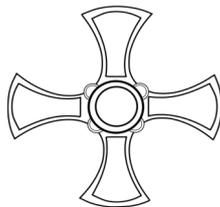


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 17th April 2022 - Easter Sunday

One of the strangest phrases to describe the events of Easter was the one coined by the early Church. They spoke about the "Paschal Mystery". When applied to Easter the word mystery does not mean something which cannot be solved. Rather, it means a "hidden plan" which has been brought to fulfilment. So the Paschal Mystery is God's plan for the world, God's desire that all should be saved through the death and resurrection of Jesus. St. Paul speaks of the mystery as "God's plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Jesus".



This mystery is what we pray about in our public worship. Christians speak about celebrating the "sacred mysteries" whenever they gather for the Eucharist. Anglicans call Matrimony a "holy mystery", something Catholics call a sacrament. So it comes as no surprise that our liturgy is always rooted in Easter. Funerals proclaim the deceased's share in Christ's victory over death; Penance calls on the reconciling work of Jesus; Ordination invites people to that life of service which drew Christ to Calvary. Hence the Easter or Paschal Mystery is at the heart of our Christian lives. It is that plan of God for our well-being which was known only to God in the beginning but was fully revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Every time we engage in worship we celebrate the Paschal Mystery. We don't just recall it; we make it really present. We summon up the powerful presence of Christ by calling on the Holy Spirit to transform this bread and wine, to seal this person in Confirmation, to wash clean this baby in Baptism etc. Worship is all about Easter, about God's decision to save humanity through the death of Jesus.



The empty tomb made God's hidden plan into an open secret. Once the women had reached the tomb and found it empty the secret was out. And today we join in the chorus of voices which cannot keep silent about the God we call our own: a God who did not abandon us even when we drifted away, who sent his only Son to show us how to live life to the full, to conquer sin and death and make sense of our human existence.

At this time of the Church's year, we are asked to pray for new Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work: 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 at 11.45am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.



St Robert's Church Collection: Sunday 10th April - £514.49

St Bede's Collections for March 2022

Loose Collection - **£714.46** / SOs / Bank transfers - **£1,183.00**

St Robert's Parish Donations

With thank to all who contributed to recent Collections and events. We have been able to make the following donations ...

- Lenten Alms **St. Cuthbert's Care - £523.91**
- Lenten Lunches for **Mary's Meals - £363.60**
- **CAFOD** - a total of **£1,253.30** (made up of Lenten Lunches £363.60, Vigil for Peace £500; Lenten Lunch £146.00; and Family Fast Day Envelopes £244.60)
- Holy Places Collection Sunday 10th April—**£379.79**

St Bede's Parish Donation

- Lenten Alms for St Cuthbert's Care - **£149.35**
- CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection - **£87.00**
- Disaster Emergency Committee for Ukraine - **£200.42**

Thanks from Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League would like to thank everyone who supported their coffee morning on 9th April, and for all your generous donations. A total of **£540.00** was raised to support refugees from Ukraine.



Parish Secretary

The new Secretary for St Robert's Parish is **Mary Carter**, who is also the Parish Secretary for St Bede's Church at Bedlington. Mary will begin at St Robert's on Thursday 21st April. Normal weekly office hours from **Tuesday 26th April** will be ...

- Tuesday, 9.30am – 3.30pm at St Robert's Parish Office
- Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's Parish Office
- Thursday, 9.30am – 3.30pm at St Robert's Parish Office

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.

Children's Liturgy Group

There is no Children's Liturgy this weekend, but it will resume next week at the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and the 9am Mass at St Robert's 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.



Easter Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and holy Easter. Also, to offer my thanks to all who have supported our Holy Week celebrations, to all those who have turned up for Masses and services, and also to our cleaners, flower arrangers, readers, Musicians, Extraordinary Ministers, Altar Servers, Sacristans and anyone else who has contributed to our Easter Services. Thank you very much for all you do throughout the whole year to support what we do in our churches. In this time of Easter Joy and Easter Peace, let us continue to pray for those who live in Ukraine and other war-torn areas of the world, that one day their lives will be filled with this same joy and peace.

Welcome into the Church

We offer our prayers and Best Wishes to Dawn Elizabeth Allan who was Received into Full Communion, Confirmed and received Holy Communion for the First Time at our Easter Vigil.

Collection Envelopes

We still have over 40 boxes of collection envelopes left at St Robert's Church that people have not collected. These boxes are in the Presbytery where they can be collected from Fr Peter.



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 volunteers from both churches so that we have a group from St Bede's and a group from St Robert's to have the preparation parish based once again. Email the parish office with your details or contact Fr Peter as soon as possible. If there are any parents from previous years willing to do this, then that would be wonderful.



Parish Council Meeting

St Robert's 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 next weekend, 23rd/24th 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 through Donations, Standing Orders, or Gift Aid and some people may even like to make the NBF a beneficiary in their will, as several people in recent years have done. For more information please speak to Father Peter. Please support this collection.

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.

Newsletter by Email

Could you 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 17th / 18th 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. We need some people prepared to help erect two displays in Church and one in the Presbytery in advance. We also need others willing to be available on the day to welcome visitors both 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 Mary 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://diocesehn.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.

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, Bedlington. 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.

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!*

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.

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)

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 caretaking 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 for tickets, as numbers are limited.

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.

Cards at Cheap Prices

Our churches have a selection of cards available for many occasions. The good thing about our cards is their price! They are much cheaper than anywhere else and the quality is just as good. Obviously most of them have a religious reference, but why go anywhere else? If we don't have it, ask and we'll look into see how we can get new stock!

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 16th April <i>Holy Saturday</i>	9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	7.00pm Easter Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 17th April Easter Sunday	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Michael Lillico	
Monday 18th April <i>Easter Monday</i>		10am Mass: George & Ellen Arkell
Tuesday 19th April <i>Easter Tuesday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Betty Dymond	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 20th April <i>Easter Wednesday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion 11.45am Funeral Service: Adeline Thirtle	10am Mass: Joan Keddy
Thursday 21st April <i>Easter Thursday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Andrew Shackleton	
Friday 22nd April <i>Easter Friday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Margaret and Ronnie Faulder
Saturday 23rd April <i>Easter Saturday</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Jerome & Sylvia Thompson 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Alan Nixon
Sunday 24th April 2nd Sunday of Easter	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Mary Nicholson	

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.**



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.



Diocesan Vacancies

Four vacancies are currently being advertised by the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle ...

- **Diocesan Property Surveyor** – Full-time, fixed term contract for 2 years. Flexible working is available. Closing date for applications: 28th April 2022
- **Diocesan Head of Safeguarding**, full-time generally Monday to Friday. Closing date for Applications 5th May.
- **Hexham, St Mary - Parish Secretary** – 20 hours a week, .
- **Hexham, St Mary - Cleaner** – 14 hours a week. Closing date for applications: 4th May 2022.

All of the above vacancies can be viewed online ... www.rcdhn.org.uk

Divine Mercy Devotion

Divine Mercy Devotions resume this week. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21st April at 7pm in St Robert's Church.

