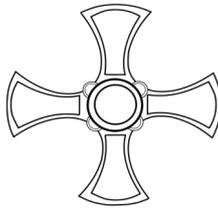


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

PARISHES OF THE BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND

Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott

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St Bede's Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS
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www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

Sunday 13th September 2020 — 23rd Sunday Year A

"Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us." Just imagine what sort of world we would live in if this simple statement could become a reality. Imagine feeling the relief of being forgiven for our sins and in turn, forgiving those who had sinned against us. Imagine the same people forgiving those who had sinned against them and so on and so on until the world's screaming grievances grew gradually quieter and finally disappeared altogether. What a wonderful world that would be. Is it any wonder Jesus talks so much of repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation?

So how can we make forgiveness more of a reality? How can we make forgiveness globally 'infectious'? Firstly we need to look inwards. What do we each need to be forgiven for? Who might we be hurting, perhaps unintentionally? Might we have made someone feel small or stupid with a careless or overly sharp remark? Might we have spoilt someone else's relationship by indulging in an affair? Have we neglected a lonely or vulnerable family member? Might we have bullied someone, gossiped behind someone's back, lied, cheated or taken something that didn't belong? Have we contributed to keeping someone else in poverty or denied a helping hand when it was desperately needed? Only when we can admit our own sins and unburden our own guilt can we really appreciate the value of forgiveness in the lives of others.

Offering forgiveness is just as hard as asking for it. How often do we hear someone say, "I will never forgive that person for what they have done!" Behind the statement is a deep rooted need to avenge the offender, either by hurting them back, or by withholding forgiveness. One person not forgiving another person is bad enough, but when entire nations are unable to forgive, then mankind is in big trouble! Sometimes the sins of others are so great that we wonder how we can begin to forgive. Sometimes a crime is so great and the culprit so devoid of remorse that we wonder whether we should really be expected to forgive, yet Jesus tells us, "I do not tell you to forgive seven times but seventy seven."



It is clear that we need a few helpful strategies in place to move us from feelings of vengeance and violence to a more peaceful place. The first and probably the easiest strategy is to search for some level of understanding and empathy. Understanding why someone has done something is a strong platform for forgiveness. However, where empathy totally eludes us, it is important for us to entrust the mechanics of justice to others who are less angry and less prejudiced than ourselves. Another 'must' is to set aside any notion of forgiveness turning us into doormats or naïve and deluded 'do-gooders'. The strategy that Jesus teaches us today is that we can become more compassionate as individuals by remembering how often we have been forgiven ourselves.... perhaps more times than we can remember.



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; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

First Holy Communion Celebrations

Our Masses to mark First Holy Communion in June had to be cancelled and at the moment there is no sign of ever being able to celebrate a large First Holy Communion Mass this year, and possibly even into next year. I am very concerned that there is a great need for us to help our young people's spiritual journey of faith and I feel that they need to be able to receive Holy Communion as soon as possible. So I am inviting parents of the First Holy Communion children 2020 to speak to me to arrange for a quiet individual celebration of First Holy Communion for their Child over the coming weeks and months. It will be held at one of our ordinary weekend Masses, with St Bede's children at the Vigil Mass and St Robert's children at the Masses on a Sunday. They will be able to wear their First Holy Communion clothing, but because we are restricted to small numbers at Mass, we will only celebrate one child per time, with up to 6 people attending per child (*which will be one bench at Mass*). I have already celebrated First Holy Communion for one young person from St Bede's and he is now regularly receiving Holy Communion when he comes to Mass. It is a great joy for me to see this and I hope that we will be able to celebrate others very soon. *[We are not yet sure what we will do for next year's preparation and celebrations of FHC.]*



Fr Peter

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



Newsletter by 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 will be available in both churches when Masses resume.*

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."



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.



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 they 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 or on 07837760041



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.



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.



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. Income received through the Bank during August amounted to **£3,477.92** – Standing orders, single donations, bank payments, etc 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

St Bede's Church, Bedlington

We resume our Masses this week, please note that *Friday Mass will continue at 7pm*, and we will resume the Saturday Vigil Mass on Saturday 19th September. Full details of times of Mass are on the back page of this newsletter. We ask you to book to come to Mass. You can only book up to week in advance, no "block booking" please, so as to give others the chance of coming to Mass, especially for the Vigil.

**PLEASE book your place at Mass by ringing
St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258
any evening from 6.30pm—8.30pm**

Booking for Mass is our preferred option for you coming to Mass rather than just turning up. We have only 35 places available. There is still no Sunday Obligation. If you can attend Weekday Mass rather than a Vigil, please consider that.

St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth

Masses will resume at St Robert's Church on Tuesday. All weekday Masses will be celebrated at **10am** (rather than 9.15am) and we will resume the Sunday Masses at 9am and 11am next weekend. Please see back page for all dates and times of Mass. As we have limited spaces, we are operating a Booking System and ask you to ring to book a place at any Mass you wish to attend, but only one week in advance please. Same rules apply for Mass at St Bede's (see above)

**PLEASE book your place at Mass by ringing
☎ 07769 728 325 any evening from 6.30pm—8.30pm.
(Only functioning after 6.30pm on Sunday 13th September)**

We have only 36 spaces available at any Mass and there is still no Sunday obligation, so we ask that you don't book for the Sunday Mass every week for the time being ... think of others who might wish to come to Mass. Could you come to weekday Mass rather than a Sunday Mass? Mass will not be the normal Mass that we had before lockdown on 20th March. There are changes, that are all listed below and will be clearly displayed in Church upon arrival.

What is different at Mass?

The main changes at Mass are:

- sanitize your hands on entry at the Church porch;
- check your name off with the stewards;
- Please wait for one of our volunteer stewards to lead you to your seat, please do not go on your own; you must sit in the place shown to you by the stewards as you cannot choose your own seat.
- Please remain in the seat you have been shown to.
- Holy Communion is distributed at the end of Mass;
- Stewards will let you know when to move to receive Holy Communion;
- 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; If receiving a blessing this will also be given in silence
- sanitize your hands on the way out of church
- please remember to keep your social distance as you are leaving church and to give space so that others can pass.

What time should I come to Church?

Please note that we are changing the times for coming into Church. After discussion with volunteers at Morpeth, we have decided that the Church will only be accessible 15 minutes before Mass begins. Stewards will arrive 20 minutes before Mass. Please do not arrive too early. We will make this change at St Bede's Church, Bedlington as well. The purpose of this is to follow Bishop's Conference guidelines that say that we should "**minimise the time that people are congregated in the church building**". Government advice also says "**It is advised that the ceremonies and services should be concluded in the shortest reasonable time.**"

Test and Trace

In line with Government and Episcopal recommendation, we are keeping information for Test and Trace. When booking your seat at Church, we take your information [name / telephone number] and hold it for 21 days.

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 metre distance and away from the church doors to allow others to safely exit church. Please do not block the church doors by standing in front of them and blocking the access out of church for others who may wish to pass safely. In benches, please also respect this guideline, stay in your own bench, in the seat you have been given, not moving to a different 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!!



Votive Candles

Please note that at the moment we do not have any Votive Candles available for lighting. We are not able to share tapers or lighters and have to avoid all possible occasions of people queueing up to light candles so that we can observe social distancing guidelines.

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

"Doors Wide Open"

We have to keep doors fully open during Mass, for the circulation of air. You may need warm clothing if sitting near the back of church, especially as we move into Autumn!!

Toilet Facilities

We do not yet have any toilet facilities available at either of our Churches. When circumstances change we will let you know.

The Collection at Mass

We are not allowed to pass around the collection baskets or bags due to possible cross-contamination, but we will have available in both our churches at all Masses, a basket near the back of church in which you can leave any collection envelopes or offerings. These then have to be placed into bags and left for 72 hours before anyone can count the offerings. It is therefore much better for our parishes if you set up a Standing Order or make an online BACS payment if possible.



No Singing, No Hymnbooks, No Mass books

We are not allowed to sing at Mass at the moment so hymnbooks are not available. We are unable to use Mass books or Missalettes or Mass cards for the text of Mass but If you have your own Daily or Sunday Missals, "Magnificat" or the "Universalis" App on your mobile you can use them for the texts of Mass.

Not feeling well ... ?

Please do not attend Mass if you do not feel well, or if you are showing symptoms of the coronavirus.

The Changes to Mass and Why?

If anyone is wondering why we are having to make all the changes to Mass due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, please check the Bishops' Conference website which gives the information and also has the links to the Government's advice for all Places of Worship. The Coronavirus COVID-19 is still with us and will be for some time; and at the moment, more and more people are venturing out, especially as our schools return and people return back to work, it is much more likely that the virus will continue to spread and therefore we need to do all we can to try to keep people safe when they come to Mass.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Bede's Church Bedlington	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth
Saturday 12th September <i>The Holy Name of Mary</i>	No Public Mass	No Public Mass
Sunday 13th September 24th Sunday Year A	No Public Mass	No Public Mass
Monday 14th September <i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	10.00am Mass: Bob Quinn	
Tuesday 15th September <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>		10.00am Mass: The Cone Family
Wednesday 16th Sept. <i>SS Cornelius and Cyprian</i>	10.00am Mass: George and Marie Hedley	
Thursday 17th September <i>Weekday</i>		10.00am Mass: Sylvia Thompson
Friday 18th September <i>Weekday</i>	7.00pm Mass: No Intention	
Saturday 19th September <i>Weekday / Our Lady's Saturday</i>	5.30pm Vigil Mass: No Intention	10.00am Mass: Bobby Turnbull
Sunday 20th September 25th Sunday Year A		9.00am Mass: Molly McKee 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish



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.



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.



The Wednesday Word

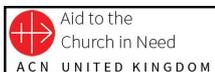
The Wednesday Word website contains reflections on the forthcoming Sunday readings for both adults and children and can be accessed at wednesdayword.org Using this website can be a good way to prepare for Sunday Mass (online) and reflect on the readings.

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 and the diocesan website 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 / www.acnuk.org



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 RECONCILIATION 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. Six months without the possibility of going to Confession has been very difficult, so its good to have this available again on a request basis. 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.