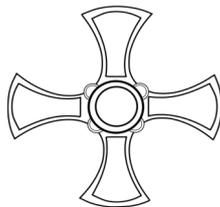


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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](mailto:morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) | [peterjstott@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk)

[www.strobertsmorpeth.com](http://www.strobertsmorpeth.com) | [www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk](http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk) | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

## Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Palm Sunday

Today we remember Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Good Friday. A question that gets asked a lot is, why did Jesus not turn his donkey around and bypass Jerusalem altogether? Wouldn't it have been better for Jesus to have lived into old age continuing to teach and to heal? The hardest lesson for Jesus' disciples to learn was that for Jesus to have bypassed Jerusalem, he would also have had to bypass his mission. Jesus had an unwavering commitment, and as Christians we are asked to share that commitment, and understand what that commitment might mean in the detail of our lives.



Commitment doesn't just mean thinking something is quite a good idea, or thinking we really ought to pursue something. It doesn't even mean badly wanting to do something. Commitment is about a passion that drives us towards an end goal despite all the odds. Commitment is about dedication, and self discipline. Commitment means being uncomfortable now and then; it might even mean self sacrifice. Christianity is not just about wearing our Sunday best and being very nice people. As Christians we are looking at the world in all its life and death situations and knowing that compromise isn't an option. How sad to get to the end of life and having to admit we have done nothing of great importance; nothing worthy of our commitment; nothing worthy of being a Christian. If this all seems a bit daunting, it doesn't have to be. Part of our larger commitment brings smaller daily commitments. Christianity is a big meaningful journey starting out with small manageable steps.

For Jesus, commitment and self sacrifice went hand in hand. This week we remember the death of Jesus as a supreme act of love. Jesus taught us that we are worth all that pain and suffering. How do we live our lives from this day on, knowing that Jesus considered **us** worth his ultimate sacrifice?





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 **Adeline Thirtle** [Morpeth] whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's Church on Wednesday 20th April; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Holy Places Collection

Today on Palm Sunday [9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> April] there will be a Special Retiring Collection for the Holy Places, the special places in the Holy Land associated with the life of Jesus. We will also have collection baskets available on Good Friday for the Holy Places Collection. If you have an envelope in your box for this please remember to use it.



### Lenten Alms Collection



Many thanks to all who contributed to the Retiring Collection for St Cuthbert's Care (Lenten Alms) last Sunday. We raised **£483.91** at St Robert's Church. Please pray for the work they carry out throughout the diocese.

### Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Tuesday 12th April at 11am, in St Robert's Church Hall. This will be a social get together, not a business meeting.



### CWL - a Plea for Help on Good Friday

On Good Friday, St Robert's Catholic Women's League are providing the Teas and Coffees as usual in the Market Place for the end of the Procession of Witness. However, they have issued a plea for help ... can someone help to take 3 tables from St Robert's Church Hall to the Market Place on Good Friday at about 10.45am and then help to bring them back at approximately 12.45pm? If anyone can help please contact Anne Beattie or Elizabeth Dixon.

### Parish Secretary

On Thursday Bernadette Rich retires as our Parish Secretary at St Roberts. She will certainly be a miss to us all, as we have become used to her being in the Parish Office each day. We wish Bernadette (and Clive) all our thanks for what she has done, and our prayers and best wishes as she looks forward begins to enjoy her retirement.

### Appeal for Welcomers

Can you help us by being a Welcomer at Church before Mass begins? If you can help with this, coming a little earlier and then welcoming people to our church, making sure people collect their Missalettes, Newsletters and Hymnbooks, it would be greatly appreciated. Send us your details.

### Confessions

If you have been away from Church throughout the pandemic, you may feel the need to go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion once again. Please remember that we have Confessions on a Saturday morning at St Robert's Church and a Saturday evening at St Bede's Church. You can also ask anytime if you need to go to Confession.

### Stations of the Cross

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

### Diocesan Chrism Mass



The Diocesan Chrism Mass will be celebrated on Thursday morning at St Mary's Cathedral at 11am. At this Mass the diocesan priests present renew their priestly promises and the oils used for the celebration of the Sacraments throughout the year - Oil of Catechumens, Oil of Chrism and Oil of the Sick - are blessed and then taken back to local Deaneries. All Welcome.

### Children's Liturgy Group

Our Children's Liturgy Groups are now meeting once again at both the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and the 9am Mass at St Roberts Church. We encourage all Children at school, up to Yr5 to join the Children's Liturgy Group. Children older than that should remain in Church for Mass.



### 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. All Welcome.

### Altar Servers Needed

If any young people are willing to become Altar Servers at either St Bede's or St Robert's Churches, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible.



### Collection Envelopes



We have over 70 boxes of collection envelopes left at St Robert's, that were not collected when Peter Smith had them available outside Church recently. These boxes are available this weekend at the back of Church. After this weekend, you can collect your envelopes from the Presbytery. Some people who have a Standing Order, also have a named box, which should be used especially for your "Special Collections". Please call as soon as possible to collect your box of envelopes.

### Your Gift Aid Status

Has your status for Gift Aid changed in the last year? Please contact us to tell us if your status has changed, otherwise we might be claiming for something we are not able to do! Please contact us at the Parish Office. Likewise if you feel you would like to join the gift Aid scheme if you are a UK taxpayer, let us know and we will let you have the correct paperwork.



### Parish Catechists for First Holy Communion

I would like to rebuild our teams of parish catechists to help with First Holy Communion Preparation. The covid pandemic put an end to all that we previously did for preparing our young people for First Confession and Holy Communion, but now is the time to start thinking ahead to the autumn when we will call together those families and children to be prepared, but we need people from both churches so that we have a group from St Bede's and a group from St Robert's to assist the school in all that they do, but mainly to have the preparation parish based once again. Those interested should speak with Fr Peter and a meeting will be called for all who are willing to do this.

### Parish Council Meeting

St Roberts is to have an in-person Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 27th April in the upstairs Meeting Room in the Hall. If anyone has any items for discussion, please pass them to Fr Peter via email if possible, no later than Sunday 24th April. It is my hope that as a Parish we can start to look at what is important for us. As we do not have an elected Parish Council, I open this invitation to anyone who might be interested in coming together to see how we rebuild our parish communities; after the covid pandemic what are our priorities as a Church and as a worshipping community.

### Sick and Retired Priests Collection

The Sick and Retired Priests Collection will be taken on the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> April. This Collection is administered by the Northern Brethren Fund, a group of diocesan priests who aim to raise funds every year to help give grants to our sick and retired priests. Each month, the NBF gives out £450 to over 35 priests, over £15,000 per month, a substantial amount of money every month. In the last three years the Sick and Retired Priests Collection throughout the diocese only amounted to just over £35,000.

In 2021, the Collection raised just **£5,928**;  
in 2020, it was **£7,908**; and in £2019, it was **£21,465**.  
TOTAL in 3 years = **£35,301.00**

Father Peter is now one of the 'Superiors' of the NBF and is aiming to make sure that this year's collection can support the work of the NBF for our sick and retired priests. Please note that the Diocesan Finance Office does not financially assist our sick and retired priests. They will provide accommodation, but the money the retired priests receive comes from their state pension and their NBF monthly grant. The NBF is also open to accepting new benefactors who might like to consider making a will, with the NBF as a beneficiary, or using other forms of Donations, Standing Orders, or Gift Aid, that could be considered. For more information please speak to Father Peter. Please support this collection.

### Newsletter by Email

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.



### Heritage Open Day Support

Heritage Open Days will be held in September, for us it will probably 17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> September. This may seem a long way away. But if St Robert's Church and Presbytery is to be involved in this, we need to know we have enough help to do this, with people prepared to help erect displays in Church and the Presbytery and others willing to be available on the day to welcome visitors in the Church and in Collingwood House. If you think you could be available in preparation and on the day please let us know by contacting Fr Peter or Bernadette in the Parish Office where we will keep a list of who is offering help. Thanks to those few who have already offered!



### "Encountering The Son" Faith Booklet

The Diocesan Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced the 'Encountering the Son' booklet, which is the second of a series of three booklets to accompany the Year of the Eucharist and our Diocesan Synodal reflection. The booklet is available on the Diocesan website <https://diocesahn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Year-of-the-Eucharist-Encountering-the-Son-reflection-booklet.pdf>

### COVID Guidelines and Coming to Mass

We ask that you use the hand sanitiser gel on entrance to the Church and it is also available in the benches which we encourage you to use before coming forward to receive Holy Communion. Face Coverings are optional but are advised during this increased time of infection. There are no longer any social distancing rules.



### Return to Church

"Whilst the circulation of the virus continues in society, the clear direction of the UK Government is that after two years of restrictions and following the successful roll-out of the vaccination programme, the usual patterns of life should return. This is true for the life of the Church in England in Wales in all of its activities, including our own diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Whilst recognising this principle, there should be vigilance at the local level in terms of viral infection and transmission and local adaptations should be put in place". (Bishops of England and Wales 28th February 2022)

### 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.

### Preparing for Baptism

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on 12th 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 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.** Parents are asked to meet with Fr Peter (or Deacon Stephen if for St Bede's Church) to fill in the paperwork and then after the Baptism Preparation to meet once again to 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". According to Canon Law, Godparents should be Catholic. Those who are Christians of other denominations can be Witnesses. Those who are not Baptised, and those who declare as having no faith, agnostic or atheist cannot stand as Godparents.



### 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.

### Synod 2021 -2023

Local Synod submissions from the Partnership, from the Northumberland Vicariate and from the Lay Pastoral Forum are all now available on St Robert's Parish website. Click on the "Useful Information" button" and then on the "St Benet Biscop Partnership" drop down button to read them..

### 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. NB ... if you have booked to travel, please check to make sure that your passport will be valid for a minimum of six months from the date you arrive in Israel, otherwise you have to renew your passport!



### 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.



### Open House Open Again

Open House is meeting again, but now meets on a Tuesday afternoon in St Bede's Church Hall at Bedlington. It gives people an opportunity to come together meet, socialize and enjoy a cup of tea with new friends and old. There are also occasional trips out for fish and chips, for example. Come along on a Tuesday afternoon from 2pm - 4pm. Anyone willing to help out as a volunteer would also be greatly appreciated. More information for anyone who is interested in coming along or for any prospective volunteers is available from Christine Priest.

### Christian Aid Coffee Morning/Toy Sale

The Morpeth Christian Aid Group are holding a coffee morning and selling tray-bakes and (second hand) toys on Holy Saturday 15th April 10 am till noon at St James Church, outside if the weather is fine enough. We would appreciate any donations of toys for sale at this event, and look forward to you joining us for tea or coffee.

### Christian Aid Week - 15th to 21st May

Christian Aid Week starts with an ecumenical service at 4pm on Sunday 15th May in Morpeth Methodist Church. You are invited to join in to pray for all those in need throughout the World, and for the success of Christian Aid Week, to provide the resources to give them the help they need. As last year, we will be using "delivery-only" envelopes for the house-to-house collection, i.e. we only need people to deliver them and to act as a "postbox" for those who choose to respond to return their envelopes. We will not be going round to knock on doors to collect the envelopes. Because of this we need the "post box" addresses to be in or very close to the street they are delivered to, so we need lots of people to volunteer for this. If you can also deliver the envelopes for your street that is great. Alternatively, can you volunteer to deliver envelopes, which could be anywhere in the town, for someone else to be the "post box"? Please sign up on the list or contact Gerry Harber on 517829 if you can do either delivery and/or be a post box.



### Sponsored Walk

Gerry Harber is taking part in The Great Outdoors Challenge walking across Scotland in May. His route this year is about 200 miles, from Acharacle to Muchalls near Stonehaven. He is asking for sponsorship for Christian Aid. You can sponsor him after Mass on Sundays or via Just Giving at: [www.justgiving.com/Gerald-Harber](http://www.justgiving.com/Gerald-Harber)!



# Masses and Intentions this week

|   | St Robert of Newminster Church<br>Morpeth  | St Bede's Church<br>Bedlington   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>Weekday in Lent</i>          | 9.40am The Rosary<br>10am Mass   | 5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b>  |
| <b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><b>Palm Sunday</b>               | <b>9am Mass:</b> Helen & Douglas Cone<br><b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish  | 1.00pm Baptism: Tobias Whittaker<br>4.00pm Stations of the Cross                                       |
| <b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>Monday of Holy Week</i>       |  | <b>10am Mass:</b> Northern Brethren Fund -<br>Fr Harry Ryan  |
| <b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>     | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Raymond & Margaret<br>Taylor Walker & John Bell<br><i>(followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>   | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion                        |
| <b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i> | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion  | <b>10am Mass:</b> Northern Brethren Fund   |
| <b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>Holy Thursday</i>           | <b>7.00pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper</b><br>Private Intention (AB)<br><i>Followed by "Watching" in St Robert's Church until ...</i><br><b>10pm</b> Night Prayer   |  |
| <b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>Good Friday</i>               | <b>9.30am</b> Office of Readings and Morning Prayer<br><b>10.00am</b> Children's Stations of the Cross<br><b>11.30am</b> Procession of Witness in Morpeth<br><b>3pm Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord</b> | <b>12pm</b> Procession of Witness in Bedlington<br><b>3pm Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord</b> |
| <b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>Holy Saturday</i>           | <b>9.30am</b> Office of Readings and Morning Prayer  | <b>7.00pm</b> Easter Vigil Mass: People of the Parish  |
| <b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><b>Easter Sunday</b>             | <b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish<br><b>11am Mass:</b> Michael Lillico   |  |



## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for April 2022

**For health care workers:** We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.



## 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.**



## Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea)

Stella Maris is holding a Day of Prayer & Pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on Saturday 4th June 2022, led by the Rt Rev Paul Mason, Stella Maris Bishop Promoter, England & Wales. The pilgrimage starts at 12 noon. All are invited. Please check tide times. Celtic Prayers on the Green 12noon; Concelebrated Mass in St Mary the Virgin Church 3pm; Saturday Safe Crossing Times 9:10am – 5.05pm. Parish groups, families & individuals all welcome. For further information please contact Regional Port Chaplains Paul Atkinson (07906 212 426) or Peter Barrigan (07713 924 504)



## 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**



## Holy Island Vinnie Camp 2022 - Volunteers urgently needed

Holy Island Camp will be running holidays for children in 2022. Our helpers are all volunteers and in order to go ahead successfully in 2022 we urgently need new volunteers to help in the kitchens, preparing food, washing up and clearing the dining hall. We also need care-taking staff who would be able to carry out a cleaning role. The work is tiring but also fun (you would be joining an established and very welcoming team) and the young people benefit enormously from a traditional seaside type holiday. The commitment can be for as little as three days a year in Term Time or more if you are able to help on multiple weeks or through the Summer Holidays. Camp 2022 will run for the first two separate weeks of the Summer Holiday and the last two. All helpers will be required to obtain a free Diocesan DBS check and some training. If you are interested, please visit our website <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/about-camp>



## Holy Island Camp Social and Ceilidh

Calling all existing and new Volunteers and Friends. Holy Island Vinnies Camp will be holding a free social/ Ceilidh on Saturday 28th May 7:30pm - 11:30pm at Blackfriars @The Ouseburn. All welcome. Please email: [BarbaraT@svp.org.uk](mailto:BarbaraT@svp.org.uk) for tickets, as numbers are limited.