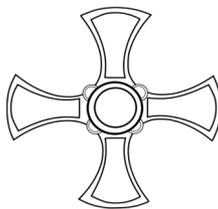


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**Saint Robert of Newminster
Catholic Church**
Oldgate
MORPETH
NE61 1QF

PARISHES OF THE BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND

Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott

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Sunday 3rd October 2021 - 27th Sunday of the Year

Today the Pharisees ask Jesus in their usual barbed fashion, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus' answer is a resounding 'no!' "What God has joined together, let no one separate." At a time when divorce was rife, this must have been a difficult thing for Jesus' audience to digest. It isn't much easier for our twenty first century ears.

What should we take from this gospel? What should church goers who have been through painful divorces make of these words? What should church goers who have suffered unhappy first marriages and then re-married make of Jesus' teaching?

One thing is for sure. Any interpretation of this gospel should err on the side of compassion rather than condemnation. Another thing is for sure, without twisting Jesus' words to suit our own modern lifestyle, we have to look at why Jesus spoke these words in the first place and the spirit in which they were spoken. At the time Jesus spoke these words marriage was very one sided. It was the man's prerogative to choose divorce and he could choose this option for little or no good reason. At a time where women were financially dependant on their husbands, divorce could leave them pretty much destitute. Marriage was something easily entered into and easily broken. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees in today's gospel he was doing something ground breaking. He was elevating the importance of marriage and raising the status of women.

So were Jesus' words relevant then but not now? Well no! Marriage is still something that many don't take seriously. Many go into marriage without really considering their vows. Many go into marriage not thinking much beyond the big white dress or the fabulous reception. There are far too many who are ready to give up on marriage at the first hint of hard times or at the onset of boredom. There are far too many quick to bury a marriage that is only sick or injured. It is to these people that Jesus is speaking in today's gospel.

On the other hand, if Jesus was here today could he really condemn people to stay put in marriages where physical or mental abuse threatens the wellbeing of a spouse or a child? Would Jesus insist on people soldiering on in loveless or deeply unhappy marriages? Some people choose divorce as an easy option, but for the majority divorce is rarely embarked upon happily. It is nearly always painful for all involved. Could Jesus really condemn these people?

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." It has the ring of law, yet as with all laws, it is the spirit of the law that is all important. We find the clue to Jesus' words in his declaration that Moses permitted divorce "...because of the hardness in man's heart." The answer to the debate is held in our own heart. If we make decisions based on our own self gratification or self interest we become hard hearted and are in real danger of making poor decisions. If we make decisions grounded in love and compassion, God will surely be there to help us through.





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; pray for many people who have COVID-19 at the moment; for all who have died recently, including **Beatrice Buchta**, the mother of Bernadette Rich who died last Sunday at home in Bolton; for **Maureen Goonan** [Bedlington] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Church on Wednesday 20th October; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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.



Insurance Premiums for our buildings

We have just paid the new Insurance Renewal Premiums for our two parishes. St Bede's Presbytery, Church and Hall cost us just over £2,500 and St Robert of Newminster Presbytery, Church and Hall cost almost £2,900.

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
and Thursday and Friday 7pm - 9pm**

Diocesan COVID-19 Restrictions

We have been asked to maintain the "one metre / 3 feet" social distancing in Church, the use of hand gel and face coverings. You must still book to come to Mass for a Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass. These restrictions will be reviewed in early November. Two changes now allow us to sing (wearing face coverings) and we can also take the collection once again.

Limited Numbers for other Church Celebrations

As our covid restrictions continue for a few more weeks, this will also affect those who attend Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings in coming weeks. We have limited seating available in both Churches and everyone attending is also encouraged to wear face coverings. If unsure, please speak to Fr Peter.

Hand Gel in Church

You are asked to use the Hand Gel as you enter Church. Hand gel is also available in the benches and you are asked to use it, especially just before coming forward to receive Holy Communion.



New Parish Secretary

We are pleased to announce that the new Parish Secretary for St Bede's Parish is Mrs Mary Carter. Mary is resident in Bedlington and was previously a parishioner of St Bede's many years ago, before moving away. Mary will begin her new role at St Bede's Parish Office on Tuesday 5th October and will be in the Office on a Tuesday and a Wednesday. If you see her around, please give her a warm welcome and if possible, introduce yourself and tell her what you do in the parish so that she can begin to get to know people.

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.



Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Our partnership parishes [Ashington, Amble, Bedlington, Longhorsley and Morpeth] need some adult catechists to help prepare our young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation. No one has yet come forward, although we know people have done this previously. Whether you have been involved before and wish to do so again or wish to get involved for the first time, please contact Fr Peter with your contact details, so that they can be passed on to those who are coordinating this.

Do you want to be Confirmed?

If you are a young person in Year 9 and above at St Benet Biscop or King Edward VI Schools or equivalent, and wish to be take part in the preparation and then receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Fr Peter, or Deacon Stephen and we will pass on an application form which should be returned as soon as possible. At the moment we seem to have ONE person from each Church that is interested!!



Bonus Ball at St Robert's

Many Thanks to everyone who has joined the Bonus Ball for St Roberts. It begins this weekend. We have now filled all the numbers available. Good Luck to all entrants.



Preparing for Baptism

Parents requesting Baptism for a child are asked to contact us to make arrangements to attend the next Baptism Preparation Meeting to be held on 14th October. 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".

The Wednesday Word

"Wednesday Word" Reflections on the Sunday readings, for both adults and children can be accessed at 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.



Food Donations

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Group need donations of Food and Toiletries to support refugees and asylum seekers. The SVP is the local contact with the Justice and Peace Group and will be delivering to Blackfriars in Newcastle. If you can help with any of the following items it would be greatly appreciated ...

Tinned Tomatoes; Chickpeas; Tinned Fish (e.g. tuna); Biscuits (Single packets are easier for us to distribute than tins or biscuit collections.) **Rice** (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). **Sweet Treats; Toilet Roll, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, and Toothbrushes.** 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 are available.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day (England and Wales)

CAFOD's Family Fast Day was held on Friday 1st October. You can help support people around the world who are dedicating their lives to protecting God's creation. CAFOD's local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Donate online through the CAFOD website or by using a CAFOD envelope. Take an envelope from the back of church and put into it whatever you save this Fast Day and hand in today. Don't forget to fill out the Gift Aid section if you are a UK tax payer.



Can you help with Livestream?

Are you able to assist with the tablet control and laptop for the Livestream of Masses. If you are able to help at the 9am Mass on a Sunday or at the 10am Mass on a Tuesday or Thursday, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible.

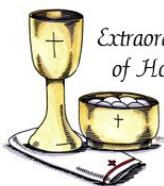
Extraordinary Ministers Renewal of Commitment

This weekend, 2nd / 3rd October, all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion throughout the Diocese, are being asked to renew their Commitment. This will take place at all three Masses - the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's Church.



Extraordinary Ministers Role

It is now possible for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to resume their ministry of taking Holy Communion out to the Sick and Housebound, if Ministers feels comfortable resuming this ministry and if the sick and housebound, and those in



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Nursing Homes, are comfortable for it to resume. Guidelines suggest that multiple people in separate residences should not be visited in the same morning, to avoid any possible spreading of coronavirus. Hand Gel and face coverings should be used. Those

going into Nursing and Care Homes must also follow the Homes' covid guidelines and probably take a lateral flow test before entering. Please check with the Homes and with those you are visiting, before resuming this.

Diocesan Day of Recollection

"Called to the Supper of the Lamb": A Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 30th October 2021 10.30am - 3.30pm. Booking can be made by using this link ... <https://forms.office.com/r/hGQJf2UblJ> This day is optional and it is not obligatory for anyone to book on them at the moment.

Diocesan Vacancy

All Saints, Denton Burn; St George's, Bell's Close; St John Vianney, West Denton; & St Cuthbert's, Throckley: Parish Secretary - 20 hours per week. Closing date for applications - 29 September. For further information and details of how to apply please visit the website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact them on ☎ 0191 243 3301.

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

University Catholic Chaplaincy

For our younger parishioners heading out to different universities, don't forget to check out the catholic chaplaincy, wherever it may be. Most universities have a chaplaincy, and they can be a real home from home, which is important if you are feeling out on a limb. They are places where you can pop in for a cup of tea, talk to other students and talk to the chaplain. A good chaplaincy will also organise social events, and will of course offer daily Mass. Many chaplaincies have a Website or a Facebook presence, so you can easily look it up before you actually go. This website www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk may be helpful if you don't know where to start.



Sycamore Course

The Sycamore Course is designed 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.

Piety Stall at St Bede's Church

Would anyone like to take on the role of looking after the Piety Stall at St Bede's? There hasn't been one for many years, but experience tells us that it is good for a parish to have some piety goods - cards, rosaries, gifts, available for parishioners to purchase throughout the year and especially at various celebrations in the parish. If you think you could help, please let Father Peter know.

Academy Consultation Process

St Robert's First School, Morpeth is to join the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust, and to convert to Academy Status, along with all the other Catholic Schools in Northumberland, North Tyneside and Newcastle upon Tyne. The Bishop Bewick Trust is administered through Sacred Heart School in Newcastle. There has to be consultation before this happens, which began on 27th September for three weeks and you are invited to join in the consultation process by visiting the School Website www.st-roberts.northumberland.sch.uk or using this link <https://forms.gle/3Vq7ACrInSCz9GrVA> and having your say. St Bede's School at Bedlington joined the Trust earlier in 2021.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 2nd October <i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	10am Mass: Keith Smith (MM) 10.30am: Adoration and Confessions	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Margo Dewar
Sunday 3rd October 27th Sunday Yr B	9am Mass: Michael and Pat Ibbotson 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 4th October <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>		10am Mass: Francis Reid McAlroy
Tuesday 5th October <i>St Maria Faustina Kowalska</i>		
Wednesday 6th October <i>St Bruno</i>		10am Mass: Bill Smith
Thursday 7th October <i>Our Lady of the Rosary</i>	10am Mass: Eileen McCaskie	
Friday 8th October <i>Weekday</i>		10am Mass: Intention of Young Parents and Unborn Baby
Saturday 9th October <i>St John Henry Newman</i>	10am Mass: Intentions of Mike Parker 10.30am: Adoration and Confessions	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 10th October 27th Sunday Yr B	9am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for October 2021

Missionary Disciples: We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.



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



St Roberts School Open Day

St Robert's First School will be holding an open day for any prospective parents to come and visit school on Thursday 14th October between 9.30am and 6.30pm. Please book a slot by contacting the secretary, Mrs Perkins on ☎ 01670 512031. If this date is not convenient for you they will be happy to arrange another date.

Using the Car Park

Parents have been reminded through the school newsletter that the car park should not be used for school drop off between the hours of **8.30am and 3.30pm**. It is also important to ask everyone to be very careful with the speed that you drive in and out of the car park. Some people drive too fast in our small car park. The car park is also pedestrian access to church and school and we must remember that accidents may be caused if people drive too fast into the car park.

Change of Mass

Please note there is No Mass on Tuesday at St Robert's Church.

Admissions to Middle, High and Secondary Schools

The Online Portal for Admissions to Middle, High and Secondary Schools is now open from 12th September until 31st October 2021 for children transferring from First to Middle (current Year 4) – Middle to High (current Year 8) and Primary to Secondary (current Year 6). You will need to register as a new user if you haven't used the Portal before. All information is available on the Northumberland County Council website.

Time of Mass at St Robert's Church

During the Covid pandemic we changed the time of Mass on a Tuesday and Thursday at St Robert's Church to 10am. Some people are apparently asking if it will be returned to 9.15am. The simple answer is that it will be celebrated at the most popular time that people ask for, either 9.15am or 10am. The 9.15am Mass suits some of those who drop off children or grandchildren at School, whereas the 10am Mass gives a more leisurely start to the day for the majority of those who come to Mass. If you attend the morning midweek Mass, please let Father Peter know which time you prefer and once we "get back to normal" we will consider the Mass times.

