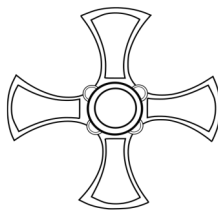


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

Sunday 18th October 2020 — 29th Sunday Year A

We live our lives torn in many directions. From the moment we wake up there are a hundred and one claims on our time. We have to look after our homes and our families. We have to go to work and deal with a whole range of tasks from the very important to the totally banal. We have to fill in forms, pay bills, make calls, answer emails, maintain the car, and pick up the shopping. If we're very lucky we might just squeeze in a bit of leisure time. But in our lives torn by conflicting interests, how do we make time for God?

The Pharisees and the Herodians in today's gospel decided to set a trap for Jesus. "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor," they asked, "or not?" they were confident that they had put Jesus in a 'no win' situation. If Jesus said "taxes should be paid to Caesar, then this was something akin to treason. If however Jesus said that the taxes should be paid, he would be denounced to the strict Jews. Jesus replied, "Give to the emperor, the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's."

It is tempting to imagine that Jesus might have been talking about compartments. We imagine a compartment for things belonging to Caesar, and a compartment for things belonging to God. Of course there could be no such compartments, because as we know everything comes from God, so everything must belong to God. So had Jesus really answered the question, or merely sidestepped it?

Perhaps today we struggle with Jesus' answer as much as the Pharisees and Herodians must have done. Perhaps we see life as a conflict between God's claim on us and all life's other claims in just the way God's enemies were suggesting. Perhaps we try to put God into a Sunday morning compartment and even that will conflict with the children's football and the D.I.Y. What Jesus tells us today is liberating. Once we learn to allow God into every corner of our lives our lives become whole instead of torn and fragmented. Once we know that our only loyalty is to God there can be no conflict.





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, including **Ellen Young** [Morpeth] whose Funeral Service will be held on Monday 19th October at Cowpen Crematorium; for **Stella Stephenson** [Bedlington] whose Funeral Service will be held at Cowpen Crematorium on Wednesday 21st October; for **Ken Wilson** [Morpeth], who died on Sunday and whose Requiem Mass will be held at St Robert's Church on Thursday 22nd October; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

World Mission Sunday

Today is World Mission Sunday. World Mission Sunday supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Each parish throughout the world celebrates being part of a worldwide Church, giving what they can for the benefit of those most in need. We offer the hand of friendship and encouragement to our sisters and brothers in poorer countries, and to missionaries across the world who are proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those who have not yet heard it. It is clear that the needs of the Church in Africa and Asia are greater than ever. Missio receive many requests from Bishops, Priests and Religious for help so that they can continue serving their people. They ask for our prayers and support. Any help we can give them at the moment will make a huge difference to their lives and to the future of our Church. Please call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation, if possible: missio.org.uk Thank you.



St Robert's Bonus Ball

During the current pandemic we are unable to arrange many fundraising activities. However, we would like try running the Bonus Ball during November and December, just £5.00 for 5 weeks. If you wish to participate, we ask you to put £5.00, your name and telephone number into an envelope, marked "St Robert's Bonus Ball" and leave it at St Robert's Presbytery [post through letterbox]. This will cover the five weeks Bonus Ball from the National Lotto Draw on Saturday 7th November until 5th December. Unfortunately, this time around, you will not be able to choose your number, but you will be allocated a number and you will receive a telephone call with your lucky number. The weekly winner will receive £25. Don't forget that you have to be in it to win it. Good Luck



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) or Michelle Dixon (michelle.dixon@diocesehn.org.uk) or Andrea Emson (andrea.emson@diocesehn.org.uk) and they will arrange for a Declaration to be sent to you.



SVP Donations

The SVP would like to thank those people who have very kindly made donations to the SVP. In the last six months since Mass and the weekly collections were cancelled, this is the only income we have received. If any other people are able and would like to make a donation, please put it in an envelope marked for SVP, and post it through the Presbytery letter box. Thankyou.



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



RCIA online with the diocese

Our diocese is running an online Journey in Faith programme. Registration remains open for new enquirers wishing to join the programme 2020-21. To register or for more information, please email admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.

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.



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.



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 and reflect on the readings.



Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals 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 charity.



First Holy Communion Masses

Many congratulations to those who have celebrated their First Holy Communion in recent weeks. While we have not been able to celebrate in our usual way this year, it has been a great joy to celebrate with the young people and their families in Masses that have been very personal to the young people themselves. We have continued those celebrations this weekend - one on Friday and two on Saturday, another two next Friday, one next Sunday and there are others planned in the coming weeks. We offer our Congratulations to them all and hope and we keep them and their families in our prayers.



Coming to Mass - You must book your place

As our churches get busier, especially at weekends, for Sunday Mass, I would like to stress the importance of booking your place at Mass. If you do not book, you may not get in. Without a booking and without a seat, and if we are full, you are not supposed to enter the building, according to all the guidelines we have received, so please do not think it possible just to remain in the church porch. This isn't allowed. **PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE.** 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, as this assists 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

To book your place at Mass at St Robert's Church
Please call St Robert's Presbytery ☎ 01670 513 410
Monday - Friday, 9am - 6pm

If there is no answer, please try later

If you have already booked a place, but then find that you are unable to attend, please cancel your booking as soon as possible.

Social Distancing outside Church

There have been several complaints about the lack of social distancing outside both churches after Mass, especially on a Sunday. You are asked not to congregate immediately outside of the Church doors, so that everyone has the opportunity to walk out of church in a socially distanced manner, and still wearing your face coverings until such time that you are not in the vicinity of the church doors. We must be fully compliant with the government advice that we should be limiting our contact with those who are not part of our household, and remembering the government guidance on "The Safe Opening of Places of Worship", which states that "socialising" or "mingling" with others from outside our household should be avoided. The safety of others must be paramount in the way we conduct ourselves during this pandemic.



What if I need assistance at Church?

If for any reason you want to come to Church and you need assistance getting into Church, or getting to the seat in Church, you should be accompanied by a member of your household or bubble. It is inappropriate to expect our stewards or fellow parishioners to give personal assistance, as they are then putting both you and themselves at risk of spreading the coronavirus. It would be preferable if anyone needing assistance was always accompanied by someone from the same household or bubble during this difficult time when we must try to keep everyone safe.

What time should I come to Church?

The doors to Church will open for you 15 minutes before Mass begins. This is to follow Bishops' 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."

Celebrating a Baptism

You are allowed to have six people present at a Baptism outside Mass, but those attending **MUST** be from the same household or bubble and include the baby being baptised. Other guests are not allowed because of this change!! This will obviously cause great problems for those wishing to organise a Baptism. Please speak to Fr Peter if you are a parent wanting to organise a Baptism under these new restrictions.



Wearing a Face Mask

The UK Government guidance on face coverings states that **you are expected to wear a face covering before entering any place of worship and must keep it on until you leave unless there is a reasonable excuse for removing it.** Please do not enter church if you do not have a face mask. The safety of others must be our priority and the wearing of a face covering is compulsory in church. If it is a genuine mistake, we can deal with that, but it is irresponsible to deliberately walk into church knowing that you do not have a face mask. As the coronavirus is spread via aerosol molecules from our breath, via nose or mouth, it is so important for all of us to use a face mask.



Test and Trace and the Contact Tracing App

We are taking information for Test and Trace. When booking your seat at Church, we take your name and contact telephone number and hold it for 21 days. We also have posters around our churches with the QR Code for the new Covid-19 Contact Tracing App. Once you have downloaded the App you can scan the QR code every time you come into church, so you can be traced in case of any possible Covid-19 contamination of someone who was at Mass at the same time as you.



Entry to the Sacristies

Our Sacristies are not large spaces. We ask you therefore to limit 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 after Mass).*

Funerals in Church

All funerals in church, whether a Funeral Service or a Requiem Mass have to follow Government and Bishops' Conference guidelines. The maximum number allowed to attend is 30 people; and following those guidelines, only those in the same household or bubble are allowed to sit in the same bench. All families organising a funeral are asked to complete a list of those attending for "track and trace" records; and because of the limited number, attendance is limited to those invited by the family. Requiem Masses will be subject to changes at the end of Mass, to allow for safe distribution of Holy Communion.



Less baggage when you come to church

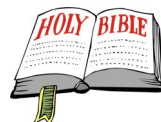
As everyone at Mass receives Holy Communion at the end of Mass and then makes their way out of Church, it is easier if you do not have any bags with you. As you have to carry out your bags and receive Holy Communion, it can sometimes be a little awkward to receive Holy Communion. Please ask yourselves if you really need to bring bags with you to Mass at this time.

Sacramental Preparation online

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, and the recommendations that meeting with people outside of your household must be kept to a minimum, the Vicariate for Faith & Mission is seeking to establish catechist community networks to offer support in engaging with formation online. Several resources will become available for this over the coming months, and the vicariate is available for any questions that arise. It is hoped that we can journey alongside each other at this difficult time, sharing ideas and creating resources where there may be gaps. **They are inviting catechists to attend one of the online sessions at 7pm on Wednesday 21st October (Confirmations) and Thursday 22nd October (First Holy Communions).** New and experienced catechists are all welcome to take part, share and find out more about sacramental preparation online. To register to attend one of the meetings or for more information, please email admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.

The Great Adventure: Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

"Many people want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word, but they give up because it seems so complicated. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you to get the 'big picture' of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church." This new, free, online course is starting in the Autumn and will run across 8 sessions during November 2020 and February 2021. To register or for more information, please email admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.



October the Month of the Rosary

On 31st October, the diocese will be taking part in a Rosary Relay Rally, with different dioceses from across the country having a designated time slot to ensure the rosary is prayed continuously throughout the day from 9am to 9pm. For more information please contact admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk or visit the Walsingham blog on Facebook or walsingham.org.uk



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 17th October <i>St Ignatius of Antioch</i>	10.00am Mass: Jim and Molly McKee <i>[with First Holy Communion of Owen Swift & Ben Murdie]</i>	5.30pm Vigil: Francis Reid McAlroy
Sunday 18th October 29th Sunday Year A	9.00am Mass: Sheila Brown 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 19th October <i>St Paul of the Cross</i>		10.00am Mass: Intentions of Alan Nixon
Tuesday 20th October <i>Weekday</i>	10.00am Mass: Pauline Catton	
Wednesday 21st October <i>Weekday</i>		10.00am Mass: Marie Davies (EEN)
Thursday 22nd October <i>St John Paul II</i>	10.30am Requiem Mass: Ken Wilson <i>[Private Funeral for family and invited friends only]</i>	
Friday 23rd October <i>Weekday</i>		7.00pm Mass: _____ <i>[With First Holy Communion of Aoife Lamb & Lottie Melville]</i>
Saturday 24th October <i>St Anthony Mary Claret</i>	10.00am Mass: John McDonald	5.30pm Vigil: Marie Davies (LE)
Sunday 25th October 30th Sunday Year A	9.00am Mass: Douglas Cone 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish <i>[with First Holy Communion of Nadia Rojek]</i>	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for October 2020

The Laity's Mission in the Church: We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.



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.*

Going to Confession

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is now available, but has to be celebrated according to the social distancing guidelines. Seven months without the possibility of going to Confession has been very difficult, so it is good to have this available again on a request basis. Please contact Fr Peter and he will try to arrange this for those who wish.

An Act of Perfect Contrition

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.

The Northern Cross Appeal for Support

"The lockdown and church closures have caused our sales at weekend Mass to cease. We have reached a "Northern Crossroads". A new approach is **northern cross** needed - as is a price increase - if the newspaper is to survive. We are looking for 2,020 subscribers in 2020 and are asking for people to consider signing up on an annual basis. For £36 subscribers would have the printed newspaper delivered through their door. For £20, subscribers would have access to the digital edition each month. We encourage you to take out a postal print subscription for £36 a year including post and packing costs. If you prefer reading it online, you could sign up for the digital edition at £20 a year. Please email editor.norcross@btconnect.com or call 01325 464008 for more information or visit their website www.northerncross.org.uk/

