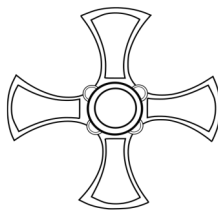


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 9th May 2021 - 6th Sunday of Easter

In the Old Testament the Jewish people considered themselves to be the chosen people of God to the extent that they kept clear of all dealings with the "nations", the surrounding peoples and cultures. When prophets like Isaiah came along and in God's name foretold that all these pagan nations would be welcome to offer worship on the holy mountain of Jerusalem, it profoundly shocked the religious sensitivities of their audience.

In the New Testament Peter makes an astounding discovery: that God has no favourites and that anyone who tries to do God's will is acceptable to God. This comes after thousands of pagans have listened to his preaching and have received the same Holy Spirit with which he himself has been anointed.

Things haven't changed that much. We have an inbuilt tendency to think of those who do not share our faith as being on a different plane to us. Yet one thing is clear: God gives his Spirit to anyone he thinks is striving to do his will. And this should make us stop and think: we have no monopoly on truth and goodness. While we know that our Church possesses the gifts of the Holy Spirit, it is patently obvious that the Spirit blows through Jewish people, through Muslims, through Buddhists and Hindus....in fact, even through those who do not even believe. For all goodness and truth comes from God.



Living our faith in the power of the Spirit is a real challenge, because it dares us to look at our surroundings and discern the people and events that God is using today to speak to us. And of course sometimes these people and events are the last ones we would ever expect to be mouthpieces of God. But when it comes to choosing people, God has no favourites. Anyone who strives to do his will is acceptable.

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 **Alan Nixon** whose Funeral will be held in Cyprus on 14th May; for **Audrey Allison** who died on Wednesday and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 19th May at St Bede's Church; 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.

April Standing Orders and BACS Payments

St Robert's - £3,594.92 / St Bede's - £1,099.00

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. 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

Civil Changes to Getting Married

On 4th May, the civil paperwork needed to get married changed according to The Civil Partnerships, Marriages and Deaths (Registration etc.) Act 2019. You no longer receive a Blue Certificate, but you do need a 'Marriage Schedule' from the Registrar which must then be handed to the person officiating at your wedding. We then have the responsibility of sending this back to the Registrar within 21 days of your wedding and then you have to apply for a Marriage Certificate. I encourage all those who are getting married this year to make contact with the staff at the Register Office in Alnwick, to make sure your paperwork is complete and correct as soon as possible.

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Thursday 13th May is the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. Please note that the usual Mass time is changed and Masses will be celebrated at St Bede's Church at 10am, and at St Robert's Church at 12.30pm and 7.00pm. Booking is not necessary for these Masses, but usual seating restrictions remain in place.



Becoming a Catholic

If anyone in our parishes 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 and Sacristans

As the Government Roadmap slowly leads us out of the current restrictions, the next phase begins on 17th May. Therefore I would like to suggest and invite Altar Servers to resume their serving duties on the weekend of 23rd / 24th May. I invite Altar Servers to speak to Fr Peter about this as soon as possible. I also hope to reintroduce our sacristans, who set up and tidied up after Mass, on the same weekend if this is possible and of course, if those who previously did this are still willing to do so.



Booking for Mass

It is good that more people are coming back to Mass, but this also means that it is more difficult to book everyone in for Sunday Masses. 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 at either St Bede's or St Robert's, where there is plenty of spaces available. So if you cannot get in for a Sunday, please remember that you could come to one of the other Masses if able to. Although we are open, 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 - 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.

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, open the app on your phone and scan the code to record your presence.



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 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. So far, we have five people offering for 9am Mass. No one has yet offered for 11am 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 group 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, so that I don't have to do it all during Mass myself. If anyone would be interested, please speak to Fr Peter. Hopefully if there is enough help we could manage a rota for 9am and 11am Masses on a Sunday and our weekday Masses, as well as someone who may be available for extra services.



Masses Online

If you are unable to attend Mass, two online services stream Masses throughout the day, mainly from Ireland and the UK, on www.churchservices.tv and www.mcmedia.tv. Other parishes stream live on YouTube - you just need to search for the parish name on YouTube to find them, eg Holy Name Jesmond, St Mary's Hexham, Ampleforth Abbey, St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. 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 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).

The Wednesday Word

Reflections on the Sunday readings for both adults and children and can be accessed at 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 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!



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.



Organ Fund

Many thanks for donations already received, which so far comes to just under **£2,000**. 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=Q0FmM8wVG9NY05NmdJRzhDbGIUUT09>. 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.



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 - Confession and the 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

The Government announced during the last week that the number able to attend a Funeral will change on 17th May. In our case 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, in case any families need to plan a funeral in one of our churches during this time.

Flower Arranging



Would you like to be involved in the Flower Arranging at St Robert's Church? The group are seeking more volunteers. If you would like to be included in the rota for Flower Arranging, please send an email to the Parish email address (on the front of the Newsletter) or contact Bernadette at the Parish Office.

Mary's Meals

"Since our humble beginnings, Mary's Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support us. This May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, we invite you to join us in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary's Meals and give thanks that we are now reaching more than 1.8 million children with a nutritious meal in 19 countries every school day. We also pray for God's continued blessing on our beautiful mission, that through His providence it will always flourish, enabling us to reach more hungry children. You could offer your prayerful support in a number of ways such as: including a bidding prayer for Mary's Meals at Mass, praying the Rosary for our work or hosting a Holy Hour. You will find inspirational resources for our Pray In May campaign, including our prayer card, on our website. Thank you for remembering Mary's Meals in your prayers. God bless you all.



Praying with Mary during May

The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation at the Vatican 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 including the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham which was chosen to lead the prayers on Saturday 1st May. Further information with a list of Shrines taking part and a Liturgy are available on www.pcpne.va. The prayers will be broadcast live on the official channels of the Holy See.

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 frontline health workers. You can help by donating online at www.cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/India-coronavirus-response



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 8th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		5.30pm Vigil: People of the Parish
Sunday 9th May 6th Sunday of Easter	9.00am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 10th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		10.00am Mass: Alan Nixon (KK)
Tuesday 11th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	10am Mass: Thomas Foster Beattie (AB)	
Wednesday 12th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		10.00am Mass: Sylvia Thompson
Thursday 13th May Ascension of the Lord	12.30pm Mass: People of the Parish 7.00pm Mass: Fr Thomas Cunningham (CWL)	10.00am Mass: People of the Parish
Friday 14th May <i>St Matthias</i>		10.00am Mass: Alan Nixon (MY)
Saturday 15th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		5.30pm Vigil: People of the Parish
Sunday 16th May 7th Sunday of Easter	9.00am Mass: People of the Parish 11.00am Mass: Alan Smith	



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.

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.

Christian Aid Week 10th - 16th May

Christian Aid Week is back! We were not able to hold any Christian Aid Week collections or other fund-raising activities in 2020 because of the pandemic, and Christian Aid's income was severely diminished as a result.



This year in Morpeth, Christian Aid is organising house to house collections - but with a difference. 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 online 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 22nd May at 12noon which will be both an open Mass and live streamed. The invitation focuses on couples celebrating significant anniversaries in 2021 but is open to engaged couples preparing for marriage, those who were married in the months prior to lockdown and since our last Mass in 2019 and all married couples. Included too are those widowed and bereaved who were unable to visit wives and husbands in hospital and homes, prior to their deaths. In these unprecedented times we remember couples in crisis and individual adults and children experiencing difficulties and abuse in their family relationships. We wish all to know that none is forgotten and that the Sacramental life, despite Covid, is very much alive and prayed for.



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. 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.