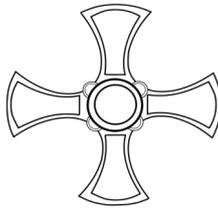


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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
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Sunday 7th February 2021 - 5th Sunday Year B

Now more than ever in living memory we are all consumed by the need to stay well and to keep our friends and family well too. It's great news that our scientists have come up with a vaccine that will eventually help beat Covid. It's great news that we now have developed the means to save thousands of lives. Surely if Jesus was around today in person, he would give those scientists a big pat on the back. But perhaps Jesus would have something to add. A vaccine might save us from getting ill and dying, but it cannot add to our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. It is important to look after a vehicle, but what greater point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere? What we do with our lives is more important than how long we can stay fit and well, however important that is to us as humans.

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother in law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.



To achieve anything in this world our health of course is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."



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 **Freda (Winnie) Davis** [Morpeth], sister of Frances Dodds, who died on Wednesday and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on Friday 12th February; for **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] who died recently in Liverpool (funeral arrangements in Morpeth, to be announced soon); 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.

Throughout January the amounts received were:



St. Robert of Newminster Parish
Standing Orders / BACS **£3,500.92**
Plate collections **£1,056.17**

St. Bede's Parish
Standing Orders / BACS **£1,099.00**
Plate collections **£123.00**

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

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!

Coronavirus - Please Stay Safe

The Sunday obligation continues to be lifted which means that we do not have to worry about not attending Sunday Mass at the moment. The virus levels continue to be high and we continue to hear of people who are testing positive. 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.

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.



Our Schools

While the majority of parents are asked to keep their children at home if at all possible, and to "home-school", our schools are open for key-worker children and children who are in vulnerable situations. Our School staff are working very hard to look after the children who are in during the week. Following the government announcement this week about schools, it continues to be a very difficult and challenging time for all our school leaders and all staff and so we thank and congratulate them on what they have done so far during this pandemic and we keep them all in our prayers at this time.

A Novena for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Fr Stephen Watson (*Lourdes Pilgrimage Director*) is leading an online novena in preparation for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Thursday 11th February. Father Stephen will lead daily prayers which can be accessed via the '**Hexham and Newcastle Pilgrimage to Lourdes**' Facebook page. These will be shared at 8am and can be viewed at any time after that. You are invited to join in this time of prayer. We certainly need the prayers of Our Lady of Lourdes at this very difficult time for the whole world.



World Day of Prayer for the Sick

The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11th February, is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. How important then is this Feast Day for the whole world during this pandemic. Our World is sick. Our world needs the prayers of Our Lady of Lourdes for healing and strength. In his message for this World Day of Prayer, Pope Francis says, "The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God. When we are ill, fear and even bewilderment can grip our minds and hearts; we find ourselves powerless, since our health does not depend on our abilities or life's incessant worries (cf. Mt 6:27). Sickness raises the question of life's meaning, which we bring before God in faith. In seeking a new and deeper direction in our lives, we may not find an immediate answer. Nor are our relatives and friends always able to help us in this demanding quest." He concludes with, "To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, I entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters. From the Grotto of Lourdes and her many other shrines throughout the world, may she sustain our faith and hope, and help us care for one another with fraternal love." The full text can be found on the Vatican website



St Robert's Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of St Robert's Parish Council will take place via Zoom at 7pm on Thursday 11th February. If interested in joining, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible.

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.

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 soon begin an online Children's Liturgy of the Word via Zoom. Watch this space - and our Facebook page - for further details when we will give dates, times and login details.

New Lectionary for our Readings

The Bishops of England and Wales website - cbcew.org.uk - last week informed us of the latest development of the New Lectionary for use throughout England and Wales. The change to the new **English Standard Version** (Catholic Edition) of the Bible, rather than the Jerusalem Bible, is likely to be effective sometime in 2022, so don't buy a new Missal just yet for your personal use! All texts used in our Masses and Liturgies will change to this new translation. Further information about this is on the website.



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 housebound, 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.faimission@diocesha.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 next 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 need your help to continue this life-saving work. Please give if you can: <https://bit.ly/3a51Tqg>



** 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.

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.



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.

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]. Hotels have websites where you can see what they're like. The cost is £1,827 per person, but Insurance and Single Supplement are extra. So far we have 29 people travelling but there are places still available. Further information and Booking Forms are now available from Fr Peter.

Supporting Asylum Seekers in our local community

Asylum Seekers in the Ashington area are supported through the charity 'Northumberland County of Sanctuary'. 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.

Diocesan Refugee Project

Donations of food would be gratefully accepted, as well as toiletries. Please donate tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, sugar, rice, biscuits, tinned chickpeas. **Please NO tins of meat or baked beans.** Please contact Donald Marr, on 01670 505573 to make arrangements for delivery to his home, and he will make arrangement for transport to Newcastle.

Right to Life UK

Right to Life UK writes, "The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion. Carla Lockhart MP has launched a parliamentary motion (Early Day Motion 1340) which highlights the latest science and developments on foetal pain and calls on the Government to urgently review official guidance in this area. We have set up an easy-to-use tool on our website that will enable you to email your MP asking them to sign this parliamentary motion - www.righttolife.org.uk If your MP replies to you saying that they don't sign early day motions, it would be helpful to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, on your behalf, raising the points that are made in Early Day Motion 1340."

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 6th February <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Ellen Young (DS)	
Sunday 7th February 5th Sunday Year B	Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 8th February <i>St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita</i> <i>[Lectionary Year I, Week 5]</i>	Mass: Anne Reape	
Tuesday 9th February <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Marguerite Anderson (AB)	
Wednesday 10th February <i>St Scholastica</i>	Mass: Margo Dewar	
Thursday 11th February <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>	Mass: Joseph & Elaine Swift	
Friday 12th February <i>Weekday</i>	11.30am St Robert's Church Requiem Mass: Freda Davis	
Saturday 13th February <i>Weekday</i>	Mass: Neville Donaldson (MB)	
Sunday 14th February 6th Sunday Year 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.

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>

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.

SPUC: Respond to 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 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 has 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> 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. 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.