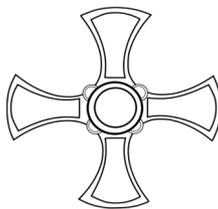


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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 27th September 2020 — 26th Sunday Year A

A father asks two sons to go and work in the vineyard. The first son says that he won't, but changes his mind and does. The second son says that he will, but doesn't bother.



Which son do we identify with? The first son speaks to those of us who have embraced Christ's teaching late in life. Yet again Jesus is telling us that those who have managed a change of heart are as important to him if not more important than those who think they've got everything right. The second son speaks to those of us who have lots of good intentions, but at the end of the day the evidence of discipleship amounts to little more than lip service.

Originally this parable was aimed at the Pharisees who didn't feel they needed to change how they lived. Like the Pharisees we might feel that we are upright church going people, but that doesn't mean there isn't plenty we need to address. We still live in a world where there's plenty to put right. God's vineyard needs workers who will say 'yes' to God's plan, and more importantly, get stuck into the job.

For those of us who have lived our lives doing the same old things it might be very difficult to turn around a pattern of poor or ineffectual behaviour, but we only need to talk to a reformed offender or a reformed addict to know that a change of heart is not beyond any of us.





**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 all who have died recently; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### First Holy Communion Celebrations

It is good that between our two churches, we have now celebrated two First Holy Communions, two more this weekend and another seven planned for the coming weeks ahead. I invite other parents to speak to me (ring me at St Robert's Presbytery ☎ 01670 513410) to arrange for a quiet individual celebration of First Holy Communion for their Child over the coming weeks and months, which can be celebrated on a Friday evening, a Saturday morning or at the vigil / Sunday weekend Mass. We are restricted by the numbers of people because of Government and diocesan restrictions, so we ask families to limit the number in their group to a maximum 6 people attending per child (which will be one bench at Mass). Others who wish to attend can book for Mass in the usual way.



Fr Peter

### Special Collections

The Bishop has asked us to take the following special collections ...

- **Holy Places**
- **Peter's Pence** – weekend of 4th October (29th June)
- **World Mission Sunday** – weekend of 18th October

If you are able to make a donation to these collections please use the envelopes in your boxes or use a plain envelope clearly marked with the name of the Collection and bring to Mass with you or drop off at the Presbytery.

### CAFOD Fast Day Collection

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is to be marked on Friday 9th October. If you can make a donation towards this Fast Day Appeal for CAFOD, please drop off at Mass in a marked envelope for "CAFOD Fast Day" or go online to [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) and make an online donation



### 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 are available in both churches, which can be picked up if you come to church.



### Ordination to the Priesthood

Please pray for Deacon Jonathon Bowes who is to be ordained a Priest for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle by Bishop Robert on Saturday morning at St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool.

### 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. Please contact the Gift Aid Office ([gift.aid@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:gift.aid@diocesehn.org.uk)) or Michelle Dixon ([michelle.dixon@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:michelle.dixon@diocesehn.org.uk)) or Andrea Emson ([andrea.emson@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:andrea.emson@diocesehn.org.uk)) and they will arrange for a Declaration to be sent to you.



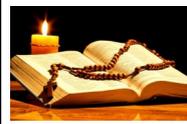
### Mill Hill APF Red Mission Boxes

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](mailto:margotact@gmail.com) or on ☎ 07837760041



### 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.



### Journey in Faith

The coronavirus pandemic is obviously going to affect this year's Journey in Faith, for anyone wanting to become members of the Catholic Church. If there are any adults seeking to become Catholic by Reception or by Baptism please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible. We will undoubtedly have to think about new ways of communicating our faith, if there is interest.

### Entry to the Sacristies

Our Sacristies are not large spaces. We ask you therefore to avoid coming into the Sacristy either before or after Mass so that we can maintain social distancing for our clergy. (this does not apply to the volunteers stewards who need access for cleaning materials at St Robert's Church)

### 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. Further income received at St Robert's Church from August - September amounted to **£1,580.50** (Cash and cheques). 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 to Mass

It has been very good to welcome people back to our weekend Mass and to weekday Mass at St Robert's. While we are still living in very uncertain times, we need to begin rebuilding our worshipping communities, and in the long term we need to think about how we rebuild our parish communities, as we have been through such difficult times during the last six months. Full details of times of Mass this week are on the back page of this newsletter. We ask you to telephone to book your place at Mass, to assist our volunteers who will welcome you into church.

**To book your place at Mass at St Bede's Church**  
**Please call St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258**  
**any evening from 6.30pm—8.30pm**

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**To book your place at Mass at St Robert's Church**  
**Please call ☎ 07769 728 325 or 01670 513410**  
**Monday - Friday, 9am - 6pm**

*If there is no answer, please try later*

Bookings are only being taken one week ahead and it is not possible to book Masses weeks ahead in advance. If you are unable to attend, but have already booked, please try to cancel your booking as soon as possible

### 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 ... please don't "shuffle" along the bench, as you could contaminate the whole bench by your action!
- At St Robert's Church, because of the single aisle, seats are being filled from the front first to avoid people passing one another at close proximity.
- 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 to avoid any possible touching of the tongue and possible cross-contamination;
- 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?

The doors to Church will open for you 15 minutes before Mass begins. 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

We are taking information for Test and Trace. When booking your seat at Church, we take your information [name / telephone number] and hold it for 21 days.

### NHS Contact Tracing App



We have posters around our churches with the QR Code for the new Covid-19 Contact Tracing App. If you have a relatively new Apple iPhone or Android Smartphone, you can download the new App, released on Thursday and then scan the code every time you come into church, so you can be traced by the App in case of any possible Covid-19 contamination.

### Not feeling well ... ?

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

### Please remember Social Distancing

When attending Mass, social distancing is so important at the entrance / exit to church. We ask you to follow the social distancing guidelines, both inside and outside of church.

- You should only be in close contact with those you live with or those in your "bubble".
- In church, please 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.
- Try not to touch any benches, other than the one you are sitting in.
- Please do not lean in to talk to fellow parishioners, nor attempt to shake hands or touch others.
- Outside Church, please remember that you should keep your two metre distance and away from the church doors to allow others to safely exit church.

### 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.

### "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.

### Using our Church Halls

Some people have been enquiring about the use of our Church Halls, both at Morpeth and Bedlington. Unfortunately, we are still unable to use our Halls. According to an email received recently from our diocesan offices, unless we bring in a consultancy firm at a cost of £300 to tell us that our Hall is "covid safe", even though it hasn't been used since March, we are unable to use our Halls. Even if we do open, there has to be stewards and cleaners and strict cleaning protocols to follow; and those groups who do use the hall have to send in a full risk assessment for their activities, to the diocesan Health & Safety Office.

### Coeliac Gluten Free Hosts

Because we are only consecrating hosts needed for each Mass, those who suffer from coeliac disease and need a gluten free host are asked to let Fr Peter know **before Mass begins**, so that a GF host can be put out for consecration.

# Masses and Intentions this week

|                                                                                          | <b>St Robert of Newminster Church<br/>Morpeth</b>                                                                                         | <b>St Bede's Church<br/>Bedlington</b>                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>SS Cosmas and Damian</i>                 | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Marie Davis                                                                                                          | <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish<br><i>[with First Holy Communion of Liam Kemmish]</i> |
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A</b>          | <b>9.00am Mass:</b> Anne Lewington<br><i>[with First Holy Communion of Bethany Docherty]</i><br><b>11.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>St Wenceslaus</i>                          |                                                                                                                                           | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> <i>No Intention</i>                                                             |
| <b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>SS Michael, Gabriel and Raphael</i>       | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Mary Flynn                                                                                                           |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>St Jerome</i>                           |                                                                                                                                           | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> <i>No Intention</i>                                                             |
| <b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b><br><i>St Therese of the Child Jesus (Lisieux)</i> | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Terry Macy                                                                                                           |                                                                                                      |
| <b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b><br><i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>                  |                                                                                                                                           | <b>7.00pm Mass:</b> <i>No Intention</i>                                                              |
| <b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                                 | <b>No Mass</b>                                                                                                                            | <b>5.30pm Vigil:</b> <i>No Intention</i><br><i>[With First Holy Communion of Logan Turnbull]</i>     |
| <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><b>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A</b>             | <b>9.00am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone<br><b>11.00am Mass:</b> 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.



**Friday 7pm Mass**

The Friday Mass was changed to 7pm to give the opportunity for those working who were unable to attend a Mass during the day. Those currently attending all seem to be people who could attend another Mass rather than those who are working.

**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](http://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.

**The Northern Cross**

This newspaper is currently only available with a digital subscription. If you want to know more, please visit [www.northerncross.org.uk](http://www.northerncross.org.uk)

**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. 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.

