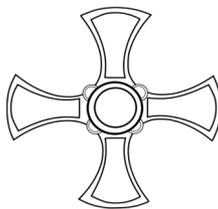


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 — First Sunday of Advent B

A man goes on a journey leaving his slaves in charge, each with a job to do; a doorkeeper keeps watch to alert the slaves as to his master's return. The story illustrates the time of waiting between Jesus' first coming as a little baby at Christmas to his second coming on Judgement Day.

But did the slaves really need a doorkeeper to alert them to the master's return? Could it be that the slaves were guilty of only doing their jobs once they thought the master was returning. There's a greater point here of course ... not to wait for the master's return before hurling ourselves into a great whirlwind of things we should have been doing all along. We are not waiting for Jesus' return in the same way we would wait for a bus; we have to spend our waiting time in preparation and constant readiness.

"Keep alert," we are told "keep awake." We are asked to keep alert and awake, not for fear of being caught out like naughty school children, but in a spirit of 'keeping our eye on the ball.' We all know how we would like to contribute. Each of us is aware of our unique place in this world and how we would like to be remembered. Sadly, all too often it is easy for us to 'take our eye off the ball' and get caught up in other concerns.



At the moment the news is full of people who have reached the end of their life unexpectedly. None of us has been afforded an exact time and date for our final preparations. We are asked to live in a permanent state of readiness seizing every opportunity on a daily basis to prepare for God's Kingdom. Our Advent goal needs to be about waiting in readiness from this day onwards.



During Advent and Christmastime, please pray for: Openness to the Word of God; Migrants and Refugees; and Expectant Mothers. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery and for all suffering from COVID-19. We pray for all who have died recently, including; **Marguerite Anderson** [Morpeth] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December; for **Father Derek Peel**, retired, who died recently; for all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.



### Advent Service Online

Today we begin the Season of Advent, our four weeks of spiritual preparation for our celebrations for the birth of Jesus at Christmas. There will be an online Advent Service this afternoon [Sunday 29th November] at 2.00pm. To access the event please email [dixonzil@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dixonzil@yahoo.co.uk) to obtain the passcode so that you can participate.

### Advent Alms

The "Advent Alms" collection will be open throughout Advent, and all donations will go towards the work of 'St Cuthbert's Care' in the diocese. Envelopes for Advent Alms can be dropped off throughout Advent. This year, St Cuthbert's Care Administrators have a video link on the diocesan website for their appeal ... [rcdhn.org.uk](http://rcdhn.org.uk)



 St Cuthbert's Care  
Enabling People

### Advent Prayer Resources

The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission have produced a series of Advent Prayer Resources which can be accessed online via the diocesan website ... [rcdhn.org.uk](http://rcdhn.org.uk)

### Collections, Standing Orders and BACS Payments



You can drop your Offertory Envelopes through the Presbytery letterbox or you can make an online BACS donation or set up a Standing Order for a regular payment. Also many thanks to those who continue their regular Standing Orders. It is very much appreciated.

If you wish to set up a Standing Order, Mandates are available on our websites or send an email in to the office and we will send a mandate back to you. Alternatively, it is possible for you to make a donation by BACS, directly from your own bank account; if so please use the 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. If you are setting up a new Standing Order and pay tax, please remember to request from us a copy of the **Gift**

**Aid form** that enable us to reclaim 25% extra from the Inland Revenue from your donation.

#### 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

*giftaid it*

### Silent Nights in Bethlehem - Friends of the Holy Land Appeal

Christmas 2020: the hotels are empty.

The streets are silent. There are usually over a million pilgrims and tourists in the Holy Land at this time of year. But coronavirus restrictions have completely shut down the Holy Land's tourist industry. No Christmas tourism means no income for 80% of the people in Bethlehem. There is no Furlough Scheme in the West Bank and many people have been left with no job, no income. You can support a Holy Land family through the crisis this Christmas with a gift of £20, £50, £100, or whatever you can afford. Until the pilgrims and tourists return, it may be the only lifeline they get. Thank you so much. For more information about us, please visit: [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/)



### Coming back to Mass - You must book your place

Our celebration of Masses will resume this week. We are still not back to normal but we are following all the rules that were in place previously. Times of Mass are on the back page. You will now be able to book your place at Mass from this week and information on how to do this is given below. It is important to book. We have done a great job so far since reopening, on making sure that our churches are very safe public spaces and we must continue this. **PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE.**

#### 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?

You can come to Church 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 or Needing Assistance

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

### How to Keep Everyone Safe In our Church

- Wear a face mask / covering
- 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.

### Volunteers for the Reopening of Churches

If anyone would like to volunteer as a steward / cleaner to help those who are already fulfilling this role, help would be greatly appreciated for the new rota for January onwards. We are likely to need volunteers for some months yet, so if you would be willing to help, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible so that the paperwork can be completed quickly.

### Social Distancing inside and outside Church

There has been a lot of advice given, not just from our politicians, but also from the Chief and Deputy-Chief Medical Officers, and from members of the Scientific Group SAGE. It is so important for us to follow their advice that we should be limiting our contact with those who are not part of our household. The paragraph from the government website states,

**“places of worship remain open, but you must not attend with or socialise with anyone outside of your household or support bubble while you are there, unless a legal exemption applies”**

Before “lockdown 2” there were some complaints about the lack of social distancing outside both churches after Mass, especially on a Sunday. 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 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.

### 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 Covid-19 Contact Tracing App. Please scan the QR code every time you come into church. [in case of any possible Covid-19 infection of someone who was at Mass at the same time as you, this will enable you to be contacted].

### 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).

### SVP Donations

The SVP would like to thank those people who have very kindly made donations to the SVP. Since March 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.



### 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.



### Marys Meals - “Double the Love”

Marys Meals is delighted to announce that the UK Government has pledged to double any donation made to Mary’s Meals before 31st January 2021, up to £2m. So if you make a donation anytime before the end of January, your donation will be doubled. You can read more about this on Marys Meals’ website [www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove) #UKAidMatch



### 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 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 and reflect on the readings.



### Children’s Liturgy in Lockdown

There will be a diocesan “Zoom” meeting for those who are involved in Children’s Liturgy, who would like to explore how we might offer virtual presentations to our young parishioners. It will be held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.30pm. If you would like to take part please contact the Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission by e-mail: [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk). You will be sent a link on how to participate.



### Help protect babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot

Sadly abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot. All of these conditions can be corrected. A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion (Cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot) Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit [www.standupandsmile.org.uk](http://www.standupandsmile.org.uk) to email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It only takes 30 seconds.

### Catenian Appeal for rosaries

Through the Catenian Association rosaries are sent to missions in Africa, the indigenous people of Australia, to people in prison in the UK and some distributed through Missio to other countries. Since the work started in 2002 over 666,000 rosaries have been distributed - and amazing number! If you have any rosaries that you don’t need they will be very much appreciated by Catholics in these situations. The rosaries for prisons have to be special plastic ones that are purchased at £26 per 100, so any financial contributions towards these would be appreciated. Because of the lockdown restrictions prisoners are spending 23 hours per day in their cells and so some would benefit more than ever from the chance to pray the rosary in this time. Contributions of rosaries or any financial contributions can be put through the letter box of the presbytery or at 22 Dacre Street, Morpeth. Thank you very much for your previous support to this cause and for any more that you can give.



### Compass in Advent ...preparing for Christmas

Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to Covid-19. You are invited to join this online conference to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed and to contemplate on “How is God speaking to us through these stories today?” Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion.

Who? – Young adults 18-35

When? Fridays - 27th Nov, 4th, 11th, 18th Dec

Time? 7pm for one hour

To obtain the Zoom link: please email [CompassInAdvent@gmail.com](mailto:CompassInAdvent@gmail.com) for the link and for any other information. Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent> [Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation in our Church.]

### St Robert’s Bonus Ball

Congratulations to Mrs Gail Swift, who won the latest draw of £25 for the Bonus Ball, with number 47.

### Christmas Cards

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 rules, you are unable to leave Christmas cards for other members of the parish in our churches this year.

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
<b>Saturday 28th November</b> <i>Weekday</i>	<b>Mass:</b> John Devitt & Dcd Devitt and Doherty Families	
<b>Sunday 29th November</b> <b>First Sunday Advent B</b>	<b>Mass:</b> Dorothy & Samuel Dutton	
<b>Monday 30th November</b> <i>St Andrew</i>		<b>Mass:</b> Brian Gregory
<b>Tuesday 1st December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<b>Mass:</b> Margaret & Raymond Taylor Walker and John Bell (AB)	
<b>Wednesday 2nd December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<b>11.00am REQUIEM MASS:</b> Marguerite Anderson	
<b>Thursday 3rd December</b> <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Ken Wilson	
<b>Friday 4th December</b> <i>St Osmund / St John Damascene</i>		<b>7.00pm Mass:</b> Dorothy and Owen Tomlinson and Andrew Wright
<b>Saturday 5th December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Alice Waugh [with FHC of Florence Hall and Jessica Smith]	<b>5.30pm Vigil:</b> M <sup>c</sup> Ginn & Bruce Families
<b>Sunday 6th December</b> <b>Second Sunday Advent B</b>	<b>9.00am Mass:</b> Helen & Douglas Cone <b>11.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	



**The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for December 2020**  
For a Life of Prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ  
be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



## Safe Families UK

Martin Dickson, Director of Church Relationships at Safe Families has written to thank those who support their work. He says, "At St. Robert of Newminster Morpeth and St. Bede's Bedlington we want to celebrate that you have 4 volunteers with Safe Families and have supported 11 families and 24 children." If you would like more information about the work of Safe Families or are interested in supporting them as a volunteer, go to their website 'safefamilies.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.

## Young Adult Essay Writing Competition

An essay competition on the theme 'The Future of Interreligious Dialogue' has been announced and is timed to mark the 50th anniversary of the WCC's Office of Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation. The competition aims to encourage people under the age of 30 with interests in the field of interreligious relations and engagement to develop and share their ideas. The five best essays will be published in the 2021 issue of Current Dialogue, the WCC's journal for interreligious encounter. The deadline is 15th January 2021. For a list of subject themes, rules and word length visit [www.ctbi.org.uk/essay-competition-future-of-interreligious-dialogue/](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/essay-competition-future-of-interreligious-dialogue/)

## Masses Online

Two online services stream Masses throughout the day - [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) and [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://www.mcnmedia.tv) Other parishes stream live on YouTube - you just need to search for the parish name on YouTube to find them. You can also go to <https://mass-online.org> Unfortunately, we have no livestream facilities at either St Bede's or St Robert's Churches.

## Statement on the Covid-19 Vaccination

Bishop Richard Moth, Chair of the Department of Social Justice, has prepared a statement on the production and use of a Covid-19 vaccination. This statement has been approved for publication by the Bishops of the Department at their recent meeting and goes out in their name. The full statement can be viewed by following the link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/09/Covid-19-Vaccination-240920.pdf>. There are several key points that we are asked note regarding this statement:

- A vaccination against Covid-19 is, in principle, a social good to protect people from harm.
- The Bishops urge the Government to develop an ethically sourced vaccine as an alternative to one derived from foetal cell lines.
- The Government has given assurances that new foetal cell lines are not being used in the development of a Covid-19 vaccine.
- The Church teaches that, for grave reasons, a vaccine developed from cell lines taken from human tissue which comes from fetuses aborted in the past may be used in good conscience.
- It is for each Catholic, guided by the teaching of the Church, to make a judgement in conscience about whether to accept a Covid-19 vaccine.
- There must be fair access for all people to the vaccine.
- The vaccine must be safe to use and effective.

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

If you are unable to receive Holy Communion 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.

(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)