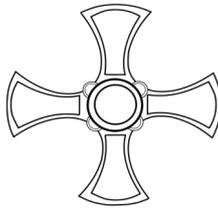


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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 13th December 2020 — Third Sunday of Advent B**

What is the difference between a Christian and someone who is not a Christian but is simply a very good person? Well, it could be said that a very good person uses his or her own agenda. A Christian testifies to Christ. St John the Baptist understood this very well. St John the Baptist understood that he had come as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe

through him. He hadn't come to change the world or work miracles or offer salvation ... he had simply come to prepare the way for a man who could. The gospels and the course of history are filled with men and women who have borne witness to Christ, some very famous and some we will never hear of. St John the Baptist was probably the most significant because he sets the precedent. So how is St John the Baptist's example relevant to the rest of us?



In a legal context a good witness is someone who doesn't try to put their own interpretation on events. A good witness is someone who recognises the importance of truth and doesn't taint it with their own agenda. St John the Baptist takes 'witness' to another level. We are not just to report the truth, but to channel it with understanding, humility and an appreciation of our human limitations. We provide good witness when we have done something good or clever, but are careful to give God credit for it. We provide good witness when we follow Jesus' teaching but trust in God to magnify our human effort.

Advent is a time for us to wake up and see the light. Advent is a time for us to re-assess the job we feel God has set for us and to get on with it. Advent is a time we clear the obstacles and prepare straight pathways. Advent is the time we recognise that God is at the wheel.

**NEWSLETTERS AND MISALLETTES:** If you are holding this Newsletter, or a Mass Sheet, as a paper copy in Church on Sunday, please remember that you **MUST** take it away with you. COVID-19 guidelines state that because you have handled it, you cannot just put it back on the table at the back of Church. Its handy to have a Newsletter at home and good to reflect on todays readings in the Missalette! If you do not wish to keep it, please leave it in your bench and it will be immediately destroyed by those who will tidy and clean the Church after Mass.



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 **Father Derek Peel** (retired), whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 17th December; for **Father Gerard Martin** (retired), whose Requiem mass will be celebrated on Tuesday in Jarrow; for **Pat Joyce**, Jane Marriott-Lodge's (Laidlaw) mother, who died in Lancashire on Wednesday; for **Nancy Barr** of Riverside Care Home, Morpeth, whose Funeral Service is to be held at the West Road Crematorium, Newcastle at 9.30am on Friday 18th December; for all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

for **Pat Joyce**, Jane Marriott-Lodge's (Laidlaw) mother, who died in Lancashire on Wednesday; for **Nancy Barr** of Riverside Care Home, Morpeth, whose Funeral Service is to be held at the West Road Crematorium, Newcastle at 9.30am on Friday 18th December; for all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### 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 link on the diocesan website for their appeal ... [rcdhn.org.uk](http://rcdhn.org.uk)

### 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. At St Bede's Church, the Standing Orders for November were **£1,114.00**.

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

### 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/)



### Sea Sunday

Sunday 20th December is the transferred celebration of Sea Sunday. If you still have collection envelopes for the Apostleship of the Sea, please return as soon as possible or make a new donation next week toward their work, using envelopes available in Church.

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

Times of Mass are on the back page. There is a Mass every day either at St Bede's or at St Robert's Churches. While there is still no obligation to attend Mass, if you are able, please consider coming back to Mass; it would be good to see you. It is very safe in Church. We have done a great job so far since reopening, on making sure that our churches are very safe public spaces and we will 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 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 / 20 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.

### How to Keep Everyone Safe In our Church

- Wear a face mask; 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 from your bench; Holy Communion is to be received in the Hand only to avoid any possible touching of the tongue and possible cross-contamination; stretch out your hands as far as possible to maintain a social distance with the priest; Holy Communion is distributed in silence; after receiving Holy Communion, you are asked to leave Church; please do not return to your bench.

### 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 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.

### 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 you need assistance, you should bring someone from your own household or bubble to assist you.

### Test and Trace and the Contact Tracing App

When booking your seat at Mass, 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 - 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].

### Sharing of Christmas Cards

Unfortunately, because of COVID-19 rules, we are unable to leave Christmas cards for other members of the parish in our churches this year. Many apologies. Hopefully back to normal this time next year!!

### Covid 19 Government Guidance

On 10th December the UK Government updated its advice for all Places of Worship. It reminds us of what we can do, what we cant do and how to safely act in our places of worship. Just search for 'gov.uk places of worship' and you should find the updated guidance

### Masses for Christmas

This will not be a normal Christmas for us in many ways and our Masses will not be normal. Our Masses for Christmas are given below and SPACES ARE FILLING QUICKLY. We only have the same limited numbers of spaces available; 35 individual spaces at St Bede's Church and at the time of writing this, almost 2/3 of those seats are already filled; and we have 36 spaces at St Robert's and at the moment there are only 7 spaces left for the 8pm Vigil, 16 spaces for the 9.30am Mass; and only 10 spaces left for the 11am Mass. We must follow social distancing rules, wear face coverings and as a congregation, we are not allowed to sing carols, even though we will have some music. These Masses will be slightly shorter than a normal Christmas Mass. There is still no obligation for Sunday or Holyday Mass, so if you can come on another day throughout the Christmas Octave, please consider this. Booking is essential for all our Masses at the moment. *To book, please use the contact details as for booking the normal Weekday and Sunday Masses.*



### St Bede's Christmas Masses

Vigil Mass Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 4.30pm  
Vigil Mass Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm

### St Robert's Christmas Masses

Vigil Mass Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 8.00pm  
Christmas Day Mass Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am  
Christmas Day Mass Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December at 11.00am

### Confessions



Fr Peter will be available for Confessions this week: at St Robert's, from 11am-12pm on Saturday in the Main Sacristy, access via the external door in the school yard; at St Bede's, after Mass on a Friday evening and from 4pm - 5pm on Saturday. Due to coronavirus rules, they will only be face to face confessions with clear screens and following social distancing rules. (The normal Confessional spaces are not possible at the moment as they are in confined spaces).

### St Robert's Bonus Ball

The winner of fifth and final week of the Bonus Ball was Allison Owens with number 18. Thank you to everyone that took part, sorry to all those that didn't win this time and congratulations to those that did. This Bonus Ball raised £170 for the Parish and hopefully we will have another run in the New Year.



### 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.



### A Message of Thanks

Mrs Anne Donaldson expresses her thanks to all who have been in touch and for the many prayers offered on the recent death of her husband Neville a few weeks ago. Many Thanks.



### Volunteers Needed

Fr Peter is seeking help at St Bede's Parish with two things -

1. The Parish Accounts ... someone who can prepare a monthly Report for the Parish Finance Committee and an Annual Report for the Diocesan Finance Office.
2. The Gift Aid Scheme. We need someone who would be willing to take on the auditing of all donations that are received through the Gift Aid Scheme and of liaising with the Diocesan Gift Aid Office on these matters and preparing reports.

These roles are needed fairly urgently, so if anyone can help, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible, or have a word if vaguely interested!!



### 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](http://wednesdayword.org) Using this website can be a good way to prepare for Sunday Mass and reflect on the readings.



### 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/](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/) doublethelove #UKAidMatch

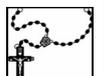


### Help protect babies with cleft lip, cleft palate and club foot

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. This Bill will be discussed again at the beginning of March 2021 in Parliament.

### Catenian Appeal for rosaries

The Catenian Association is appealing for any unwanted rosaries, for the Missions in Africa, the indigenous people of Australia, and some distributed through Missio to other countries. If you have any rosaries that you don't need they will be very much appreciated or if you can make a donation of £26 for 100 plastic rosaries for distribution in UK prisons this would be very welcome. Contributions of rosaries or any financial contributions can be put through the letter box of the Presbytery or at 22 Dacre Street, Morpeth, marked Catenian Rosary Appeal. Thank you for your support.



### 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.

### 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)

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Our Lady of Guadeloupe</i>	<b>10am Mass:</b> Paul McCole	<b>5.30pm Vigil:</b> Craik & Creel families
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Third Sunday Advent B</b>	<b>9.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11.00am Mass:</b> Brian McGurk	
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St John of the Cross</i>		<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Andrew Shackleton
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Andrew Shackleton	
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>		<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Intentions of B & J O'Neil
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Leo Horrax	
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>		<b>7.00pm Mass:</b> Molly, Owen & Patrick Ruddy <b>7.30pm:</b> Confessions
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Weekday of Advent</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Leil Sheiles <b>11.00am - 12noon:</b> Confessions	<b>4pm - 5pm:</b> Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil:</b> Arkle & McAlroy Families
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Fourth Sunday Advent B</b>	<b>9.00am Mass:</b> Dorothy Marr <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.



### The Northern Catholic Calendar

Copies of The Northern Catholic Calendar are now available. This is the handbook for our diocese and lists all churches, parishes, priests, religious houses and associations in the diocese. If you wish to buy a copy they are £3 each and can be collected at the Parish Office at St Robert's on Tuesday and Thursday mornings / at St Bede's after Mass [Please try to have the correct payment of £3]

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2021

Tangney Tours have emailed all those who have booked to travel to the Holy Land. They have since been trying to arrange some alternative plans as the original flights from Manchester are not available due to the coronavirus and its effects on world airlines. Hopefully they will be in "email contact" again very soon with a revised plan on travelling to the Holy Land in October with flights from Newcastle via Heathrow, [rather than coach to Luton or Heathrow] to Tel Aviv. **There are still places available if anyone is interested in travelling on this pilgrimage**

### 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.

### Digital Copies of the Catholic Newspapers

The Universe and The Catholic Herald are offered special deals for those who might want to take out a subscription to their digital online version of these Catholic newspapers. 'The Catholic Herald' can be contacted on [subscriptions@catholicherald.co.uk](mailto:subscriptions@catholicherald.co.uk) or contact **Rebecca Everitt**, [rebecca@catholicherald.co.uk](mailto:rebecca@catholicherald.co.uk). 'The Universe' is offering a FREE trial subscription between now and the new year. To take up their free offer just go to [thecatholicuniverse.com/subscription-trial](http://thecatholicuniverse.com/subscription-trial)



### Diocesan Refugee Project

The Refugee Project which has just been making financial donations to refugees since March, is finally re-opening. It will now be sited at the SVP headquarters at Blackfriars, Newcastle. Donations of food would be gratefully accepted, as well as toiletries. There have been some changes in the food requested. Please donate tinned **fish, tinned tomatoes, sugar, rice, biscuits, tinned chickpeas**. **Please DO NOT donate tins of meat or baked beans**. As we are unable to store goods in Church at the moment, we have a temporary measure ... delivering the food to the home of Donald Marr, who is the parish representative for the project. Donald's address is 3 Cottingvale in Morpeth (at the top of Cottingwood Lane). If you are able to make donations of any of the above items, please phone Donald on ☎ 01670 505573, before delivery, to arrange a time to drop off items. Thankyou.

### Supporting Asylum Seekers in our local community

The asylum seekers in the Ashington area are supported through the charity 'Northumberland County of Sanctuary'. At this time of year they particularly need shoes for the children but cannot afford to buy them. County of Sanctuary tries to help people in as many ways as possible - be it language learning, bikes to be able to get around cheaply and children's shoes for school so that they can have access to good education. Donations can be made to their bank account: Account Name "Northumberland County of Sanctuary", Account No. 77748368, Sort Code: 30-65-22. Their Charity No is 1185663hb. Alternatively cheques can be sent to the treasurer: Peter Edge, 2 Hobberlaw Farm Cottages, Rugley Rd, Alnwick, NE66 2AQ. Please Contact Maura ☎ 01670 516452 or Gerry ☎ 01670 517829 for more information. Thank you for any support you can give.

