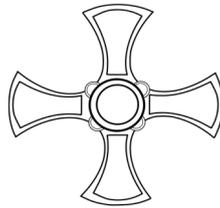


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 5th September 2021 - 23rd Sunday of the Year

“Once, while preaching in a parish, I suddenly caught sight of a young mother with her child and you could see the love between them. I was terribly tempted to say to the congregation: Forget what I am saying and look over there, and you will see what we mean to God.” Those words were spoken by the late Cardinal Basil Hume. In a simple way he shows that God's way of communicating with us is not through lofty pronouncements, but in and through the ordinariness of human life.

What more lovely or simple thing could we wish to see than a mother and baby enjoying each other's company? We see it every day all around us but it's not that often that we stop to think and go beyond the obvious. The love between a mother and baby is a sign, a pointer to the love that God has for us in his Son Jesus Christ. Since God is true love itself, every act of love we witness and experience is a manifestation of divine love. When we love, it is God in action. And when we see love in others we can catch a glimpse of God's favour to our world for we are looking at love itself.

In today's gospel Jesus cured a deaf man with a speech impediment. In fact, the deaf hearing and the dumb speaking were signs that the Jewish people waited for as an indication that the new age of God's reign was about to begin. So Jesus's miracle was a messianic sign, a sign associated with the coming of the long-expected saviour whom God had promised through the prophets.

In this new age of the kingdom of God people are set free to see things that lay hidden, to hear of the wonders that God is working day by day, and to tell others about God's goodness.

And, of course, that time is now. God never gives up on us, any more than the mother would give up on the baby. And we Christians exist to discern that loving presence of God in our world and to point it out to others. That's why God has opened our eyes, unblocked our ears and loosened our tongues.





At this time of the Church's year, we are asked to pray for: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work; and the reverent use of creation; Justice and Peace in the world; all victims of war; Young People; Prisoners and their Families.. Please pray for those we know who are unwell, as well as the many who have no one to pray for them; for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery; and at this difficult time of the coronavirus we pray for all suffering from COVID-19; for all who have died recently, including **Fr Michael Sharrott** who died recently; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

We are Open for Mass



Our Churches are open and we are celebrating Mass and we encourage you to come back to join those who have already returned. We are still continuing with "covid-safe" controls until further notice. We therefore ask that you continue wearing a face covering in Church.

Contact Tracing App

For weekday Mass we ask you to check in using the QR code that we have available in both Churches. When you come to Church, if you are using the NHS Covid App on your phone, scan the code to record your presence. *COVID-19 has not gone away and people are still contracting it. Please remember that if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 you should not attend Church.*

Booking for Mass

You should continue to book for Sunday Mass, until further notice.

To book your place at the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church,
Please call St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258

Monday - Friday, 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

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
9.30am - 12noon**

### Diocesan COVID-19 Restrictions

Last week Bishop Robert reminded all clergy that no covid restrictions should be changed until the Bishop's Council have met on 10th September, at which they will receive advice from the diocesan Health and Safety Officer.

### Limited Numbers for Baptisms and Funerals

Please note that as our covid restrictions continue into the middle of September at least, this will also affect the people attending Baptisms and Funerals in coming weeks, as we have limited seating available and as we encourage all in church to wear face coverings. If unsure, please speak to Fr Peter.

### "Sunday – It is our Day" - news from our Bishops

Our bishops are hoping that the Sunday Obligation will resume on Sunday 28th November. The full text of this statement is available on [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk) ... but why wait until 28th November? ... come back now, we are open!

### Offertory Collections

Thank you to all who are regularly contributing to our collections at Mass each week. Alternatively you can 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. Bank details and Standing Order forms are available by ringing the Parish Office. Further information on any of the above is available from Fr Peter.



### Education Sunday

Next Sunday is a Day of Prayer for Catholic Education and there will be a special collection for the work of the Catholic Education Service.

### Annual Mass Count

It seems a little unusual, especially at this time of pandemic, but we are asked to take our Annual Mass Count over four Sundays, beginning on the weekend of 18th / 19th September.

### 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 print and pass them on to others.

### 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 is 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.

### Young Peoples Prayer Group

Fr Peter will lead a period for prayer for young people, aged 16 - 25+ years, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, time for private prayer, and even an opportunity for Confession, and ending with Benediction. Begins at 7.30pm in St Robert's Church on Monday 6th September.

### Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday 8th September is the Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We invite you to come along to Mass at 10am on Wednesday at St Bede's Church, Bedlington to celebrate this Feast Day.



### Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation



The Brinkburn Partnership is to lead preparation sessions for those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the next available opportunity. We need volunteers from the partnership parishes to be catechists to help with these sessions.

If you are willing to volunteer for this role, please contact Father Peter as soon as possible and pass on your contact details. **If you are a young person in Year 9 and above and wish to be taken part in the preparation and then be Confirmed please contact Fr Peter, or Deacon Stephen and we will pass on an application form.**

### New Altar Servers

We are always looking for and encouraging new young people to join our team of altar servers in both parishes and to show a commitment to serving each week at Mass and at other times if available. If anyone is willing to join our team at St Bede's or at St Robert's, please contact Fr Peter.



### Preparing for Baptism

The next Baptism Preparation meeting takes place on 16<sup>th</sup> September at St Bede's Church. Parents requesting Baptism for a child are asked to contact us to make arrangements to attend this Baptism Preparation Meeting. Once parents have attended this preparation meeting, they are asked to meet with Fr Peter (or Deacon Stephen if for St Bede's Church) to make arrangements and set a date for the Baptism. Please note that one parent must be a baptised catholic for Baptism in the Catholic Church and it is also hoped that the catholic parent or even the whole family has been to Mass recently, especially as at the Baptism the parents will be promising to bring their child up "in the practice of the faith".

### Becoming a Catholic

If anyone is interested in becoming a Catholic, please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible. This will help decide whether there is a need to have a Journey in Faith Group this year.

### First Steps – Exploring the Catholic Faith Online

The Diocese is offering an online course .... Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? Join an online journey this Autumn and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. This will meet weekly via Zoom and you are invited to come along to find out more. Starts Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7pm. If you are interested to find out more, you can enquire/register by email to [admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk)

### Food Donations

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Group need donations of Food and Toiletries to support refugees and asylum seekers. Their stocks are running low and demand is increasing. The project is currently supporting on average 300 clients each week, who all receive a bag of food. 102 of them are destitute and also receive a supermarket voucher. They have also been notified that new sites in Byker, Shieldfield and Grainger Town, Newcastle will introduce 400/500 new asylum seekers to the area as well as some Afghan refugees so the demand on the project resources and services will increase. We have seen thousands of people being flown into the UK from Afghanistan in recent weeks amid desperate scenes and they have left their homes with very little. Some of those people may end up in the North East. But there also many refugees and asylum seekers already in the North East who need support. Our help is needed. For the last eighteen months we have been unable to have a donations box in church but we are beginning once again, as there is an urgent appeal for Food and Toiletries, listed below.

- Priority Items: **Tinned Tomatoes; Chickpeas; Tinned Fish** (e.g. tuna)
- **Biscuits:** Single packets are easier for us to distribute than tins or biscuit collections.
- **Rice:** Please continue to collect. Preferably not microwave rice, as not all our clients will have access to a microwave. Standard sized rice bags ideally.
- **Sugar:** Please continue to collect. Standard 1kg size bags ideally. We regularly run short of sugar.
- **Sweet Treats**
- **Toilet Roll:** (Priority item); Please continue to collect other toiletries so people can be offered personal hygiene items of their choice whenever possible: **shampoo, shower gel, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, and toothbrushes** in particular.

Items can be left at either St Robert's Church or St Bede's Church, but they can only be left when the Church is open at Mass times. Boxes will be available.

### Little Sisters of the Poor – Urgent Appeal

The Little Sisters of the Poor at St. Joseph's Home in Newcastle are finding the current economic climate increasingly more demanding. The emergency lockdown have had a massive impact on their fundraising activities and the charitable donations they rely on to meet the daily running costs of the Home. They are appealing for urgent donations to help them continue with their work of caring for the Elderly and to enable them to carry out essential fire prevention upgrades to their Home. In these uncertain times, small acts of kindness can make a huge difference in helping the Little Sisters Home.



### Catholic Awards for Young People

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle offers our young people the opportunity to witness to their faith in their local and parish Communities by participating in two award schemes. Young people aged 10-18 years old (Year 6-13) can take part in the Faith in Action Award through their school, parish or organisation. The Pope St John Paul II Award is a faith achievement award for young people between the age of 16 and 18. It enables young people become more aware of the teaching and role of the Catholic Church in the world and to engage at a deep level with Christ. Further information from Fr Peter if interested.

### Diocesan E-Newsletter

The latest edition of the Diocesan E-Newsletter contains information about many different things going on in the diocese. Check it out on the diocesan website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

### Diocesan Days of Reflection

- Breaking the Word: A Day of Reflection for Readers at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 10.30am - 3.30pm
  - Called to the Supper of the Lamb: A Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2021 10.30am - 3.30pm
- These Days should be booked through your parish Office who will send off the Booking Forms

### Northumberland Listening Service

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

### Bonus Ball at St Robert's

During the current pandemic we have been unable to arrange fundraising activities. However, we would like try once again running the Bonus Ball from October for 10 weeks. If you wish to play, please put £10.00, your name and telephone number into an envelope marked 'Bonus Ball' and leave it at St Robert's Presbytery before the end of this month. This will cover the ten weeks Bonus Ball from the National Lotto Draw on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October until 4<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately, you will not be able to choose your number - they will be allocated and you will be phoned with your lucky number. The weekly winner will receive £25. Don't forget that you have to be in it to win it. Good Luck.



### Mary's Meals- Haiti Earthquake Appeal

Following the recent 7.2 magnitude earthquake in Haiti, around half a million children need emergency humanitarian assistance. Mary's Meals has been feeding schoolchildren in Haiti for 15 years and work closely with four well-established and trusted local partners across the country. These partners are already co-ordinating an emergency response, to deliver ration packs of essential food items to families in the worst affected areas. Please give if you can, to help families in desperate hardship recover from this crisis. [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)



### Diocesan Year of the Eucharist

Bishop Robert has announced a "Year of the Eucharist" will be celebrated in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and will be launched during Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021, simultaneously with the launch of the 2023 Synod of Bishops, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission."

The aims of the Year of the Eucharist are:

- To celebrate the Eucharist at the heart of the life and mission of the Church and to gather people back.
- To grow as a Diocese in our love and appreciation of the Eucharist.
- To deepen our appreciation of the liturgical celebration of the Eucharist through the rites.
- To revitalise and renew our faith through a deepening prayer and devotion of the Eucharist.
- To go out and serve the world through the nourishment of the Eucharist.

The Year of the Eucharist will be celebrated in Episcopal Areas, Partnerships, Parishes and Schools and will provide a framework of prayer for the Diocese's participation in the first stage of the Synod. (*more Synod Information on [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk)*)

### Sycamore Course

The Sycamore is a course to help people develop their faith and Fr Peter is wondering about starting this course to help people in our parishes deepen their faith and come together once our covid restrictions come to an end. Would there be any interest from members of the parish to come together to take part in this course? Please contact Fr Peter to let him know if you are interested. The diocese is also offering the Sycamore Course online and details can be found on the diocesan website under the Faith and Mission Vicariate tabs.

### CAFOD responding to multiple emergencies

CAFOD and its international Caritas partners are responding to significant crises across the world. They are assisting in Haiti, in Afghanistan, in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. Further information on their work is on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers have helped us all to stand together and enable us to continue to support communities in these difficult times. Thank you.

# Masses and Intentions this week

|                                                                                         | St Robert of Newminster Church<br>Morpeth                                         | St Bede's Church<br>Bedlington                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>The Translation of St Cuthbert</i>       | <b>10am Mass:</b> Morton Stott (CWL)<br>10.30am: Adoration and Confessions        | 5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> Private Intention DD |
| <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Yr B</b>            | <b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish<br><b>11am Mass:</b> Jan Jurek              |                                                                             |
| <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                                | 7.30pm: Young Peoples Time for Prayer<br>(open to all 16 - 25+ yrs)               | <b>10am Mass:</b> Jo Scott (M&PG)                                           |
| <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                               | <b>10am Mass:</b> Michael Lillico                                                 |                                                                             |
| <b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> |                                                                                   | <b>10am Mass:</b> Father Bill O'Gorman [NBF]                                |
| <b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                              | <b>10am Mass:</b> Sylvia Thompson                                                 |                                                                             |
| <b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                               |                                                                                   | <b>10.00am Mass:</b> Fr Michael Sharratt [NBF]                              |
| <b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><i>Weekday</i>                             | <b>10am Mass:</b> Sheila Keenan (AB)<br>10.30am - 11am: Adoration and Confessions | 5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish |
| <b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September</b><br><b>24<sup>th</sup> Sunday Yr B</b>           | <b>9am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone<br><b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish |                                                                             |

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



**An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle:** We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.



## 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.

### Livestreaming Mass from St Robert of Newminster Church

Masses at St Robert of Newminster Church can now be viewed on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/StRobert> Masses are streamed live at 9am on Sunday, 10am on Tuesday and 10am Thursday, or as a recording on the above Parish YOUTUBE site anytime. If anyone else wishes to be involved in controlling the livestream during Mass on a Sunday or at either of the weekday Masses, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible



### Back to School

Our schools reopen this week. All our staff at St Robert's, St Bede's and St Benet Biscop Schools will return for the new term and we look forward to seeing them and all other members of Staff who help keep our schools running throughout the year. And we look forward to welcoming all our young people back to school this week for their new year. The last eighteen months have been strange and difficult times in our schools and we hope and pray that the 2021/22 year will be better for everyone and be blessed by the Lord. Staff from St Bede's will join us for Mass on Monday.

### Conference: Caring for Our Common Home

You are invited you to attend a conference *Caring for Our Common Home – Responding to the Cry of the Earth and the Poor* on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at the Emmaus Village, Allensford, Consett. The conference is free to attend, but as numbers are limited, please book your place by the deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> September. Further information and booking form are available on the Diocesan Environmental Group page on the website <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/caritas/deg.php>

### Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies 2021-2022

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. There is a short presentation shown on the Diocesan website: [www.edurcdhn.org.uk/courses/courses\\_ccrs.php](http://www.edurcdhn.org.uk/courses/courses_ccrs.php) If anyone would like further information, please contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email [education@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk)



"We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become.  
If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing.  
Imitation is not a literal mimicking of Christ, rather it means becoming the image of the beloved, an image disclosed through transformation.  
This means we are to become vessels of God's compassionate love for others."  
St. Clare of Assisi