both churches, so if you can help please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible. **At the moment we have 9 volunteers from St Bede's but need more for September when there will be four Masses per week. If we do not get enough volunteers we will be unable to begin the extra Mass.**
- 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.
- *The main changes at Mass: Church opens at 9.30am; 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.*
- I ask for your patience please, as we do our best and make this work for everyone.

Updated Guidance from the Bishops' Conference

- **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, not attempt to shake hands. 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 face coverings must be used in Church. We ask you to make sure you have a face covering.

St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth:

- The Church remains closed as internal decoration work continues.
- We have not been included in Phase 5 of the Reopening of Churches which was announced on Friday. We Continue to await permission from Bishop Robert for the opening of the Church. Then we will have to undertake a Risk Assessment with the Diocesan Health and Safety Officer 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 volunteers now for both weekday and Sunday Masses, so that when permission is given we are ready. Please consider offering some time as a volunteer Steward/Cleaner so that we can reopen St Robert's Church for 5 Masses per week, with two volunteers for each Mass. **To enable a two week rota, we therefore need 20 volunteers.** Many thanks to those who have already offered. We have 15 offers of help, but still need some forms to be returned.
- Please let Fr Peter know if you can 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 think we will have 28 spaces available for people in church.

Masses and Intentions this week

Saturday 8th August	St Dominic		Sheila Brown
Sunday 9th August	19th Sunday of the Year		People of the Parish
Monday 10th August	St Laurence, Deacon	<i>10am at St Bede's Church</i>	Special Intention for Ellen and Eddie Nixon (AC)
Tuesday 11th August	St Clare of Assisi		Intentions of Dan & Alison House (30th Wedding Anniversary)
Wednesday 12th August	St Jane Frances de Chantal	<i>10am at St Bede's Church</i>	Marie Davies (CP)
Thursday 13th August	St Pontian and St Hippolytus		Helen and Douglas Cne
Friday 14th August	St Maximilian Mary Kolbe	<i>7pm at St Bede's Church</i>	Marie Davies (EEN)
Saturday 15th August	Weekday		Intentions of Laurie & Trisha Walker (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
Sunday 16th August	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary		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 Fr. Adrian Tuckwell, St Anne's Presbytery, Half Fields Road, Winlaton, NE21 5RW.

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 outdoors at St Robert's (weather permitting) and observing the 2m social distancing rules. 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.

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, 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.





Aid to the Church in Need
 ACN UNITED KINGDOM