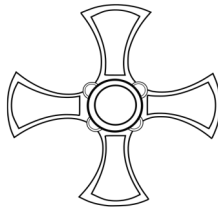


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 14th February 2021 - 6th Sunday Year B

'Dysfunctional' is a word we hear a lot nowadays. Parents who drink, gamble or who neglect their children are deemed 'dysfunctional'. Those who take drugs, steal or spend aimless and less than useful lives are labelled dysfunctional. As a society we are often guilty of shunning the dysfunctional, fearing them or even despising them. For those of us who have been labelled as dysfunctional we sink into an abyss of loneliness and desperation. There are those of us who know what it is like to have sunk so low that there seems no way back.

The leper in today's story knew no way back from the affliction that had ostracised him from society ... no way back that is, until he heard of Jesus. The leper kneels before Jesus and begs for a cure, and moved by pity Jesus makes him well again, commanding him not to rush off and tell everyone. Of course, the leper cannot keep Jesus a secret. The ex leper has not just been healed of an illness, he has been rescued from an existence where he could not function at any level. Now the ex leper can return to his home, his community and his loved ones. For the ex leper his life has been transformed. His life had been restored, but restored with a meaning it didn't have before. The ex leper has been made whole, emotionally, spiritually and physically. How can he keep his tremendous joy to himself?



Today we are asked to put ourselves in the place of the leper. Jesus asks us to look at our lives and ask ourselves what is missing. What is it that can isolate us? What is it that builds barriers? What makes us live lives of bigotry, fear, anger, jealousy, frustration, insecurity, pain or misunderstanding? What is missing from our lives that could make us function as a whole? Might it be purpose, determination, humility, courage, forgiveness, mission God?

When God brings us back from the brink of isolation, it is hard to feel anything but joy, and if that joy is contagious, is there any better way to promote Jesus' desire for living life in wholeness?



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 **John Monaghan** [Bedlington] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Church on Monday 15th February; for **Dorothy Elliott** [Bedlington] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Church on Tuesday 16th February; for **Agnes Gee** [Morpeth] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 24th February at 1.45pm; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Collections, Standing Orders and BACS Payments

Many thanks to all who are regularly contributing to our collections. You can drop your Offering or Offertory Envelopes at the Presbytery or make an online BACS donation or set up a Standing Order for a regular payment. Copies of the Mandate for setting up a New Standing Order are available on our parish websites. Please contact the Parish Office at Morpeth for more details. Also many thanks to those who continue their regular Standing Orders. Bank Details for BACS or new Standing Orders:



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

Coronavirus - Please Stay Safe

The Sunday obligation to attend Mass continues to be lifted which means that we do not have to worry about not attending Sunday Mass at the moment. The Prime Minister is to make an announcement sometime during the week of 22nd February and we will see what he says about any possible lifting of restrictions and return of children to schools. At the present moment it is important to try to follow the advice to stay at home and to make sure we keep each other safe. Let us continue to pray for all who are suffering from COVID especially those who have been admitted into hospital; let us remember in our prayers the staff and medical teams in our local surgeries and hospitals, pray for all scientists and biologists studying the virus, and all who are working to prepare the vaccines to keep us safe. We keep everyone in our parish communities in our prayers at this very uncertain time. Stay Safe everyone.



Season of Lent

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of our season of Lent, a period of 40 days in which we prepare for the festivities of Holy Week and Easter.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence, when we make an effort to eat a little less on that day and also refrain from meat or some other luxury we might enjoy. There are only two days every year we are asked to do this - the other being Good Friday. As we are not able to come together for Mass, nor receive our Ashes on this first day of Lent, perhaps Fasting and Abstaining is the best way for us to try to set this day apart as different from all the other days of the year.



Diocesan Reflections for Lent

The Diocesan Department for Faith and Mission has prepared a series of daily reflections for the whole of the Season of Lent, 46 individual reflection in total. These are available online on the diocesan website, or you can sign up for them to be emailed to you on a daily basis.

Daily Reflection from YMT

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Team have prepared a series of video reflections for Lent. 'Wait a Minute - It's Lent' are daily videos which will be available via YMT's YouTube channel, with reflections from across the Diocese. Watch the trailer on the following link and subscribe to their channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVIOoCyoxRWub3zoPjorMhQJ].

Lenten Alms

From the Chief Executive of St Cuthbert's Care ...
"At St Cuthbert's Care, we provide a very personal and sensitive approach to our care. The pandemic has made this so much more challenging for us. Throughout the past year, we have carefully transformed the delivery of all our frontline services, to ensure residents and service users still enjoy life to the full. Replicating this care to every resident throughout our nursing homes alongside our disability provision and children's homes, has been at a significant cost, and these increased costs look set to continue for some time to come. Circumstances have been difficult for us all this year. For this Lent Appeal, any donation we receive towards our frontline care work, however small, would be deeply appreciated. I now that for some parishioners, financial donations may not be an option and I fully accept this. Thank You. Moira Ashman.
If you wish to make a donation please place an offering in an envelope and mark it either "Lenten Alms" or "St Cuthbert's Care" and drop off at the Presbytery.



CAFOD Family Fast Day

The Lent CAFOD Family Fast Day is to be held on Friday 26th February. If you can make a donation to CAFOD for this special day, please drop off a donation to the Presbytery in a marked envelope, either "CAFOD" or "Family Fast Day" or go online to the CAFOD website and make an online donation.



The "BIG WALK FOR WATER"

Abdella is 23 and he has big dreams. He dreams of starting a small business. He dreams of starting a family. He dreams of having his own home. He dreams of the day he won't have to walk ten hours to get water. Abdella lives in Afar, Ethiopia - one of the hottest places on earth. Like hundreds of people in the area, he spends most of the day walking to get water for his family to drink. He knows that if there was water near his home, his family wouldn't have to worry any more about getting enough to stay alive. And he could start on the dreams he has for the rest of his life. "Walk for Water" is a challenge that takes place over Lent. It's a chance for you to transform your life while changing someone else's. Do it your way: 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days. CAFOD are asking you to go the distance so that someone else doesn't have to. Or do a five mile walk on Saturday 20th February at 2pm. We take clean water for granted. We turn on a tap and expect it to be there immediately. Not everyone around the world is as fortunate as we are. Full information of how to get involved with this is to go onto the CAFOD website and register ... www.walk.cafod.org.uk

Novena to St Joseph

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th - 18th March 2021 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena Prayer leaflet. Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10th - 12th March), at 7.30pm; Saturday 13th March at 10am; Sunday 14th March at 11.00am; Monday -Thursday (15th - 18th March) at 7.30pm. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email novenamhm@gmail.com



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.

Organ Repairs

The organ company are returning during the week of 22nd February to begin rebuilding the organ at St Robert's Church. The costs of these repairs is in excess of £24,000 plus VAT. If anyone wishes to make donations towards the cost of this work please contact Fr Peter for further details.



Sacrament of Reconciliation

Unfortunately there can be no Confessions at this time, but if anyone needs to speak to a priest about an issue that is urgent or bothering, please ring and have a chat and we will take it from there to see what we can do to help those in spiritual need. At all times, Fr Peter is available to talk to those who need to talk!

Getting Married this year?

We understand how difficult it has been trying to organise a wedding during these last 12 months, but we have several weddings in the diary for this year. If you have planned a wedding for 2021, Fr Peter would appreciate a call from you to discuss your plans. Also, for those who have not yet completed any pre-nuptial paperwork or FOCCUS Marriage Preparation Course, it is important to contact Fr Peter to sort this out as soon as possible.



Going into Hospital

If you are admitted into Hospital, it is important, if you want the Chaplains to visit you, 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 see you, because they don't know you're there. Please remember to make sure your religion is recorded when admitted.

Masses Online

Two online services stream Masses throughout the day - www.churchservices.tv and 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> to watch Masses from around the world. Unfortunately, we have no livestream facilities at either St Bede's or St Robert's Churches.

Mass by Telephone

If you are unable to access the internet but still wish to be able to hear Mass, the Diocese of Middlesbrough have a system to allow people who do not have internet access to listen to Mass over the telephone. If you would like to access, the telephone number to call is ☎ 01642 130 120.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

St Roberts will begin an online Children's Liturgy of the Word via Zoom. The first will begin at 10am on Sunday 21st February and then hopefully every Sunday at 10am. Please send an email to the address on the front of this newsletter to get the zoom link for Children's Liturgy of the Word. Pray that it all works correctly!!



** IMPORTANT NOTE ... Help with Financial Matters **

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

1. **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.
2. Fr Peter is very grateful to a parishioner from St Robert's Parish who has offered to do the monthly finance report and Annual return on a temporary basis until someone from St Bede's is able and willing to take over.

The Gift Aid role is needed fairly urgently, so if anyone can help, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible, as new envelopes will need to be issued very soon.

Request for Knitters

The Morpeth "Anna Chaplains" have a ministry to the elderly in Morpeth. They are an ecumenical group and would like to distribute knitted Holding Crosses to the residents of the Care Homes, Sheltered Accommodations and the house-bound, perhaps in time for Easter but more likely some time after Easter. They are wondering if the knitters amongst our congregations might like to knit holding crosses for distribution. For more details and a copy of the knitting pattern, please contact Revd. Jeremy Cooper (at JeremyLCooper@aol.com)



'Called and Gifted' Programme

If you are wondering how you are to fulfil the mission God has for you, or navigate a life transition, you might find that this discernment programme helps you decide what turn to take next. If you are ready to discern your gifts, a new programme starts on Wednesday 24th February. To apply for your place on the programme, email admin-faith.mission@diocesahn.org.uk. The booking deadline is Friday 19th February. You can also visit the St Catherine of Siena Institute in Colorado Springs online [<https://siena.org/charisms-faq>] for more information.

Marys Meals

Marys Meals major focus is on the worsening crisis in Ethiopia, and for families in the war-torn Tigray region of Ethiopia. The people there urgently need your help, as millions of people in Tigray have been forced to flee their homes because of ongoing fighting in the region. They are now at imminent risk of starvation, very frightened and without access to proper sanitation or medical care. Marys Meals are working with a trusted partner in the region that is already reaching out to children and communities impacted by the conflict, but they we need your help to continue this life-saving work. Please give if you can: <https://bit.ly/3a5ITqq>



Online Rosary

A very special rosary in response to the Crisis in Ethiopia will be prayed by members of the global Mary's Meals family at 6pm GMT on Thursday 18th February, via the Mary's Meals Medjugorje YouTube channel. Each decade will be prayed in a different language, led by members of the Mary's Meals family from across the world.. Please join us in prayer for the people of Ethiopia, everyone is welcome, you will find the live stream on this link at 6pm GMT on Thursday 18th February 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVdudhhq8RRrcO21316JqTw>

The North East Catholic Writers' Guild

The Writers Guild are running a literary competition for school children – the theme is: "Compose a hopeful prayer for this difficult time" Maximum 20 lines. The lines don't have to rhyme. Open to 8-10 year-olds. Please include your age, name, address and phone number and send to: Veronica Whitty, Secretary, Catholic Writers' Guild (NE), 51 Queen's Crescent, Wallsend, NE28 8DW, or e-mail: veronicawhitty@hotmail.com Deadline: 8th April 2021 NB: Entries: excludes anyone related to any member of the Guild or related to anyone connected with the Northern Cross.



SVP Donations

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, the SVP have had to rely solely on donations, as they have not been able to take collections at the back of church. Until we can return to normal, donations are their only source of income to help those less fortunate than ourselves, so if you can help please place an offering in an envelope and drop it off at the Presbytery for the SVP.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 2021

Would you be interested in going on a 10-Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 12th - 22nd October 2021. The flights are from Newcastle via Heathrow to Tel Aviv with British Airways (all at decent times as well!!) We will stay for 3 nights in Bethlehem at The Manger Square Hotel; 3 nights in Tiberias on the shore of the Sea of Galilee at the Golan Hotel; and then 4 nights in Jerusalem at either Hotel Gloria or Knights Palace Hotel [tbc]. So far there are 29 people travelling but there are places still available. Further information and Booking Forms are now available from Fr Peter.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 13th February <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Neville Donaldson (MB)	
Sunday 14th February 6th Sunday Year B	Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 15th February <i>Weekday [Lectionary Year I, Week 6]</i>	10am Requiem Mass St Bede's Church: John Monaghan	
Tuesday 16th February <i>Weekday</i>	10am Requiem Mass St Bede's Church: Dorothy Elliott	
Wednesday 17th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone	
Thursday 18th February <i>St Bernadette</i>	Mass: Margo Dewar (Doran family)	
Friday 19th February <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Joan Oliver	
Saturday 20th February <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Special Intention of OS (JS)	
Sunday 21st February 1st Sunday Lent B	Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for February 2021

Violence Against Women: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded



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.

Global Healing Online Talks

Pope Francis has called each of us to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. This Lent, there will be a series of reflective evenings with speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource "Global Healing". These documentaries will help us respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home. Hosted by the Global Catholic Climate Movement Laudato Si' Animators in the UK.



Speakers:

- 18th February: Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford Diocese and Bishop for the Environment; Dr. Carmody Grey (Assistant Professor of Catholic Theology, Durham University).
- 25th February: Jane Mellett from the Global Catholic Climate Movement.
- March 4th: Dr. Emma Gardner (Head of Environment, Salford Diocese).
- March 11th: Sr. Shirley Aeria, FMDM (Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood).
- March 18th: Graham Gordan, Head of Public Policy at CAFOD
- March 25th: Paul Kelly, a retired GP, is a LiveSimply Award assessor and member of the NJPN (National Justice and Peace Network) Environment Group
- Further details on their website catholicclimatemovement.global or email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global.

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. At the moment there are no paper copies of the Newsletter available. Please feel free to print off copies for yourself and if possible pass them on to those who do not have internet access. Please make sure you check your "SPAM" if you do not receive it in your INBOX.



St Valentine's 24/7 Prayer Event

13th-14th February 2021 – 9am-9am

All welcome to join us to pray for the NHS
& those affected by the Pandemic.
Join when you can, for as long as you like!

Zoom Login: 832-5384-3685
Password: 525299

Enquiries: Val Cowan – 07887 594161



MORPETH PARISH
Three Churches
One Family