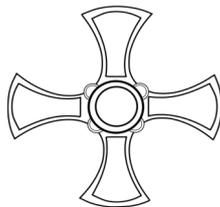


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

Parishes of the St Benet Biscop 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

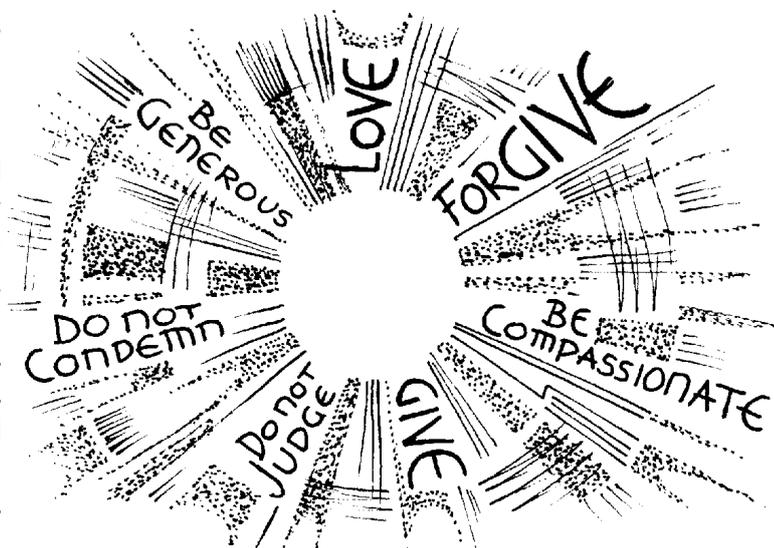
Sunday 20th February 2022 - Seventh Sunday Year C

"Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you". Surely that's a recipe for becoming a doormat, yet this is what Jesus is asking us to do in today's gospel.

The news at the moment is full of the tension that currently exists between Russia and Ukraine and of the interventions of world and European leaders trying to avoid an invasion. It is obvious that some of these political leaders do not like each other. Yet similar hatred and ill-feeling towards one another is also happening in many other parts of the world. We do not hear about it every day, but it is part of peoples everyday lives. And the news of threats of warfare, of shelling, of missile strikes, of hatred against each other worries us, and can make us mad.

The news can fuel our anger. We want to fight back at the aggressors. We want to hit back at the terrorists who hurt us. We want to see consequences for those who kill or maim or take away from us. Jesus' advice doesn't make any sense. How can we love those we don't even like! How can we forgive when punishment feels more human? But in the words of Martin Luther King Jr "When you live by the rule 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, you end up with a nation of blind and toothless people'".

These are tremendous words, because they tell us that when we respond to those who hate us with love instead of recrimination, we defeat evil. So how do we make it work? Firstly we have to know that love isn't a warm fuzzy emotion that leaps out of a Valentine's card. Love is a decision. Love is not a feeling it's a choice. We have to make decision to do good and then do it. We know we are loved by the way we are treated, and in the same way we have to show others that we love them by the way we treat them. Next come the rules. Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn and you will not be condemned. Give and it will be given to you. In short we have to treat everyone the way we would like to be treated ourselves whether we like them or not. If everyone could live their lives by Jesus' teaching conflict and war would be confined to dusty history books.





At this time of the Church's year, we are asked to pray for Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and those who Care for them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who work to comfort them; The Unemployed: 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 **Brian Fanning** (Morpeth) who died on Wednesday evening and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 21st February at 12noon; for **Alma Robson** (St Mary's Field, Morpeth) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 24th February at 11.30am; and **Father Malcolm Cairns**, Parish Priest of The Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert Parish at Amble whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 28th February at Corpus Christi Church, Gateshead; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections

Many thanks to everyone who is making regular donations to our Offertory Collections or paying by BACS or Standing Order. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Racial Justice Sunday

Many thanks for the Racial Justice Collection at St Robert's Church last Sunday which amounted to **£179.11**.

Latest COVID Guidelines and Coming to Mass

- **Hand sanitiser** - please use on entry to Church, before coming forward for Holy Communion and also at any time you move around Church, eg after checking the Lectionary or lighting candles and returning to your bench
- **Face coverings** - all those attending church, including Baptisms and Funerals, are encouraged to wear a face covering, not only for your own benefit but to protect those near you in Church.
- **NHS Test and Trace** – The Government is still encouraging certain venues, including places of worship, to keep a record of those attending to support the NHS Test and Trace programme. In our churches you can check in by scanning the NHS QR code poster via their NHS COVID-19 app.

If you have COVID or symptoms of it

You are invited back to Mass but obviously you have to have common sense about the spread of the virus. If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, or someone very close to you has, you should not attend church until your period of isolation has ended and you have two negative lateral flow tests. In this way we can continue to keep church a safe place for all those who do attend.

Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be held on Thursday 24th February, 10:30am - 12noon, in St Robert's Church Hall. This will be a social get together, not a business meeting.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 2nd March. Masses will be celebrated at 10am at St Bede's Church, and 12.30pm and 7pm at St Robert's Church.



Programming and Playing of Electronic Hymnal

We are looking for someone, or perhaps a couple of people at St Bede's Church, to take on the responsibility for the programming of hymns and playing them via our electronic hymnal at our Saturday evening Masses. Singing with accompaniment makes it much easier! If you can help and are willing to do this, please let Fr Peter know.



The Wednesday Word

"Wednesday Word" Reflections on the Sunday readings, for both adults and children can be accessed at wednesdayword.org It is a wonderful resource for both parishes and for Schools to help focus on the forthcoming Sunday readings.



Northern Catholic Calendar

Copies of the 2022 Northern Catholic Calendar are now on sale. This Handbook for the Diocese contains information for all parishes and Mass Times. Price £3.00 per copy.

Confirmation Programme

Next Weekend (26th/27th February) at all Masses, we will celebrate a Rite of Election for our young people who are asking to be confirmed. We are so pleased that these young people are putting themselves forward and this will be our opportunity to pray for them and show our support for them. The Meetings for preparation will then be held on



- ◇ 28th February, 6.30pm, Session 1 Baptism
 - ◇ 7th March, 6.30pm, Session 2 Church
 - ◇ 4th March, 6.30pm, Session 3 Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit
 - ◇ 21st March, 6.30pm, Session 4 Witness
 - ◇ 28th March, 6.30pm, Session 5 The Ceremony/Rite and its symbols
- On Friday 1st April 2022, at 7pm, Bishop Robert Byrne will celebrate the Confirmation Mass at St Bede's Church.

Preparing for Baptism

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Thursday March 10th at 7.30pm at St Robert's Church Hall. Parents requesting Baptism for a child are asked to contact us to make arrangements to attend this Meeting. **PLEASE NOTE: Please telephone the office to speak about Baptisms, please do not send in an email.** Better still speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen when you come to Mass. 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".



Newsletter by Email



We are now printing more newsletters as more people come back to Mass, but you could help us offset our carbon footprint by receiving the Newsletter by email. You will receive the e-version newsletter on a Friday evening rather than waiting for the paper copy at Sunday Mass. Email us with your details.

Using our Halls

We have Church Halls at both St Bede's and St Robert's which are available for parish use throughout the day. Other denominations in Bedlington and Morpeth seem to have thriving activities throughout the day during the week, while our Halls stand empty not being used. If anyone wants to consider events for the parish - Coffee Mornings, activities and events, craft groups, book clubs, discussion groups, prayer groups - with somebody who is prepared and committed to leading these events, please speak to Father Peter. Outside Groups / Non-Parish Groups can also book the Hall at the usual rates. If interested please speak to either Bernadette or Mary in our Parish Offices, or to Father Peter.

Food Donations

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Group need donations to support refugees and asylum seekers. If you can help with any of the following items, please leave in the box in the Church porch. **Tinned Tomatoes; Chickpeas; Tinned Fish (e.g. tuna); Biscuits, Rice, Sugar, Toilet Roll, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, and Toothbrushes.**

Wansbeck Food Bank and Matthew Project Donations

We now have an extra box [with a red lid] at the back of St Robert's Church for the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank [financial donations can also be made online] and the food bin for the Matthew Project is at the back of St Bede's Church. Donations of all non-perishable food items are welcome to be placed into the bins for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland, with the theme "I know the plans I have for you". A service will be held to celebrate this on 4th March at 2pm at St James' Church, Morpeth. Refreshments will be available after the Service. Anyone wishing to join the Choir and Music Group, is invited to a rehearsals on 25th February 2022 at 11am at St James' Church.



Online Lenten Reflections

The Diocesan Department for Faith and Mission have prepared daily reflections for Lent and these are now available. We have a pdf version available on the parish computer and can quite easily email this to anyone who would like to have it. Just send us an email and we will forward it to you.

Children's Liturgy Group

Many thanks to all Leaders and Helpers who have agreed to be involved once again with the Children's Liturgy Groups at both St Bede's and St Robert's Churches. We are aiming to resume on the First Sunday of Lent, if all adults involved are happy with this and if all parents are happy about their children attending! Naturally we have to make sure that all those involved have up-to date DBS paperwork, as it is almost two years since the groups last met. If there are parishioners wishing to get involved with this who are not currently involved, please let us know as soon as possible so that the necessary paperwork for DBS checks can be sorted. We need both leaders and assistants for children's liturgy. Speak to Fr Peter if interested.



Mill Hill Novena to St Joseph

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th–18th March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph with a special novena of Masses and Prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions, which will be placed at St Joseph's Altar during the Novena to be remembered in the Masses and prayers. If you would like to have your deceased relatives and friends remembered or if you have any special intentions, please list them and send to Maidenhead. If you would like receive a Novena Booklet by post to enable you to join from home by praying the daily Novena, please write to the address below, enclosing a stamped self addressed envelope if possible. Novena Director, 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 7GZ. Email: novenamhm@gmail.com Further details also available on their website: <https://millhillmissionaries.co.uk/novena/>

Marys Meals

Marys Meals have issued a new appeal for South Sudan, stating that they urgently need help to serve their nutritious meals in more schools in South Sudan where 2.2 million children are out of education – the highest rate in the world. Education across the country has been drastically hindered by years of violence and upheaval, resulting in deep poverty and internal displacement. Life for families is a real struggle, with survival often taking priority over children attending school. Together, we are already feeding around 70,000 children in South Sudan every school day – but your support is urgently needed to reach more desperately hungry children waiting for Mary's Meals. Around 2.2 million children in South Sudan are out of education – the highest rate in the world. Learning across the country has been drastically hindered by years of violence and upheaval, with survival often taking priority over learning. Internal displacement, deep poverty and hunger mean that life for families is a real struggle. Marys Meals need your support to serve our nutritious meals at more schools across South Sudan and bring desperately hungry children back into the classroom. Log on to www.marysmeals.com and you can donate online.

The Northern Cross

Copies of The Northern Cross for February are now available at the back of Church. Pick your copy up now at your church. Alternatively, you can subscribe online here <https://northerncross.org.uk/subscriptions/>

Diocesan Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for the appointment of a Parish Secretary at the parishes of Our Lady and St Columba, St Bernadette and Our Lady and St Aidan, Wallsend. Closing date for applications is Thursday 24th February 2022. Please visit our website at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies/>



New Parishioner and Updated Information

Are you new to the Parish? Have you completed the "Keeping in Touch" form with your details. Are you a regular parishioner who has moved house and need to update your details? Please complete one of the forms available at Church and send back to us. If you want this form emailed to you, please let us know and then you can complete it on your own computer and email it back to us.

CAFOD North East: Volunteers sought

A vital aspect of our church is people being willing to share their talents, experience and energy. Could you volunteer for CAFOD? They have lots of different ways you can get involved such as: In the parish - where you will be highlighting CAFOD's work to support communities globally who are living with injustices and in poverty. In local schools – where you'll deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work. No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided. Coordinating volunteers to help us support, encourage and bring together a small group of volunteers. If you'd like to know more about volunteering for CAFOD, please get in touch with them by phoning Mark Maughan on 07779804243 or email him at mmaughan@cafod.org.uk



CAFOD are also encouraging people across the UK to get involved in Parish fundraising this Lent - in person or online! - to help give hunger its marching orders! Different suggestions include: **Community Walk Against Hunger: Saturday 26 March** - Organise a walk in your community to support children whose lives are at risk through malnutrition. Plan your walk now! Walk Against Hunger: Lent challenge! Cover 200k your way - 5k every day for 40 days, or in one go with a group - on your own, or as part of a team. They suggest you look at their website and visit their JustGiving page and help stamp out hunger!

Synod 2023

The Youth Ministry Team have managed to secure some time with Sister Natalie Becquart to discuss 'The Synod and a listening Church'. Sr. Nathalie is the under secretary appointed by Pope Francis, to the Synod of Bishops at the Vatican. She is currently organising the synod process and empowering the Church across the world to journey towards the international Synod. She will be the guest speaker at a webinar on the 5th March 11am-12.30pm for people across the diocese, in what is described as "a time to listen, discuss and question her on the church and the way forward". If you wish to be part of this webinar and to listen to what Sr Natalie has to please, you are asked to register by contacting YMT by email admin@ymt.org requesting 'webinar registration'



Synod Information from Faith and Mission

Join the Conversation ... Last weekend, Partnerships across the Diocese sent people to join Bishop Robert for a morning of prayer, talking and listening, and to feedback on what they have heard during the last few months of our Diocesan Synod process. There was a lot of energy in the room, a joyful atmosphere, and people described "an overwhelming feeling of the Holy Spirit at work"; "It has been uplifting and inspiring."; "So many people with so many really good things to talk about."; "Coming along today has been a real joy." Bishop Robert said, "We've had a very fruitful morning... we go forward trusting each other, and with a confidence in the joy and power of the Gospel". If you've not been part of the conversation yet, there is one more opportunity at 7 pm on Wednesday 23rd February. There will be an online gathering where you can join in to add your voice to the Synod. To register and Join the Conversation, visit <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/synod-join-the-conversation/>



Wansbeck Valley Food Bank AGM

The Trustees of Wansbeck Valley Food Bank have pleasure in inviting you to attend their Annual General Meeting on Monday 14th March 2022 in St George's United Reform Church, Bridge Street Morpeth, NE61 1PD at 7pm. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about how the organisation operates, its progress over the last year and its plans for the future. In addition, there will be the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any issues arising. If you wish to attend please ring 07841 908477 or Email Wansbeckvalleyfoodbank@gmail.com.



Diocesan Rite of Election

Bishop Robert will celebrate the Diocesan Rite of Election on Sunday 6th March at St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle upon Tyne, for all those across the diocese who are joining the Church at Easter; and we will celebrate a 'Sending Forth Ceremony' at St Bede's Church at the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church on Saturday 5th March for Dawn Allen who is to be received into the Church at our Easter Vigil.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 19th February <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am Rosary 10am Mass: Holy Souls 10.30am: Adoration and Confessions [until 11am]	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Joseph Sweeney
Sunday 20th February 7th Sunday of the Year	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Paul Morton	
Monday 21st February <i>Weekday</i>	12noon Requiem Mass: Brian Fanning	
Tuesday 22nd February <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Andrew Shackleton	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 23rd February <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Molly Ruddy
Thursday 24th February <i>Weekday</i>	11.30am Requiem Mass: Alma Robson	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 25th February <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Holy Souls
Saturday 26th February <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am Rosary 10am Mass: Deceased Friends & Relatives(AB) 10.30am: Adoration and Confessions [until 11am]	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 27th February 8th Sunday of the Year	9am Mass: Brian Fanning (AB) 11am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for February 2022

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women, thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.



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 available as a recording on the above Parish YOUTUBE site anytime. 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.**



The Diocesan Year of the Eucharist

There are several aims of the Year of the Eucharist ...

- 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.

Each one of us has the opportunity to achieve these aims in our daily lives. During this Year of the Eucharist can you make the extra effort to attend daily Mass? Can you travel to Morpeth or to Bedlington to get in an extra Mass? Or come back to Sunday Mass and celebrate the Eucharist with your parish community. Come to Saturday morning Mass and stay on for half an hour of quiet prayer. Come to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass for some quiet prayer.



Teas and Coffees

Teas and Coffees are now available after the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and also after the 9am Mass at St Robert's. We do not have any volunteers at the moment to provide tea and coffee after the Sunday 11am Mass at St Robert's Church. If anyone else can assist with preparation of tea and coffee please let us know.



Repairs at St Bede's

We are waiting for roofers to attend St Bede's Church to complete repairs following Storm Arwen in November. They are hopefully attending on 2nd March to begin the work. We also have loose material on the Presbytery chimneys and we ask you to beware on Catholic Row and also in the Car Park, close to the Presbytery. We don't want falling masonry to damage your cars! We also need work to be carried out on the wall between the Car Park and Presbytery Garden. Unfortunately the ivy (and its roots) that was growing there for many years, has caused serious damage to the wall. This has now been removed but we need to rebuild part of the wall and to make sure the remainder of the wall is safe and secure.



Refugee Biryani and Bananas

RBB was formed in 2015 in response to the escalation of the Syrian Refugee Crisis and the problems faced by people who were camping in Dunkirk in Northern France. The group felt the need to continue their work and are currently on the Greek Island of Chios where thousands of displaced people have taken dangerous journeys seeking sanctuary in Europe. Parishioners at St Roberts helped to provide much needed medical supplies, food and clothing in those early days. The Charity are now seeking further financial help to be able to continue their work. If you feel you can help, donations can be made to Refugee Biryani and Bananas, Account 67200953, Sort Code 08-92-99. Further information from Maura Illingworth who has copies of the RBB Newsletter. More information also available on their website <https://www.refugeebiryaniabananas.org/>