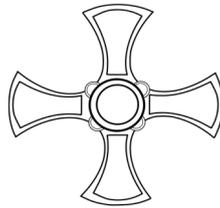


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 March 2021 - 4th Sunday Lent B

Jesus lived by one abiding rule. He knew that his integrity was the one thing that could not be taken away. His life could be taken, but his integrity could not. Today we are asked to live our lives by that same rule. We must know who we are; and we must adhere to who we are with every ounce of integrity we possess.

We all admire people who have the courage of their convictions. We admire their confidence, and we admire their openness. If we have ever had something to hide we know how difficult it is to feel good about ourselves. There must have been times in all our lives where we have been tempted to deceive, keep something a secret, or simply lay low and hope that problems will blow over. Keeping our integrity intact is not always easy, especially when we have used our own flawed agendas to go by.

Today's gospel makes reference to an Old Testament Story. Just as Moses used a bronze serpent to remind the Israelites of their sinfulness and steer them towards better choices, so we are asked to look upon Jesus as our guiding light. We are asked to see Jesus' light in every corner of our lives and make good choices on a daily basis. It might sound easy to make good choices, but so often we disguise our choices, to hide our real motivation, we might not even be aware that we are doing it. The most important clue to making good decisions is to ask whether we would have any qualms about pinning our choices up on a noticeboard under a spotlight. With our choices on public show, how confidently would we face a challenge? Would our integrity remain intact?



God sent his Son so the world might be saved. We are saved when we continue to make those right choices, remembering that we are not condemned for our bad choices if we can recognise them and move on.

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 **Father Ronnie Richmond** who died in the Little Sisters of the Poor Home on Wednesday; for **Father Tom Cunningham** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated this week at West Monkseaton; 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 now that Mass has resumed. You can also 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 Mandates 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

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

Fr Peter is urgently seeking help at St Bede's Parish with the Gift Aid Scheme. We need someone who would be willing to take on the preparing of the Parish Collection Envelopes and Boxes, the recording 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. 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 for the new financial year. *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.*

Organ Repairs



Our Church Organ at St Robert's Church is now fully refurbished. The cost of the work is approximately £24,000 + VAT. If anyone wishes to make a donation towards this, please send a donation clearly marked or a BACS payment that lets us know who has made it. Further information is available from Fr Peter. Many thanks to those who have already made donations towards this. It is greatly appreciated.

Coronavirus - Please Stay Safe

Both St Bede's Church and St Robert's Church are now open for Mass, but at the moment, for a few weeks, we are only celebrating the Sunday Masses, ie the 5.30pm Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's Church and Fr Peter will celebrate the weekday Masses privately. Let us continue to pray for all who are suffering from the coronavirus, especially those who have been admitted into hospital and those recovering; let us remember in our prayers the staff and medical teams in our local



surgeries, hospitals and vaccination centres; 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, even though here is a little more light at the end of the tunnel! Stay Safe everyone.

Booking for Mass

We continue to have only limited spaces available, (36 at St Robert's / 35 at St Bede's ... more, if families/households sit together), so we ask that you book for Mass, so that we know how many will be attending.

To book your place at Mass at St Robert's Church
Please call St Robert's Presbytery ☎ 01670 513 410
Monday - Friday, 9am - 6pm

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

Contact Tracing App

Please remember that you can check in for the Track and Trace system using the QR code that we have available. When you come to Church just open the app and scan the code to record your presence.



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, ie "Ampleforth Abbey Liturgy", "St Mary's Hexham", "Holy Name, Jesmond", "Catholic Parish of Guildford", "St Joseph, Pudsey" 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.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The above three celebrations are all subject to Government restrictions. Baptisms are not currently allowed until at least 17th May, Weddings are a bit of a problem because there are different limitations based on the different steps of the roadmap, probably until the end of June. Funerals continue to follow the same restrictions with still only 30 people allowed at a funeral whether that be in Church, at the graveside or the Crematorium. We are awaiting further information from the Bishop's Conference on how the "roadmap" will affect us in coming months.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are possible, in a socially distanced manner, but by appointment only. If anyone needs to speak to a priest about anything that is urgent or bothering, please ring and have a chat and speak to Fr Peter and we see what we can do to help those in spiritual need. At all times, Fr Peter is available for those who need to talk!

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 reflections 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/UCVIOoCyoxRWub3zoPjorMhQ>].

Children's Liturgy of the Word

St Robert's Parish now has an online Children's Liturgy of the Word via Zoom, held on a Sunday morning at 10am. Please send an email to the Parish Office (address on the front of this newsletter) to get the zoom link. If you have already joined in, it is the same link as last week. Grateful thanks to our Children's Liturgy team for arranging this.



CHILDREN'S
Liturgy of the Word



Lenten Alms

St Cuthbert's Care is a charity working throughout the North East to help improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our communities including people with profound disabilities, children in care and older people. St Cuthbert's Care has four children's residential homes accommodating young people aged from seven to 17 years. Our registered fostering service, Fostering North East, recruits, trains and supports carers to look after children who are unable to live with their own families. We are actively seeking foster carers to help provide homes for children in need of a positive experience of family life. The Alan Shearer Centre in Newcastle provides a range of recreational, social and respite facilities for people with disabilities. The Centre provides short break care, a home for disabled adults with multiple needs and specialist free, therapeutic and sensory leisure resources for people with complex disabilities. We have two Catholic nursing homes for older people: St Catherine's in Newcastle and Holy Cross in Sunderland. Both homes provide professional nursing and residential care and offer specialist support to those residents who require dementia care. In addition to our care services we develop and run community projects for people who are living in poverty, older people who have become isolated and individuals and families in need. We run a day centre in Ashington and a residential home in Alnwick for people with learning disabilities. We also support a number of adults with learning disabilities to enable them to live as independently as possible in their own homes. 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.

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. 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 Mill Hill Missionaries invite you to take part in a National Novena to St Joseph. Saturday 13th March at 10am; Sunday 14th March at 11.00am; Monday –Thursday (15th - 18th March) at 7.30pm.



Holy Week Celebrations

We will be able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter Masses and Services, but only following all the current restrictions. Palm Sunday will be celebrated in a shortened way with no processions. There will be an Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday at St Robert's, omitting the Washing of Feet and the Watching. We hope to have two Services on Good Friday, one in each Church. The Easter Vigil Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Church and there will be two Masses on Easter Sunday at St Robert's Church. Seating restrictions for two congregations in shared celebrations and trying to make our liturgies shorter is even more difficult in Holy Week and Easter.



The Wednesday Word

Reflections on the Sunday readings for both adults and children and can be accessed at wednesdayword.org



Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next meeting of St Robert's Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 18th March via Zoom at 7pm. Anyone wanting to join the discussions is asked to send an email to the Parish Office. If anyone has any items for discussion please email the Parish Office by Monday evening.

Praying for our Sick and housebound

It has been said that we should include the names of our sick and housebound parishioners on our newsletter so that we can include them in our regular prayers. However, we can only include the names of those who give their permission for their name to be included. If you are sick / housebound and would like to be added to this list, please let Fr Peter know; if you know of someone, please ask them first, to get their consent before submitting their name for inclusion. *Please remember that not everyone wants their names or their medical conditions to be made public, so we have to be very careful when we talk about those in our parish who are not well, even when we think we should know or think it would be the right thing to do so we can pray for them.* [Further information on Data Protection and Consent needed for this, is given in the Data Protection Guide for Parishes on the Diocesan Website.]



Preparation for First Confession and Holy Communion

The preparation for First Confession and Holy Communion is to take place in school this year, as it is impossible at the moment to bring our catechists together out of school because of the restrictions. I am very grateful to our school staff who have agreed to this. Letters have already been sent out by the Headteachers of both of our schools, to parents of children in Year 4 who are baptised Catholics. Parents have been asked to return the written application form as soon as possible. At the moment it is difficult to give any dates for the First Confession or the Mass for First Holy Communion. Further information will be given in coming months.



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.

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.

Marys Meals

Marys Meals is responding to the worsening crisis in Ethiopia, where millions of people have been forced to flee their homes because of on-going fighting in the region. They are now at imminent risk of starvation, very frightened and without access to proper sanitation or medical care. 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>

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.

Father Ian Hoskins

Father Ian Hoskins has announced his retirement and his last Mass at St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley will be on Easter Sunday. The Parish are having a collection for him. Cheques made payable to St Thomas of Canterbury can be left at St Robert's Presbytery, or they have a just giving site <http://bit.ly/Fr-Ian-Hoskins>.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 13th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		5.30pm Vigil Mass: Arkell & McAlroy Families
Sunday 14th March 4th Sunday Lent, B	9.00am Mass: People of the Parish 11.00am Mass: Margo Dewar (B&MH-S)	
Monday 15th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Agnes Gee (AB)	
Tuesday 16th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Ken & Eileen Percival	
Wednesday 17th March <i>St Patrick</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Intentions of David & Ace Oldroyd	
Thursday 18th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Margo Dewar (A & G.D)	
Friday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Oliver Bultitude	
Saturday 20th March <i>St Cuthbert</i>		5.30pm Vigil Mass: Intentions of Ellen & Eddie Nixon
Sunday 21st March 5th Sunday Lent, B	9.00am Mass: Alan Smith 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for March 2021

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God



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.

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=dlikjFdJcSE> and <https://youtu.be/YKGzGLI18U> 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.

Clocks Change

Please note that the clocks go forward on **Sunday 28th March** in the UK (*two weeks time*).

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.

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. 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.

Laudato Si' Gardening Group

A small group has been established in the diocese to reflect on Pope Francis's encyclical 'Laudato Si' and consider practical ways in which we can use our land assets for the common good. The group is meeting monthly (via zoom at the moment) and sharing ideas and plans on how we can use our home and Church gardens to help restore nature by encouraging wildlife and improving biodiversity. As spring arrives we hope to be able to start working in our gardens and possibly visit the 'Lya Vollering' in the walled garden at Minsteracres when lockdown is lifted. More information from Clare Myers at clare.myersmyers@btinternet.com