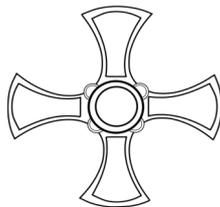


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

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Sunday 6th March 2022 - First Sunday of Lent Year C

If we are not criminals, and we don't particularly consider ourselves to be sinners, do we really need to worry about the devil, or the dangers of temptation? If the temptations in our lives are simply to sit at the computer too long, or indulge in the odd tipple, how much does that really matter?

On the first Sunday of Lent we are always treated to the same lesson.

We are asked to consider what we are about, how the devil might put spanners in the works, and what we can do about it. Today the devil finds Jesus in the wilderness. He finds him when he is hungry and weak and tempts him with attractive options, food, fame and protection. We don't see Jesus dithering, not even for a minute. Jesus is able to put the temptation behind him because he knows what he is about. Jesus understands his mission and it isn't about materialistic benefit or power.

Jesus is able to put aside the temptation because he is confident that the same Holy Spirit that has taken him into the wilderness will lead him back out.

The wilderness comes in all shapes and sizes. For us it could be moments when we're feeling lost, broken, unloved, tired or overburdened.

In these moments of weakness this is when we are most at danger. These are moments when the devil can come to us offering comfortable and attractive options. Comfortable and attractive options can tempt us to make poor decisions; decisions that provide distractions.

The devil can be subtle.

Temptations rarely lead the majority of us into crime or even into sin. Being tempted to finish off a bottle of wine or spend longer than we ought on Facebook doesn't seem so bad, but are the tens of little distractions we succumb to each and every day taking us away from who we really are, and from what is genuinely important?

Every day the Holy Spirit is guiding us towards our specific missions in life.

Do we say 'yes' to the work God has lined up for us, or do we fall for all those comfortable little distractions?





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 remembering especially Fr Peter; for many people who have COVID-19 at the moment; for all who have died recently, and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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.

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.

Confirmation Programme

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

- ◇ 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.



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

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.

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".

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.



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 today 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/>

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.

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/>

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!



Lenten lunches

Lenten lunch will be served on Friday 11th March in **St Robert's Church Hall** from 11.45 - 1pm all donations go to Cafod and Mary's Meals. CTIB (Churches Together In Bedlington) will be holding a Lenten Lunch at **Trinity Church in Bedlington** 12 - 1pm on 10th March. Soup and light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Catholic Women's League



The next CWL meeting will be on Tuesday, 8th March, at 11:00am, in St Robert's Church Hall. This will be a social get together, not a business meeting.

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

Following Storm Arwen in November we are having roof repairs done and 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.



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 Wansbeckvalley-foodbank@gmail.com.



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.



Holy Hour for Ukraine.

Deacon Stephen will be leading a Holy Hour on Sunday 6th March at St Bede's at 4pm comprising of Stations of The Cross and Benediction and prayers for Ukraine.

Ukraine Appeal

Your help is asked to support Ukraine refugees fleeing deadly violence. Aid agencies and partners are working to offer life saving essentials to people on the Ukraine borders. Please donate online to:- cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Ukraine-crisis www.christianaid.org.uk/

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 5th March <i>Weekday</i>	12.30pm Baptism of Emily Aoibhin Clare Dupre	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 6th March 1st Sunday of Lent	9am Mass: James Robert Weatheritt 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 7th March <i>Ss Perpetua & Felicity</i>		
Tuesday 8th March <i>St John of God</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Stations of the Cross	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 9th March <i>St Francis of Rome</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Thursday 10th March <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion followed by Stations of the Cross	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 11th March <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 12th March <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am Rosary 10am Service of Word and Communion	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: The People of Ukraine
Sunday 13th March 2nd Sunday of Lent	9am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	

The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for March 2022



In March we pray with **Pope Francis** for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may we continue to defend the dignity of all human life with our prayers and actions. 'Human dignity is the same for all human beings: when I trample on the dignity of another, I am trampling on my own'. – **Pope Francis** .



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.**



Thanks

We would like to extend our gratitude to Fr Seamus O'Kane and Fr Noel Colahan for helping St Bede's and St Robert's Parishes in Fr Peter's absence and also to Deacon Stephen for leading Services of Word and Communion and for distributing Ashes on

Ash Wednesday.

Peace Actions for March 2022

If you are 'giving up for Lent', it is good to aim to ensure that your 'giving up' is benefiting the poor and the vulnerable. We ask for prayer for the people of Ukraine and urge you to choose an emergency appeal to support.

Bitesize

You have to decide what your highest priorities are and have the courage - pleasantly, smilingly, non-apologetically — to say "no" to other things. And the way to do that is by having a bigger "yes" burning inside. The enemy of the "best" is often the "good."

Stephen Covey

