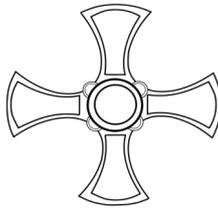


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 10th January 2021 — The Baptism of the Lord

Very few of us remember our own baptism, and perhaps we have never really even questioned why it might be important, other than something we might need to attend a Catholic School or get married. Perhaps we need to look to Jesus' baptism to know how privileged we really are to have been baptised.

What does Jesus' baptism say to us? Jesus' thirty years of preparation before his public baptism remind us that it takes time to get ready for God's mission. How many countless hours did Jesus spend in prayer? What study, what thought, what agony must he have undergone before appearing in front of John to ask him to baptize him. We are reminded that baptism isn't just something that happens to us as children, it's something we have to live out on a daily basis.



January is a time for new beginnings and fresh resolution. John the Baptist was an expert on this. John's ministry was all about repentance and life changing reform ... that's what his baptism was all about. But anyone who has ever seriously tried to change themselves will know how difficult change really is. The addict will tell you how difficult it is to quit gambling, drinking or cigarettes. All of us can point to parts of our life that remain stubbornly unchanged year in and year out. Those who were baptised by John were baptised as a sign of their intent to change from their old ways, but knowing how difficult change can be, we can't help wondering how successful they must have been. Perhaps John appreciated this too when he said "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Christians are hugely privileged people. We are told that the same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus at the outset of his ministry, is the same Holy Spirit that is given to us in our baptism. Validating our baptism anew every day, knowing that we are filled with the Holy Spirit change isn't beyond any of us.

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 today's 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.



At this time of the Church's Year, we are asked to pray for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; Racial Justice; The Unemployed. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery and at this difficult time of Pandemic we pray for all suffering from COVID-19. We pray for all who have died recently; including **Joan Oliver** [Morpeth] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on 14th January; for **Maggie (Peg) Alsopp** [Morpeth] who has died; for **Father David Milburn** [retired,] who has died and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 22nd January; for all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Collections, Standing Orders and BACS Payments

Many thanks to all who are regularly contributing to our collections once again. You can place your offering in the baskets at the back of Church at Mass; you can drop your Offertory Envelopes at the Presbytery or make an online BACS donation or set up a Standing Order for a regular payment. Please contact the Parish Office at Morpeth for more details. Also many thanks to those who continue their regular Standing Orders. December SOs for St Bede's totalled £1,144.00. It is very much appreciated.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2021

- 10 Day Pilgrimage, 12th - 22nd October 2021.
- Flights - Newcastle via Heathrow to Tel Aviv with British Airways.
- Accommodation: 3 nights in Bethlehem, 3 nights in Tiberias and 4 nights in Jerusalem
- £1,827 per person
- Insurance and Single Supplement are extra.
- Information and Booking Form from Fr Peter or from Tangney Tours, ☎ 01732 88 66 66, during office hours

First Holy Communion

At 9am Mass today, we will be celebrating the First Holy Communion of Lily Conroy. We pray for her at this special time and congratulate her.

St Robert's Church Organ Repairs

Harrison and Harrison Ltd were on site during the week and removed the main workings of the church organ from St Robert's Church. They commented on the quality of the organ and of how the refurbishment will make it much better. If you check out their website you can see that we are listed as one of their projects. They hope to return on 15th February to rebuild it.



A Message of Thanks

Ace and David Oldroyd would like to pass on their grateful thanks for all the prayers and messages received following Ace's admission to Hospital recently. Fortunately, Ace is making good recovery, and they are both extremely grateful for the many people who were in touch to enquire about Ace and David during that time. Very many thanks.

Our Schools

Our schools are open and working very hard to look after the children who are in. It has been a very difficult time for all our school leaders and all staff and we keep them all in our prayers at this time.

IMPORTANT NOTE ... Help with Financial Matters

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 preparing of the Parish Collection Envelopes and Boxes; 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 two 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 to find out what is involved!!

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]

Going into Hospital

If you are admitted into Hospital, it is important to remind ward staff of your religion, so that the chaplains can pick this up before they start their visits. More and more often, the catholic chaplains are coming upon catholic patients whose religion is not recorded and there is a possibility you might not be visited by the chaplain, because they don't know you're there. Please remember to make sure your religion is recorded when admitted.

SVP Donations

The Society of St Vincent de Paul are unable to hold their normal church door collections at the moment because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since last March they have relied solely on donations. If you can help please place an offering in an envelope and drop it off at Mass or at the Presbytery for the SVP.



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.



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 #UKAidMatch



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.

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.

Ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 9th January <i>Weekday after Epiphany</i>	10.00am Mass: Ken Wilson (JR)	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil: Charlie Monaghan
Sunday 10th January The Baptism of the Lord	9.00am Mass: People of the Parish 11.00am Mass: Jim McKee	
Monday 11th January <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i> <i>[Lectionary Year I, Week 1]</i>	Mass: Intentions of Pat and Martin Gales <b style="color: red;">Our churches are now closed until further notice	
Tuesday 12th January <i>St Benet Biscop</i>	Mass: Pat Popely (AB)	
Wednesday 13th January <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Charlie Monaghan	
Thursday 14th January <i>Weekday</i>	10.00am Requiem Mass: Joan Oliver <i>[Private Funeral]</i>	
Friday 15th January <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Mary and Robert Keddy <i>(celebrated privately)</i>	
Saturday 16th January <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Alice & James Devlin	
Sunday 17th January 2nd Sunday Year B	Mass: Neville Donaldson	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for January 2021

Human Fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.



The Year of St Joseph



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.



Universe and Catholic Times Readers

At the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. **SPECIAL OFFER for 3 MONTHS :-£25.00; SPECIAL OFFER for 12 Months:-£99.00; OR DIGITAL COPY for 12 Months: £55.00**

Supporting Asylum Seekers in our local community

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 so that they are able to go to school and access 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 Hoberlaw 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.

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.

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 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.