

**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
Tel 01670 823258 | Email bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk

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

Sunday 25th October 2020 — 30th Sunday Year A

In their popular and well known song, the Beatles tell us, "All you need is love..." but is that just a sentimental ideal? Don't we need other things as well like food, homes, jobs, clothes, education and laws to make a happy and safe society?

In today's gospel a lawyer employed by the Pharisees asks Jesus a question. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" It's another 'loaded' question. The religious leaders had devised six hundred and thirteen commandments. If Jesus were to pick on one commandment as being more important than another then it would be to negate one of the other six hundred and twelve. But Jesus manages not to invalidate any one of the commandments. Rather, he chooses the commandment that underpins all the others. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbour as yourself."



It is difficult to think of a human situation that can't be remedied by a mutual love. Love in this context is not the warm fuzzy feelings that come in a Valentines card, but a deep empathy and compassion for fellow human beings. "It's easy....." sing the Beatles. Well not at first perhaps... it's sometimes difficult to even like the people we meet let alone love them. Love takes practice. Love is seeing the similarities between ourselves and not the differences. Love sees that everyone wants the same things and needs the same things. Love starts by the little things we do for each other and gradually turns into a permanent state of being. Only then can we really claim to love God. We cannot claim to love God if we dislike or have a deep disdain for those around us.

Love starts in the mind, so start thinking today and every day how best to love and serve our neighbours.



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 **Josef Olah** of Morpeth whose Funeral Service will be held at Cowpen Crematorium on Wednesday afternoon; for **Frank Swales**, husband of Jennifer, whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 12th November; 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.



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.....**; and we need to carry out some repairs to the roof at a cost of **£2,211** 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

St Robert's Bonus Ball

Do you fancy your chances of winning a weekly prize of £25, over a 5 week cycle? We are running a Bonus Ball during November and December, just £5 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



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.



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 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.

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 time should I come to Church?

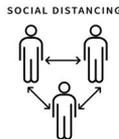
The doors to Church will open for you 15 minutes before Mass begins. This is to follow Bishops' Conference guidelines that say that we should "minimise the time that people are congregated in the church building". Government advice also says "It is advised that the ceremonies and services should be concluded in the shortest reasonable time."

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.



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.

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 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!! *The later you turn up, the closer to the door you will be seated!*

Feeling Unwell

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

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.



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 safely. Please ask yourselves if you really need to bring bags with you to Mass at this time.

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.



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 offer our Congratulations to them all and we keep them and their families in our prayers.



MASSES and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
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>	
Monday 26th October <i>St Chad and St Cedd</i>		10.00am Mass: Robert & Mary Keddy
Tuesday 27th October <i>Weekday</i>	10.00am Mass: Jimmy Dickinson	
Wednesday 28st October <i>St Simon and St Jude</i>		10.00am Mass: Tom, Elizabeth & John Coates
Thursday 29th October <i>Weekday</i>	10.00am Mass: Ken & Eileen Percival	
Friday 30th October <i>Martyrs of Douai College</i>		7.00pm Mass: Intentions of Alan Nixon
Saturday 31st October <i>Weekday / Saturday of Our Lady</i>	10.00am Mass: Ken Wilson (<i>Catenians</i>)	5.30pm Vigil: George & Ellen Arkle
Sunday 1st November Feast of All Saints	9.00am Mass: Veronica Leyland 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	



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.



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

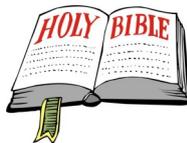


Northumberland Listening Service

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.

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.



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

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.

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 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/



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.