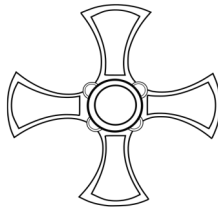


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 4th October 2020 — 27th Sunday Year A

What happens when we forget that our lives are a gift from God? What happens when we forget that we are God's creation? What happens when we forget that the planet we live on belongs to God?

Today's parable describes a land owner who leaves tenants in charge of his vineyard. But at harvest time the tenants refuse to pay their rent, failing to recognise the landowner's authority and killing the servants and even the son who are sent for the rent. The tenants appear to have forgotten that the vineyard belongs to the landowner. The tenants had come to believe that they could make up their own rules. They had forgotten that they were accountable. They had certainly forgotten that they had been given responsibilities and entrusted with stewardship.



God is still master of the 'vineyard', and we are the new tenants to whom the welfare of the vineyard has been passed on. The parable was originally targeted at the Pharisees, but for us too, the parable demands some degree of self-examination. We might think of ourselves as good people, but like the first tenants, do we constantly fight shy of accountability? Over the years we each develop our own individual code of conduct. Perhaps we begin to feel that as long as we are living by some kind of moral code we no longer need to be accountable. We begin to imagine that 'being accountable', is just for those who go round getting things wrong. Living by self-made standards is all well and good, but if we do this are we in danger of forgetting about the very high standards that God has set for us.

What happens when we forget that Christ is our cornerstone? When we make up our own rules with little thought for Jesus' teachings, the chances are we will fall a long way short of what God expects. Today's invitation is to raise the bar, step up to the mark, and recognise Christ as our cornerstone.



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** of Challoner Gardens, Morpeth; **Jacob Conroy** of Oldgate, Morpeth; **John Burke** of Challoner Gardens, whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's Church at 12noon on Wednesday 7th October; **Joan Riley** of Bedlington; **Mona McCarron**, mother of Lisa Coen, who died suddenly at the beginning of the week and whose Funeral was celebrated in Strabane, Northern Ireland, on Thursday; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Reception into Full Communion

We are delighted to celebrate the Reception into Full Communion of the Catholic Church of Jill Perkins at the 9am Mass at St Robert's today (Sunday). Jill, who will be Received, Confirmed and receive Holy Communion at Mass, has been on the Journey of Faith in the parish since last September and was due to be received at Easter. So we are delighted that the day has finally come when we can celebrate this special occasion with her and her family.



Special Collections

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

- **Holy Places** (Palm Sunday)
- **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 - SURVIVE, REBUILD, HEAL

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is to be marked on Friday 9th October. Their focus this year is reaching out to some of the poorest communities throughout the world suffering from Coronavirus, to help them survive, rebuild and heal. 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 and make an online donation. CAFOD envelopes are available in Church this week and should be used if you wish to "Gift Aid" your donation by completing the declaration on the envelope.



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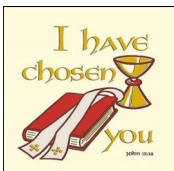
Newsletter by Email

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 Father Jonathon Bowes who was ordained a Priest for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle by Bishop Robert on Saturday morning at St Joseph's Church, Hartlepool. We wish him many blessings as a priest in our diocese.



The Northern Cross

This newspaper is currently only available with a digital subscription. If you want to know more, please visit their website ... www.northerncross.org.uk

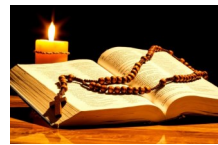
Mill Hill APF Red Mission Boxes

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 07837 760 041



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. Alternatively the Diocese are holding a "Zoom" Journey in Faith and all details are on the diocesan website.

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.

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 wonderful charity.



Coming to Mass

It has been very good to welcome people back to Mass and we are all very grateful to our volunteers who are both assisting us to come into church and also cleaning the Church after every Mass, so that it is ready for the next Mass. 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 ☎ 01670 513 410 or ☎ 07769 728 325**  
**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 try to cancel your booking as soon as possible.

### Social Distancing outside Church

Local coronavirus restrictions do not apply to our churches and we are still able to keep both St Bede's and St Robert's churches open for the celebration of Mass, Baptisms and Funerals. However, we must keep in mind the fact 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. We ask those leaving church to be mindful of this, if chatting to others outside Church.

### 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 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."

### Celebrating a Baptism

Since last weekend, government guidelines on Baptisms have been revised again this week for those areas under local restrictions. 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!! 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.



### 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).

### Test and Trace

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.

### 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 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.



### Funerals in Church

All funerals in church, whether a Funeral Service or a Requiem Mass have to follow Government 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.

### 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. Six 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.

# MASSES and Intentions this week

|                                                                               | St Robert of Newminster Church<br>Morpeth                                                     | St Bede's Church<br>Bedlington                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                      | No Mass                                                                                       | <b>5.30pm Vigil:</b> <i>No Intention</i><br>[With First Holy Communion of Logan Turnbull]                     |
| <b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><b>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A</b>  | <b>9.00am Mass:</b> Helen & Douglas Cone<br><b>11.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish         |                                                                                                               |
| <b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                        |                                                                                               | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Jacob Conroy [ED]                                                                        |
| <b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><i>St Bruno</i>                      | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> George Beattie                                                           |                                                                                                               |
| <b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>      | <b>12.00pm Funeral Service:</b> John Burke                                                    | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Kathleen Cox                                                                             |
| <b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                      | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Elphin Conroy                                                            |                                                                                                               |
| <b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><i>St John Henry Newman</i>           |                                                                                               | <b>7.00pm Mass:</b> Margaret O'Connell (FKD)<br>[with First Holy Communion of Freya Coulson and Lexi Stewart] |
| <b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><i>St Paulinus of York</i>         | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Dcd Family & Friends (AF)<br>[with First Holy Communion of Esme Yeowart] | <b>5.30pm Vigil:</b><br>[With First Holy Communion of Sean Raja]                                              |
| <b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b><br><b>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year A</b> | <b>9.00am Mass:</b> Dcd Mbrs McLaughlin Fam.<br><b>11.00am Mass:</b> 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.



### 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. Thank You! I am very grateful to all those who are continuing to make regular offerings. Standing Orders and one off donations for September for St Robert's Parish was **£3,701.92**.

#### 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



### 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.

