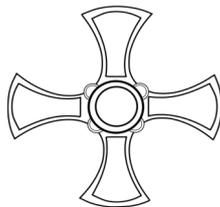


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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
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www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service 📞 07732 980740

Sunday 13th March 2022 - Second Sunday of Lent (C)

Jesus is the Son of God, but there are those who have other opinions. Perhaps he was just a very good man with a gift for teaching and healing. Perhaps he was just a prophet. Perhaps he was just a charismatic leader, a social worker, a philanthropist, a rebel or some kind of religious genius.

Today Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. And as Jesus was praying the appearance of his face is changed, and his clothes become a dazzling white. Suddenly they see two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They have appeared in glory and are speaking of his departure, which he is to accomplish at Jerusalem.



What the Bible is saying here is that Jesus of Nazareth was no ordinary human being. Jesus was no ordinary carpenter from Galilee. Jesus was not just a miracle worker, not just a teacher, not just a healer. In the 'Transfiguration' Jesus reveals his true identity. Jesus is the Son of God, the only Son of God. It's no wonder that Peter wants to erect three tents to hold onto this truth. How privileged the early disciples were to have been given this vision. We have not been given first hand experience of the Transfiguration, but what we do have is the evidence of how the disciples' lives were changed by the knowledge of Jesus' identity. The disciples had the memory of the Transfiguration to motivate

them through the difficult times ahead. We have the memory of Peter's commitment and influence to motivate us similarly.

There are those who think it is good enough simply to believe Jesus was a good man. For those of us who believe Jesus is the Son of God, we will never attend the funeral of a loved one with thoughts of never seeing them again. Believing in God, means believing that one day we will share in Jesus' glory.



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; for many people who have COVID-19 at the moment; for all who have died recently, including **Father Harry Ryan** (retired) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Thomas Aquinas Church Darlington on Friday 18th March; **Mary Wilson** whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's Church on Tuesday 15th March; **Charles Cramer** whose Funeral Service is to be held at St Bede's Church on Thursday 24th March at 1.30pm; for **Sirio Nardini** (Morpeth) who died on 9th March, aged 100 years; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Collections at St. Robert's Church for February

Many thanks for your offerings to the weekly collections either in church or via the Bank. They are greatly appreciated.
Standing Orders/Bank payments - **£3,586.92**;
Loose plate donations - **£1,550.24**.

Message from Father Peter

I would like say Thank You to everyone for best wishes and cards, since I was rather quickly taken into Cramlington Hospital for emergency surgery. I am very grateful to NHS111, the paramedics, and staff at Cramlington Hospital for the care and attention given during my brief stay. I thank Deacon Stephen for all his running around during the days I was in hospital and for coordinating the different priests for weekend Masses. I'm nearly back to my normal self and hope to back celebrating Mass shortly. With thanks to everyone, Fr Peter

COVID Guidelines and Coming to Mass

We now have only two things that we ask when you come to Church. Please continue to use the Hand sanitiser 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. We also ask that you continue to wear a Face covering; all those attending church, for whatever Mass or celebration, 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. It is no longer required to sign in using the QR code.

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.

Children's Liturgy Group

Our Children's Liturgy Groups have started at both St Roberts and St Bede's Churches. We are very grateful to our Catechists who are leading this. Children, up to Yr5 are invited to join the Children's Liturgy Group. Children older than that should remain in Church for Mass.



Programming and Playing of Electronic Hymnal

We are still 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. Paper copies of The Wednesday Word are also available from St Robert's Church



Confirmation Programme



The Confirmation Programme continues on Monday evenings at St Bede's Church for those who are preparing to be confirmed ... 14th March, 6.30pm; 21st March, 6.30pm; 28th March, 6.30pm; On Friday 1st April 2022, at 7pm, Bishop Robert Byrne will celebrate the Confirmation Mass at St Bede's Church. Please keep these young people in your prayers

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.



Online Lenten Reflections

As we begin the second week of Lent, it is not too late to join in with the Diocesan Lenten Reflection which are available on diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/liturgy-prayer/#seasonal

Stations of the Cross



We celebrate and pray the Stations of the Cross this week after the Services of Word and Communion on Tuesday and Thursday at St Robert's Church, Morpeth.

Lenten Lunches

There will be a Lenten Soup Lunch at St Robert's Church Hall next Friday, 18th March, from 112pm—1pm; and 'Churches Together In Bedlington' (CTIB) will be holding Lenten Lunches at Trinity Church in Bedlington, from 12 – 1pm on 17th March, 24th March, 31st March and 7th April. Soup and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.



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.



Preparing for Baptism

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held in May at St Bede's Church. 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".

Vigil for Peace in Ukraine

There will be a Vigil of Prayer for Peace in Ukraine on Friday 25th March at 7pm at St Robert's Church, Morpeth. Everyone Welcome.



Ukraine Appeal

There has been a tremendous outpouring of support for the people of Ukraine during this very difficult time. The situation for people still in Ukraine is desperate. People here may still be wondering how to support. Those who were collecting clothing and other goods seem to be overwhelmed with donations received and are now asking for financial donations which can be used in Ukraine and amongst refugees at the border crossings of Ukraine. There are many organisations raising funds to support the people of Ukraine but some Catholic Charities doing this are ...



- The CAFOD Website ... cafod.org.uk ... and click on the DEC Appeal for Ukraine. 
- Aid to the Church In Need website ... acnuk.org ... and click on their link for the Ukraine Appeal 
- Caritas website <https://www.caritas.org/ukraine-appeal-22/> has a donate button and explains what they have done in Ukraine since the 2014 Russian invasion into Eastern Ukraine. Caritas Ukraine has helped nearly 826, 500 people affected by the humanitarian crisis. Its work is crucial especially for the most vulnerable people, such as the elderly and children. 
- The Jesuit Refugee Service also has a donate button on their website ... jrseurope.org/en/news/ukraine-jrs-in-action-to-welcome-refugees/ and explains what they do to support refugees from Ukraine 

A prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,
 we pray for the people of Ukraine,
 for all those suffering or afraid,
 that you will be close to them and protect them.
 We pray for world leaders,
 for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.
 We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis,
 we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need.
 May we walk in your ways
 so that peace and justice become a reality
 for the people of Ukraine and for all the world.
Amen

Cards for Occasions

We have a small selection of cards for Mothers Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter at the back of Church.

CAFOD Fast Day

CAFOD Fast Day was marked on Friday 11th March. Envelopes are available today if you wish to make a donation. These will be available for a couple of weeks, so please just hand in the envelopes at the Offertory during Mass or post through the Presbytery letterbox. This Fast Day collection will allow CAFOD to support those who need help the most in those areas of the world that is affected by warfare and violence. CAFOD immediately supported Caritas International with a £100,000 donation and continues to support those there who need help, but it is also supporting other troubled areas of the world such as Sierra Leone where people suffer daily because of ongoing fighting in that country.



Rosary Chain for Peace

Could you join the Rosary Chain by saying one decade of the Rosary each day during Lent and offer it for Peace in the World? To take part all you have to do is sign the form at the back of Church, and say that Decade of the rosary each day, then a complete Rosary (the Four Mysteries) will be said every day.



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.

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.

The Northern Cross

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

Diocesan Vacancy

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint a new Senior Administrator in the Safeguarding Team. The role will be based in the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle and is full-time. Closing date for applications: 23rd March 2022. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact the HR team on ☎ 0191 243 3301



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.

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.



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 12th March <i>Weekday</i>		5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Anne Chadwick
Sunday 13th March 2nd Sunday of Lent	9am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 14th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		
Tuesday 15th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion <i>(followed by Stations of the Cross)</i> 12.30pm Funeral Service: Mary Wilson	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 16th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Thursday 17th March <i>St Patrick</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion <i>(followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 18th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 19th March <i>St Joseph</i>	9.40am Rosary 10am Service of Word and Communion	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Michael Mulhall
Sunday 20th March 3rd Sunday of Lent	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Sheila Brown (K&BB)	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for March 2022

A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges: We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.



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.**



Inner Healing Course

Do you feel called to accompany those seeking inner healing? The Diocesan Faith and Mission Department will be providing training in this ministry, initially to help you discern how God may be directing you. A residential training course will take place at Minsteracres Retreat Centre and will run across 2 sessions: Session 1: 22nd - 23rd April 2022; Session 2: 15th - 16th July 2022. The cost of the course is £180.00 per person. For more information look for the poster on your parish notice board, or contact the Vicariate for Faith & Mission admin team who can provide further details and application forms. adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Songs of Praise at Corbridge

You are warmly invited to a special Songs of Praise music recording of hymns and songs at St Andrew's Church, Corbridge. Recording takes place on Monday 21st March 6.30pm—9.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Market Place, Corbridge, Northumberland, NE45 5AA. To apply for free tickets, please send your name, address, contact phone number and number of tickets requested to SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv. Please include 'Songs of Praise Corbridge' in your subject header. Alternatively, you can call us on ☎ 07734 030 888 to book your tickets. We would love to see every seat filled, so please only apply if you know you are able to come.



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; Chick-peas; 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 Food-bank [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.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is still planning to travel in October, and there are places still available. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact Gill at Tangney Tours on ☎ 01732 886666 for further information or for booking forms.