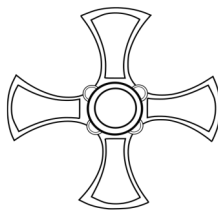


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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  
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[www.strobertsmorpeth.com](http://www.strobertsmorpeth.com) | [www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk](http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk) | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

In our current situation of pandemic and climate change, we are probably all feeling in need of a little love. Across the globe there is unprecedented need. There are millions in need of a little love. Today Jesus is telling us that it is up to us all to spread that love in as many practical and prayerful ways that we can think of. Are we up for the job?

Today we hear of Jesus' prayer for us. As Jesus was sent, so too we are sent to continue his mission and spread his love. Key to continuing Jesus' mission, we are told that although we are of this world we must not be possessed or tied down by worldly concerns.

How should it feel to be entrusted with such an important job? Well for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world. We spend most of our lives worrying about work, money, illness, relationships and commitments. It's very hard to rise above worldly concerns. In fact for most of us it just seems impossible.



On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet, email and text messages, YouTube, Instagram or tiktok. Yet thanks to these early disciples we know Jesus' name throughout the entire globe two thousand years down the line. We have a much easier job than the early disciples had. Now all we need is a little bit of their drive and passion. So how can we capture some of that motivation?

For most of us, the day to day job of putting meals on the table takes up more of our time than the vital job of continuing Jesus' mission. Yet we all know someone who manages to strike that all important balance. We all know at least one person who sets a shining example. Perhaps it's here that we will find our motivation. Perhaps the people we most admire provide us with a model of who we ourselves would like to be. With a good example to emulate and our twenty first century means to spread God's love, the job is not beyond 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. It's 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: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; The Church; and Human Work. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; we pray for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery; and at this difficult time of Pandemic we pray for all suffering from COVID-19; please remember all who died recently, including **Audrey Allison** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 19th May at St Bede's Church at 10.30am followed by Cremation at 11.30am; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### Collections, Standing Orders and BACS Payments

Thank you to all who are regularly contributing to our collections now that Mass has resumed. If you are not attending Mass yet, 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. Also many thanks to those who continue their regular Standing Orders.



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.

#### 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

#### Becoming a Catholic

If anyone at Bedlington or Morpeth is thinking about becoming a Catholic, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible. I would like to try and plan our Journey in Faith programme for later in the year, so that we can prepare our new candidates for Reception into the Church, so I ask those interested to speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible.

#### Altar Servers

Altar Servers who wish to serve from next weekend onwards should collect an Alb from the Sacristy and then keep their Alb at home for the next few weeks, bringing it from home every time they serve. To try to maintain social distancing we will only have two serving at any Mass.



#### Organ Fund

I am very grateful to those parishioners who have contributed towards the work on St Robert's Church Organ, which so far comes to just under £2,000. The diocesan finance office staff have also processed a claim through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and the sum of £4,548.82 for the VAT to this project has been received and credited to parish funds. If you wish to make a donation towards the costs of the refurbishment of the Organ at St Robert's Church, please use the bank details in this newsletter. Any contribution towards this will be greatly received. If handing into the Presbytery, or making a BACS donation, please indicate your name and "Organ" somewhere, so that it can be identified.

#### Children's Liturgy of the Word

While we are unable to hold Children's Liturgy in Church, St Robert's Parish Children's Liturgy of the Word via Zoom is held on a Sunday morning at 10am. The new link for the Zoom Children's Liturgy <https://zoom.us/j/99442437827?pwd=Q0FIMm8wVG9NY055NmJkRzhDbGIUUT09>. If you have the "Zoom App" or downloaded the software, the Meeting ID is: 994 4243 7827 and the Passcode is: 017486. Grateful thanks to our Children's Liturgy team for coordinating this.



#### Parish Council via Zoom

St Robert's Parish Council will be meeting on Thursday evening via Zoom, at 7pm. If anyone, who doesn't normally attend, wishes to join in the meeting, and you would be very welcome, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible. Regular attendees will be sent the link to join.

#### St John Paul II Award Ceremony

This will take place at 3.00pm on Sunday 16th May. Everyone is welcome to attend virtually via the Youth Ministry Team YouTube channel.

#### Booking for Mass

There are more and more people booking for Sunday Mass, but our places remain limited. It is difficult to give everyone a place. This is a good problem, but it means some people are just unable to get in, if ringing late in the week. At the moment, and until 21st June at least, we are still bound by our limited availability. Please remember, that as the Bishops have relaxed the rule for Sunday obligation for the time being, you could come to a weekday Mass and make that day your holy day, at either St Bede's or St Robert's, where there is plenty of spaces available, or you can watch the livestreaming. 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 the Vigil/Sunday Mass, so that we know how many will be attending.



To book your place at the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church  
Please call St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258  
any evening from 6.30pm - 8.30pm

To book your place at Sunday Mass at St Robert's Church  
Please call St Robert's Presbytery ☎ 01670 513 410  
Monday - Friday, 10.45am - 6pm

Please note: we do ask that everyone uses the same system to book, so please, it is preferred for you to ring to book your place. Please use the above numbers. If you book a place at Mass, but then find that you are unable to attend, we ask that you please call us or send an email, as soon as you know you are unable to attend, so that where possible we may be able to offer that place to someone who is waiting to come to Mass. By booking and not turning up you are actually preventing other people from attending.

#### Welcoming back our young families?



Someone was talking to me recently about encouraging young families to come back to Mass. I would be delighted to have young families coming back to Mass and have been pleased to see a few in our churches regularly over recent weeks. We can have up to six people in a bench, so long as you are all in the same family / support bubble. All you need to do is book for Sunday Mass using the details given above.

#### Bishops' Reflection

The Bishops of England and Wales have released a reflection on returning to Mass, following their recent Easter meeting. This can be accessed on the Bishops' Website - [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk) - or via our Facebook page.

#### Weekday Masses

It has been a long time away from Church for some people - are you ready to begin coming back to Mass? **Why not come to a weekday Mass at either St Bede's or St Robert's Churches. There is space, it is safe. Booking is not necessary for weekday Masses,** but we ask that you give your details to the steward on arrival so that we know how many people are in church.

#### St Robert's Parish "You Tube" Channel

If you are unable to get to Mass you are now able to watch Mass from St Robert's Church on YouTube, which can be accessed on the internet, using a computer, tablet or your smartphone. Masses at St Robert of Newminster Church can now be viewed either LIVE or as a recording on the Parish YOUTUBE site - <http://bit.ly/StRobert> Links to this are also on our website and Facebook page.



#### Consent for the Live streaming

Please note: we have to make everyone aware that Livestreaming is taking place at St Robert's Church. As some people may appear on screen during Mass we have to inform you that if you are a Reader, an Altar Server, or even a Minister of Holy Communion, and you appear on screen you must be informed that that is happening in St Robert's Church because "If a person is potentially identifiable from their image being captured on a recording / stream at Mass, this is possibly personal data and Data Protection regulations apply".

#### Appeal for "IT support"

Thank you to those who offered to help with this appeal. No one has yet offered for I Iam Mass! Can you work a Tablet and an App for a remote camera? Are you able to work on a laptop? Now that we have a camera in church which provides livestreaming for our Masses, I would like to try to form a couple of groups who could help with this for Mass, eg people to set up the computer, log on to YouTube and control the camera views via a tablet during Mass etc. If anyone would be interested, please speak to Fr Peter.



### Contact Tracing App

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



### Mass by Telephone

If you are unable to access the internet but still wish to be able to hear Mass, the Diocese of Middlesbrough has 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).

### Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem

It is important at this time of increased fighting between Israel and Palestine, a time of great trouble and distress in Jerusalem and in Gaza and parts of the 'West Bank', that we pray for all involved in this terrible situation. The fighting has even encouraged Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant leaders in Jerusalem to issue a message of peace. Pope Francis has also stated, "With particular concern I am following the events that are happening in Jerusalem," he said. "I pray that it may be a place of encounter and not of violent clashes, a place of prayer and peace." Pax Christi invites us to pray this weekend for all who are caught up in this, and for a peaceful resolution for all. Further information is available on the Pax Christi UK Facebook page.



### Novena of the Care of Creation

The Bishops of England and Wales invite all Catholics in England and Wales to respond in prayer and action to the urgent climate change issues that we all face. The God Who Speaks team offers a Novena of readings and prayers drawn from the Bible and recent Papal teaching on The Care of Creation. Between Ascension and Pentecost, the Scriptures tell us: "All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers..." (Acts 1:14) while they awaited to be "clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49). We are invited to pray these nine days reflecting on the account of creation in the book of Genesis. The Novena is available on [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk)

#### Caring for God's Creation



### World Communications Day

Today is World Communications Day and the theme is "Come and See" (Jn 1:46) - Communicating by Encountering People as They Are. This theme for the 2021 World Day of Social Communications, chosen by Pope Francis, echoes the words of the Apostle Philip, recognising that authentic communication leads to "encountering people as and where they are". Taken from St John's Gospel 1:46, the words "Come and see" are central to the Gospel. Before the Gospel is proclaimed, prior to words, there are "looks, testimonies, experiences, encounters and closeness. In a word - life." Pope Francis provides the subtitle: "Communicating, encountering people as and where they are. "This year, then, I would like to devote this Message to the invitation to "come and see", which can serve as an inspiration for all communication that strives to be clear and honest, in the press, on the internet, in the Church's daily preaching and in political or social communication. "Come and see!" This has always been the way that the Christian faith has been communicated, from the time of those first encounters on the banks of the River Jordan and on the Sea of Galilee". If you have a Collection envelope for World Communications Day, please leave at the basket in Church or drop off at the presbytery



### The Wednesday Word

Wednesday Word Reflections on the Sunday readings for both adults and children can be accessed at [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) This a wonderful resource to help focus on our Sunday Readings. Edited by Dom Henry Wansborough OSB of Ampleforth Abbey it is a wonderful resource for both parishes and for Schools to help focus on the forthcoming Sunday readings.



### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are now possible, in a socially distanced manner, but we haven't fixed a set time yet for Confessions. If anyone needs confession, please speak to Fr Peter. 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! Hopefully we can resume as normal in several weeks time,



Reconciliation

### 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.



### First Holy Communion Preparation

The First Holy Communion preparation is taking place in our schools this year. But it is important that our children also remember that they are preparing for two sacraments - the Sacrament of Confession and the the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist. Although we have restrictions at the moment, I do encourage parents to try to book in for Mass with their children. If it is impossible to get in for Mass, then please try to log on for the Children's Liturgy at 10am on a Sunday (see above for details). Please don't hesitate to speak to Fr Peter if there are any problems.



### Sacrament of Confirmation

We have to begin thinking about the Sacrament of Confirmation for the young people in our Partnership. We will be aiming to reach all the young people in Year 9 and above at the time of Confirmation. Please begin the conversations at home with your son or daughter as we start to think of how we will prepare for this.

### Preparing for Baptism

We are very grateful to our Baptism catechists who have agreed to lead some preparation meetings for those parents preparing for Baptism. If the Government roadmap progresses as planned, there will be a Baptism Preparation Meeting in July at St Robert's and one in September at St Bede's Church. Parents are asked to contact us to make arrangements.

### Celebrating a Funeral

Government changes come into effect on Monday whereby the number able to attend a Funeral changes. This will mean that it will be the same as the numbers for our usual weekday and Sunday Masses - 35/36 individual seats but more if households / support bubbles sit together. Father Peter has prepared a Track and Trace Form which includes a seating plan, which will be given to families planning a funeral at this time.

### Hassockfield / Medomsley Appeal

In October this year, the UK government plans to open an Immigration Removal Centre at Hassockfield on the site of the former Medomsley Detention Centre, near Consett, Co Durham. This will be for 80 women seeking asylum in the UK. A campaign group has described this proposal as "inhumane, unjust and incompatible with our faith which calls us to recognise the intrinsic dignity of each person. These women are not criminals to be locked up, but people like ourselves who have the right to a place of safety and to be treated with respect and compassion". An interfaith prayer service will take place on Sunday 23rd May at 3.00pm as part of a united faith response against Hassockfield. The Youth Ministry Team will join with the Faith Witness and will go live at the same time on YMT's Facebook page.

### Mary's Meals

Marys Meals regularly asks us to support them with funds for their work, and all that we donate helps them tremendously. However, they also know that they can't do without our prayers and they are aware that many people support their mission through prayer. They would like to invite you to receive their monthly prayer email 'Loaves and Fishes', which focuses on the different ways we can reflect on and pray for their work. To sign up to their mailing list, visit [marysmeals.org.uk/prayer](http://marysmeals.org.uk/prayer) - and sign up to receive the email



### Praying with Mary during May

The Vatican's Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation is urging us to join with people throughout the world to pray for end to the Covid-19 pandemic. Marian Shrines throughout the world are leading on this initiative thought May.



Further information with a list of Shrines taking part and a Liturgy are available on [www.pcpne.va](http://www.pcpne.va) The prayers will be broadcast live on the official channels of the Holy See.

As part of the Rosary Stronghold Mission across England, Wales and Scotland, a National Rosary Day of Prayer has been arranged for the intentions of our young people and for the mission of our Catholic schools and youth associations. This will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, the Feast of "Our Lady, Mother of the Church" and Bishop Robert is encouraging all our schools to take part in this.

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May, there will be a National Rosary Relay Rally across the Dioceses of the British Isles. The allocated Rosary Hour for Hexham and Newcastle Diocese is from 4pm - 5pm. Bishop Robert is encouraging us to pray together at this time.

### 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.

# Masses and Intentions this week

|  | St Robert of Newminster Church<br>Morpeth  | St Bede's Church<br>Bedlington                    |
|--|--|---|
| <b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><i>Weekday of Easter</i>                |  | <b>5.30pm Vigil:</b> People of the Parish         |
| <b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>    | <b>9.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish<br><b>11.00am Mass:</b> Alan Smith                  |   |
| <b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><i>Weekday of Easter</i>                  |  | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Canon Michael McCoy [NBF]    |
| <b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><i>Weekday of Easter / St John I</i>     | <b>10am Mass:</b> Fr Tom Cunningham (Catenians)  |   |
| <b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><i>Weekday of Easter / St Dunstan</i>  |  | <b>10.30am Requiem Mass:</b> Audrey Allison       |
| <b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><i>Weekday of Easter / St Bernadine</i> | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Dcd Mbrs of Dawes and<br>Pickering Families                             |   |
| <b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b><br><i>Weekday of Easter / St Godric</i>      |  | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Father Stephen Johnson [NBF] |
| <b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b><br><i>Weekday of Easter / St Rita</i>      |  | <b>5.30pm Vigil:</b> Special Intention: FS (MB)   |
| <b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b><br><b>Pentecost Sunday</b>                   | <b>9.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish<br><b>11.00am Mass:</b> Dcd Mbrs of the Cole Family |   |



## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for May 2021

The World of Finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



## 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.

### Food Donations

As you are unable to leave donations in Church, due to the Diocesan Health and Safety restrictions, there is still a great need for this food. The most useful items are: tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, tinned chickpeas, biscuits, rice, sugars and toilet rolls. Toiletries such as shampoo, shower gel, deodorant and toothpaste are also very useful. Please do not donate tinned meat or baked beans. All donations can be left with Donald Marr at 3 Cottingvale Morpeth. Please phone ☎ 01670 505573 before, to arrange a drop off time, and leave a message if there is no reply. Alternatively, you could leave donations with Gerry and Eileen Harber, 22, Dacre Street, Morpeth Please phone ☎ 01670 517829. Thankyou.

### COVID-19 In India - CAFOD Appeal

India is facing a devastating second wave of coronavirus. The country has confirmed more than 20 million cases and more than 200,000 deaths, with some reports concerned that the number of deaths is just the tip of the iceberg, because of under reporting. The pandemic has put a strain on the medical infrastructure of the country, with hospitals unable to cope with the influx of patients. Our Catholic aid agencies will be distributing medical kits and setting up temporary treatment centres as well as providing PPE to front-line health workers. You can help by donating online at [www.cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/India-coronavirus-response](http://www.cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/India-coronavirus-response)

### Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

This year in Morpeth, Christian Aid volunteers will deliver envelopes around the town, but will not be calling back to collect them. Instead, we ask people to give either by cash or cheque in the envelope and return it to the address written on the envelope, or else to give by telephone or on-line using the details on the envelope. Envelopes may also be left at St Robert's. Many thanks to our volunteers who are delivering the envelopes. We ask everyone to consider giving as generously as they can to make up for the deficit last year. Thank you in anticipation.



### Mass for Marriage and Family Life



Bishop Robert will celebrate the Marriage and Family Life Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 12noon. Due to the limited capacity and in keeping with the current COVID restrictions, anyone wishing to attend the Mass **MUST BOOK** in advance by contacting the Cathedral office on 0191 232 6953 or emailing [office@stmaryscathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryscathedral.org.uk).

Booking is available now. Anyone celebrating a significant anniversary should also provide the details of this at the time of booking and a certificate of celebration will be offered.

