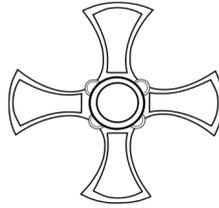


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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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Sunday 1st November 2020 — Solemnity of All Saints

We can land men on the moon or Mars, find cures for cancer and AIDS, or define the 'big bang theory' but ultimately our destiny is shaped not by man's conquests or discoveries, but by the simple acceptance of a sermon Jesus gave over two thousand years ago. The 'Sermon On the Mount', sometimes called the 'greatest sermon of all time', begins with a list of revolutionary statements, which we now know as the 'Beatitudes'. The Beatitudes give us a blue print for living our lives, and a key for entering the Kingdom of God.

Be poor in spirit we are told, not allowing our lives to be governed by money or material concerns. We should be meek, always seeking to serve rather than seeking the power with which to lord it over others. Hunger for righteousness we are told, never tolerating injustice, always having the integrity to suffer for what we believe in if needs be. We should be merciful, not only with those we feel deserve mercy like the poor and the disadvantaged, but with those who need our forgiveness and consideration. Are we always pure of heart or do we enjoy a good gossip, a joke at someone else's expense? Are we peace-makers, or do we fuel battles against neighbours, workmates or people from different communities?



The Beatitudes are a list of ideals and challenges designed to shape our lives for the better, but are we left looking at the list and feeling that it's just too much of a tall order? As in anything that initially seems too difficult are we in danger of simply 'switching off', imagining that Jesus' ideals are meant for others but not for us?

On this the feast of 'All Saints' we celebrate the lives of those saints whose lives we aim to imitate. But what is interesting to note, is that not even these very special men and women have managed to live by every single beatitude. A saint is not necessarily a perfect person, but someone who has sought his or her hardest to be faithful to God. When we determine to live our lives by Jesus' ideals what matters is our commitment and integrity, not our measure of success.



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 **Patricia Popely** [Morpeth] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on Friday 6th November; for **Piotr Sulek** [Morpeth] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 9th November at St Robert's Church; and for **Frank Swales**, whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 12th November at St Robert's Church; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Collections, Standing Orders and BACS Payments

Many thanks to all who are handing in their collection envelopes or making a regular contribution at Mass each Sunday. 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. The amount collected at St Robert's during October was **£1,433.20**. Also many thanks to those who continue their Standing Orders. It is all greatly appreciated. In the last few weeks we have had some large bills to pay for our churches. The Insurance premium for St Robert's Insurance was **£2,753.00**; we have paid **£13,610** for decorating the Church and **£2,410** to electricians to clean and improve the lighting in Church. At St Bede's, the Insurance Premium was **£2,389.00**; and we need to carry out some repairs to the roof at a cost of **£2,211.00** in coming weeks.



If you wish to set up a Standing Order, Mandates are available on our websites. Alternatively, you are able to make a donation by BACS directly from your own bank account; if so please use these bank details underneath. 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

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.



Remembering those who have died

Monday 2nd November is the Feast of All Souls, the day we commemorate all the faithful departed. Mass will be celebrated at 10am at St Bede's Church, to mark this day and to pray for all who have died during the last year.

Thanks from the Wilson Family

Anne and her family would like to thank Father Peter and the many parishioners for the cards, masses, flowers and expressions of support they have received following Ken's death. It has been a great comfort to them and is much appreciated.

Coming to Mass - You must book your place

As our churches get busier, especially 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.

What time should I come to Church?

The doors to Church will open 15 minutes before Mass begins, **but please do not leave it until the last couple of minutes to arrive, as this causes a bottleneck and then a queue forms. We ask for patience as you are signed in!** The stewards will ask you wait behind the barriers, following socially distancing rules, with a safe gap between everyone, until it is safe to show you in to the church.

Feeling Unwell

Please remember that if you are feeling unwell or have symptoms of coronavirus, you are advised not to come to Church.

What is different at Mass?

The main changes at Mass are:

- sanitize your hands on entry at the Church porch;
- check your name and contact number with the stewards;
- Please wait for one of our 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, nor should you move to another 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, and at the end of Mass, invited out from the back of church first..
- 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
- After receiving Holy Communion, you are asked to leave Church; please do not return to your bench.
- 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.

Why all these rules?

These changes and rules are important to keep everyone attending Church safe and to make sure that as a public venue, our church is following all "COVID safe" guidelines. If not, we could be closed down!!

Social Distancing inside and outside Church

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. **There have been several complaints about the lack of social distancing outside both churches after Mass, especially on a Sunday.** When attending Mass, social distancing is so important at the entrance to and exit from 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, and please do not move to a different seat;
- Please do not cross through other benches, so that we can avoid cross contamination.
- Do not to touch any benches, or pew ends, other than the one you are sitting in, to avoid any possibility of cross contamination
- Please do not lean in to one another to talk to fellow parishioners, nor attempt to shake hands or touch others.
- 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.

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. If it is a genuine mistake that you turn up without a mask, we can deal with that, (*we have a few spares available*) but at this time, 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

When booking your seat at Church, we take your name and contact telephone number and hold it for 21 days. We also have the QR Code for the new Covid-19 Contact Tracing App. Scan the QR code every time you come into church, so you can be contacted in case of any possible Covid-19 contamination of someone who was at Mass at the same time as you.

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 not appropriate 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.

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 volunteer stewards who need access for cleaning materials at St Robert's Church after Mass*).

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.

Keeping Warm in Church

We have been advised by the diocesan Health and Safety Adviser 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 the colder climate!!

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.

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.



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.



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.

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.



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 adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.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.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 31st October <i>St Anthony Mary Claret</i>	10.00am Mass: Ken Wilson (<i>Catenians</i>)	5.30pm Vigil: George & Ellen Arkle
Sunday 1st November Solemnity of All Saints	9.00am Mass: Veronica Leyland 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 2nd November <i>Commemoration All Faithful Departed</i>		10.00am Mass: Marie Davies
Tuesday 3rd November <i>Weekday</i>	10.00am Mass: Rita Onono	
Wednesday 4th November <i>St Charles Borromeo</i>		10.00am Mass: Kenneth Wilson [MDW]
Thursday 5th November <i>Weekday</i>	10.00am Mass: Mark Adams	
Friday 6th November <i>Weekday</i>	11.00am Requiem Mass Patricia Popely <i>[Private Requiem for Family and those invited to attend]</i>	7.00pm Mass: Bridgitte McDonnell
Saturday 7th November <i>St Willibrord</i>	10.00am Mass: Michael & Pat Ibbotson <i>[with FHC of Florence Hall and Jessica Smith]</i>	5.30pm Vigil: Diane Lowther
Sunday 8th November 32nd Sunday Year A	9.00am Mass: Mary McCole 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for November 2020

Artificial Intelligence: We pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.



An Act of Spiritual Communion

For those who are unable to attend Mass at the moment 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

We're not back to normal yet with Confessions, because the social distancing rules mean that the Confessional is not available for use. Confession can still be celebrated but only in open spaces, rather than a confined space. 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.

Supporting our Food Banks

Many of our local supermarkets have trolleys or shelves after the checkouts where you can leave donations of food for our local Food-banks. The demand at the moment for food from these charities is increasing because of the worsening financial situation that many people find themselves in due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the closure of some places of work.

Pension Credits - A Message from Ian Lavery MP

According to Independent Age, there are an estimated 1,634 pensioners living in the Wansbeck Constituency who are entitled to pension credits but do not receive them, amounting to an unclaimed £2,700,000. For many, receiving pension credits, it can be the difference between being in poverty and being able to meet their basic needs. By qualifying for pension credits you also may be eligible for other benefits. Do you think you, or a person you know, may be eligible for pension credits that you are not receiving? My Labour Party office will be running a zoom surgery on November 3rd to consult people who believe they may be eligible for pension credit. If you wish to book a place, please get in touch with my office at ian.lavery.mp@parliament.uk. Please also include the following details in the email so we can check if it is likely that you are entitled to pension credits or not: whether you are single or in a couple; Dates of birth of those in your household; How much your current state pension is; If you have any private pensions and how much they are; If you pay rent; If you have any savings and if so how much. The standard minimum a single pensioner should have each week is £173.75 and a couple is £265.20 so if your only income is below these amounts then you will probably qualify. Please get in touch if you believe there is any chance that you or anyone you know are eligible as it may make a huge difference to their quality of life. Please share this post to reach as many people as possible so nobody misses out who may be eligible.



Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

The Little Sisters have so far received £21,536 from their appeal. Thank You to everyone who has supported. They need £1m for essential works to St Joseph's Home in Newcastle. All usual forms of fundraising are not possible at the moment, so if you can help please go online to make a donation <https://www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/>



Little Sisters of the Poor
Caring for the elderly - inspired by our faith