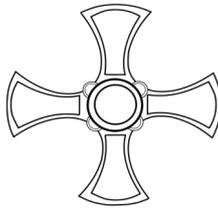


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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)

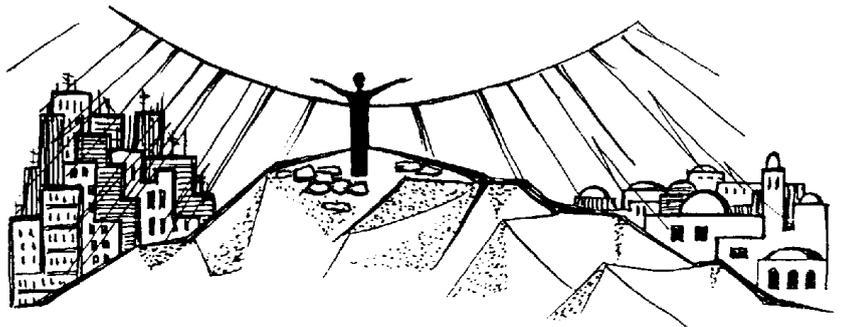
**Parish Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter**

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 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021 - 1st Sunday Lent B**

To understand Lent, we need to look to the wilderness story which we read on the first Sunday of Lent every year. Every year on this day we are told how Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days to fast and to reflect on the job he was about to do here on Earth. We are told how he was confronted with temptation and how he overcame it. There are three elements to this story. Jesus withdrew from worldly distractions and fasted, he reflected on who and what he was about, and he overcame temptation. The problem is, we all seem to latch onto the first bit of the story about fasting and forget the two more important elements. Jesus reflected on the importance of the ministry he was about to undertake and he refused to be swayed from it. This is the important bit. This is how we need to understand and live our next forty days.



At this time of year we are asked to 'repent'. We are asked to turn away from things in our lives that are not working well or are wrong. That will be different for all of us, so we need to sit down in a quiet space and work out what we need to do. How we need to change should be something more important than those new-year resolutions we all make and break. Next we need to identify the barriers that stop us making those changes. Withdrawing from worldly comforts might be part of this barrier which is where fasting or giving up TV might come in. Lastly we need to resist the temptation to give up on plans to change ourselves and the world around us, and that's the hardest bit of all.

As children today's gospel is presented to us with an accompanying illustration of the devil complete with huge bat like wings a scaly tail and horns. How easy to resist temptation packaged so obviously as a 'bad choice'. The trouble with temptation is it rarely comes packaged as a 'bad choice'. Often temptation comes as a fairly harmless choice or even as an attractive or intelligent option. How harmless does it seem to sip half a glass of wine when you're supposed to be quitting. How harmless does it seem to 'borrow' a little cash from the office tea fund ... you can always pay it back later.

There's a lot of talk about what is classed as a temptation and what isn't. In the context of the first Sunday of Lent, a temptation is anything that takes you further away from God. If having an extra cream cake takes you further away from God, then it's a temptation ... if having an extra cream cake has nothing to do with your relationship with God than it's totally unimportant.

When it comes to temptation, a simple rule of thumb is to ask yourself in each of your daily decisions, "Will this decision bring me nearer to God or take me further away?" Knowing who you are and what you are trying to achieve in life not only helps you to identify your temptations, but also gives you a reason and strength of character when it comes to resisting. Today is the day we start giving the devil a hard time. Tempted?



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 **Agnes Gee** [Morpeth] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church 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 tomorrow, Monday 22nd February, and we will listen to what he has to say about any possible lifting of restrictions in the coming weeks. Any updates about reopening will be placed on the Parish Facebook page and the website. At the present moment it is important to try to follow the advice 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.

### Organ Repairs

The organ company, Harrison and Harrison, will be on-site at St Robert's Church on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday this week to begin re-fitting the parts of the organ that were removed to Durham for work. They will also be on-site for several days the two weeks following that as they continue to fit and "voice" the organ. The cost 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.



### 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/UCVIOoCyxRWub3z0PjorMhQ>].

### 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.*



St Cuthbert's Care  
Enabling People

### 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.

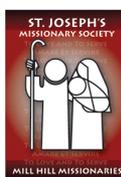


### The "BIG WALK FOR WATER"

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](http://www.walk.cafod.org.uk)

### Novena to St Joseph

The Mill Hill Missionaries invite you to take part in a National Novena to St Joseph which will take place from 10th - 18th March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and also to send in your petitions. 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](http://stjosephsparish.co.uk) and the Mill Hill website: [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://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. To obtain the Novena leaflet please write to the Novena Director at St Joseph's Missionary Society, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW including a stamped addressed envelope, or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com). If you would like to send in a petition. Please write your petition along with your name and address, the name of the Parish and the Town. Please indicate if you require a receipt and make cheques payable to "St Joseph's Missionary Society". Send to the address above.



### 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.

### 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](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> to watch Masses from around the world.

### 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

Welcome to Children's Liturgy St Robert's Parish 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. Pray that it all works correctly!! Grateful thanks to our Children's Liturgy team for arranging this.



### 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 household, 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](mailto:JeremyLCooper@aol.com))



### \*\* 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.**

### Marys Meals

Marys Meals is drawing our attention to 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. Across the Tigray region of Ethiopia, brutal fighting has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes. As a result, millions are now living in fear of starvation. The region's capital, Mekelle, is being overwhelmed by displaced and traumatised people arriving every day. Many are unaccompanied children who have lost their parents. Mary's Meals has been working in Ethiopia for many years and are ready to help those who need it most as this dire situation continues to unfold. In these uncertain times, your generosity is needed more than ever. They need your help to continue this life-saving work. Please give if you can: <https://bit.ly/3a51Tqq>

### Society of St Vincent de Paul - Sudan Appeal

The SVP have received an urgent appeal for the SVP twinnage project in Sudan and South Sudan. The situation in Sudan is desperate with inflation above 300%, unemployment has rocketed making many more people destitute and of course the problems are exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. At the same time donations are down because we were not able to have the usual annual appeal at Christmas and there is a severe threat that the funds will not be there to maintain the work. The project involves feeding children, providing medicines and clean water and providing schooling for children. Two short Youtube videos about the work can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlikjFJcSE> and <https://youtu.be/YKGzGzL118U> Leaflets with donation/Gift Aid forms and standing order forms are available from Gerry Harber (tel 517829) or Donald Marr (tel 505573). Alternatively you can donate through the SVP website at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/donate-now> and select "Sudan and South Sudan Appeal.". "One-off donations" are very welcome, but if you can set up a Standing Order this would provide the funding necessary throughout the year. Many thanks to those parishioners who are already doing this, and for your generous donations in previous years.



### 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](mailto: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.

### 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:

- 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](http://catholicclimatemovement.global) or email [jane@catholicclimatemovement.global](mailto:jane@catholicclimatemovement.global).

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</i>	<b>Mass:</b> Special Intention of OS (JS)	
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Lent B</b>	<b>Mass:</b> People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	<b>Mass:</b> Peggy Allsopp (CW)	
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	<b>Mass:</b> Beverly March	
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	<b>1.45pm St Robert's Church Requiem Mass:</b> Agnes Gee	
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	<b>Mass:</b> Steven (SVP)	
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	<b>Mass:</b> Peggy Allsopp (AB)	
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	<b>Mass:</b> Tom, Elizabeth & John Coates	
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lent B</b>	<b>Mass:</b> 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.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Unfortunately there can be no "normal" 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 speak to Fr Peter 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!

### Northumberland Listening Service

The Northumberland Listening Service has been running for several years, set up by the local catholic parishes in Northumberland. 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.

### Consultation to stop home abortions!

The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. SPUC and the Right to Life need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC and the Right to Life have both prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation> or <https://www.righttolife.org.uk/ukconsultation>



The consultation ends on 26 February 2021

### 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. Please feel free to print off copies for yourself and if possible pass them on to others.

### Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer this year - 5th March - is an online service through their website [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk), where there also many other resources to find. The Service has been prepared by Christian women of Vanuatu, entitled, "Build on a Strong Foundation" (Matthew 7). The Service usually holds a collection, but this year is unable to do so, but you can make a donation online or contact Christine Watson or Eileen House. Full details on the website.

