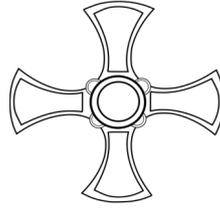


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

Parishes of the St Benet Biscop Partnership, Northumberland

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Peter J Stott

St Robert's Presbytery, Collingwood House, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF
01670 513410 | morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk | peterjstott@aol.com

Parish Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter

St Bede's Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS | 01670 823258 | bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mary Carter

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday at St Robert's 9.30am—3.30pm; and Wednesday at St Bede's 9am – 5.30pm

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

Sunday 1st May 2022 - Third Sunday of Easter



After the Resurrection, we might have expected the disciples to rush off in a frenzy of enthusiasm spreading the good news, but no, today we find them back on the lake fishing. When you stop for a minute to imagine what it might have been like to be in Peter's shoes perhaps it isn't all that surprising. Peter had given up everything for Jesus and promised his all. But despite all his promises, Peter had ended up denying Jesus three times. Almost certainly he would have been suffering from feelings of crippling guilt and insurmountable failure. Is it really any wonder that fishing suddenly seemed a more attractive option than evangelising?

But for Jesus, giving up is not an option. Jesus appears at dawn by the lakeside where he asks Peter. "Do you love me?" Three times Jesus asks the same question ... the same number of times that Peter had previously denied him. It's as though Jesus is giving Peter the chance to put right a wrong. This is part of Peter's healing process. This is Peter's big chance to put his hopes and dreams back on track. Then Jesus, who has known all along what is in Peter's heart, gives him a gentle reminder of his commission to shepherd his Church.

There's a heartening message for us too in this story. How many times do we see in the Bible people getting not just second chances but third and fourth chances? We can get things wrong and we can let ourselves down ... but God who knows what is in our hearts, reminds us that he is there to take away the burden of our guilt and of our failures and set before us new horizons and second chances. We are not expected to be perfect; we are only expected to be human.



Please take this Newsletter home with you so that you know what's happening in your parish this week



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 **Raymond Lamb** [Edinburgh Drive, Bedlington]; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collection 23rd/24th April

St Bede's Church - **£268.91** / St Robert's Church - **£434.95**

Sick and Retired Priests Collection

Very many thanks for your donations to the Sick and Retired Priests Collection (Northern Brethren Fund) last weekend which raised **£192.70** at St Bede's Church and **£611.73** at St Robert's Church. Very Many Thanks.

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

There will be a special retiring collection in our churches next weekend, 7th / 8th May, for the Little Sisters of the Poor. The Little Sisters at St Joseph's Home in Newcastle are finding the current economic climate increasingly more difficult. The emergency lockdown measures they have had to implement to aid efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and keep their residents safe, have had a massive impact on their fundraising activities and the charitable donations they rely on to meet the ever increasing daily running costs of the Home. The collection will help them continue their work of caring for the Elderly. If you wish to make a private donation, cheques can be made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' can be sent to: St Joseph's Home, Westmoreland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, secure, online donations can be made by visiting: www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Sunday 8th May, 4th Sunday of Easter is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Prayers will be offered for all vocations throughout the world next weekend.

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.



St Robert's Hymnbook Amnesty

Do you have one of our hymnbooks at home? You may have accidentally removed a hymn book from the church ... we've all done it! If you have one (or more!) hymn book(s) at home, do please return to the church. Hymn books are expensive and we prefer not to have to buy more. Thank you.

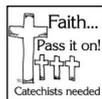
Children's Liturgy Group

There is Children's Liturgy this weekend once again, 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.



Parish Catechists for First Holy Communion

I am looking for a few people from each church to help prepare our children for First Confession and First Holy Communion from September onwards. Just as we do for Children's Liturgy we need some leaders and some helpers. Obviously a little experience is helpful but not necessary. We have all benefitted over the years from family and parishioners who have passed on their faith to us and now we need to continue to do this for our young people. If you would be willing to help, please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible or send an email to the parish office with your details. Obviously DBS checks have to be made before anyone can begin this important parish role, hence the need to start this now. Also if there are any teachers in the parish or parents from previous years willing to do this, then that would be wonderful. We have children in our parishes who go through the normal preparation process but we also sometimes have children who are not in the catholic school system and sometimes children and families who are older and who need a different form of instruction and so we need to have people available to give this religious instruction as well. If anyone can help, or for further information, please contact Fr Peter.



Services of Word and Communion

Services of Word and Communion have resumed in both Churches, on days when Mass is not celebrated. These are short simple services with the readings and prayers of the day, and a distribution of Holy Communion.



Divine Mercy Devotions

Divine Mercy Devotions have now resumed. The next meeting will be held on Thursday at 7pm in St Robert's Church.

Faith In Action Awards

Children in Year 6 at St Bede's School are taking part in the "Faith in Action Award" Bronze Level. As part of the award, the concluding stage of the award is moderation. It is recommended that members of the parish would help moderate the children's final piece of work (which can take the form of a piece of art, writing, presentation, as well as looking at their reflective journal. The expectation would then be to give some written feedback to each child (only a few sentences). This would be done where the volunteers would come into school and we would collectively moderate the work. There would then be a presentation and celebration event where the children would receive their feedback and their FIA pin. School are looking for between 3-6 volunteers from the Parish to help them. Please let Fr Peter know if you are able to help.



Missio Red Boxes 2021 - Thank you!

The amount raised by St. Bede's for APF Mill Hill in 2021 was **£1,460.89** and St Robert of Newminster Parish raised **£2,130.00** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank You! There will be Red Mission Box Appeal on the weekend of 23rd / 24th July in both Churches.



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.

The Three Cs

The Three Cs is a coffee club with a difference! We invite you to join our Three Cs club and enjoy a **Coffee**, a **Chat** and **Conversation** with God. We have two hours of fun—including a sing-song, a chat and share refreshments together. The afternoon ends with a short period of prayer. Better still, you don't need to pay a subscription! It's all on the house! The Three Cs meets every alternate Monday. Looking forward to having you with us for the first get-together in the Parish Hall on **Monday, 16th May at 2pm.**

May the Month of Our Blessed Lady

In 1965, Pope Paul VI wrote, in *Mense Maii*, "Because the month of May is a powerful incentive to more frequent and fervent prayers, and because our petitions more readily find access to her compassionate heart during it, it has been a favourite custom of Our predecessors to choose this month, dedicated to Mary, for urging the Christian people to offer up public prayers whenever the needs of the Church demanded it or some grave crisis threatened the human race. This year, Venerable Brothers, We in turn feel compelled to call for such prayers from the whole Catholic world. Looking at the present needs of the Church and the status of world peace, We have sound reasons to believe that the present hour is especially grave and that a plea for concerted prayer on the part of all Christians is a matter of top priority." **The same needs preoccupy us today and so we continue to ask during this month of May, for the prayers of Our Blessed Lady upon our world, especially for the peace needed in Ukraine**



COVID Guidelines and Coming to Mass

You are invited back to Sunday Mass but obviously you have to have common sense about the spread of the virus. 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, especially during this increased time of infection. There are no longer any social distancing rules. If you have symptoms, tested positive for the coronavirus, or someone very close to you has, you should not attend church until you are sure you are clear of the virus. In this way we can continue to keep church a safe place for all those who do attend.



The Sign of Peace

All restrictions with the Sign of Peace were lifted in a notification received on 28th January. There are still some people not yet ready to offer a physical sign of peace because the virus is still around in society, and so we still invite you to "safely offer the sign of peace". However, as we use hand gel on entrance to the church and have the gel available in every bench, it is safer here in church, as opposed to many other places, to offer the usual sign of peace.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration resumes at St Bede's this week, so we now have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament most weekday mornings from 9.25am—9.55am.



Bonus Ball

The members of the CWL will be running a Bonus Ball from 28th May until 31st July, £10.00 for 10 weeks, in aid of parish funds. To take part: put £10, your name and telephone number into an envelope marked 'Bonus Ball' and leave at St Robert's Presbytery or the CWL at Church on Sunday 8th, 15th and 22nd May. The weekly winner will receive £25.

Thanks from Bernadette Rich

I'd like to say a big Thank you to everyone for all of your kind words, cards and gifts given to me on my retirement. They are all much appreciated and will be treasured (if not already eaten!). I'm really looking forward to having new adventures. Thank you again, Bernadette

Morpeth Fair Day—12th June

Advance Warning ... Please note that the organisers of Morpeth Fair Day will be putting an order forward to Northumberland County Council for the full closure of 'Oldgate' to all traffic on Fair Day, so making it difficult to get to our car park.

The Wednesday Word



The Wednesday Word is a great way to reflect on the readings for Sunday. Their website contains both Parish leaflets and leaflets for School. Check out their website wednesdayword.org.uk

Mass for the Celebration of Marriage

Bishop Robert will celebrate a Mass on Saturday 21st May at 12pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle to celebrate Marriage and Family Life. Everyone is welcome to join in and no booking is required. If you are celebrating a special anniversary and would like a certificate, please scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/3NTqjoC. This Mass is open to everyone but also to engaged couples preparing for marriage, those who have been married since our last Mass in 2021 and all married couples. We include those widowed and bereaved who were unable to visit wives and husbands in hospital and homes prior to their deaths. In these unprecedented times, we remember couples in crisis and individual adults and children experiencing difficulties and abuse in their family relationships. We wish all to know that no-one is forgotten and that the Sacramental life, despite our Covid experiences over the past two years, is very much alive and prayed for.



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)



Diocesan Vacancies

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



- **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, and **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

Heritage Open Day Parish Support

Heritage Open Days will be held in September, for us it will probably be Friday 16th and Saturday 17th 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 two in the Presbytery beforehand. 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!

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 theme, but why go anywhere else? If we don't have it, ask and we'll look into see how we can get new stock!

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 Presbytery to speak about Baptisms, it is so more personal than 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.** 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.

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.



St Bede's Volunteer required

We are looking for a volunteer for the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church who could take on the responsibility of selecting hymns, programming and playing our electronic hymnal each week. If someone is willing to be committed to this please speak to Fr Peter.



Friends of the Holy Land

FHL are promoting a Pentecost Challenge whereby they ask you, or a team Walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem! Raise funds for their vital work in the Holy Land by walking, running, cycling or swimming the 100-mile pilgrimage route from Nazareth to Bethlehem. **When?** Starting after Easter, cover the miles by Pentecost Sunday, 5th June. **Who should take part?** You! If you can't walk, find your own way to cover the miles, or sponsor your church team! **How does it work?** Take part on your own or team up, and cover a few miles each day or week. Share your fundraising page with family and friends, so they can sponsor you! Log your progress on the virtual map and see where you've got to along the route. Have a look around with Google streetview! [https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/](https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Appeal/pentecost22)



YouCAN On Fire! Conference

The Centre for Catholic Studies, CCS, is partnering with the Young Catholic Adult Network in the UK, YouCAN, to host an exciting conference in Durham, 9-11 September 2022: **YouCAN On Fire!** This is a two day conference exploring Catholic Christian calling to evangelise the whole world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. It will feature speakers from the Benedictines, the Dominicans, Aid to the Church in Need, Catholic Voices, SVP, CAFOD. Full details, including details of how to book a place for the conference can be found at <https://youngcatholicadultnetwork.uk/event/on-fire-conference>

MA in Catholic Theology

The Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) and the Dept of Theology & Religion at Durham University are launching an MA in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning. This will begin in October. It is designed so that participants can work through material at their own pace. The MA is suitable both for those who have studied Theology before and for those who have a background in a related discipline, including for instance History, English, Law or Philosophy. For full details please visit the website: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/study/courses/v8k807/>

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 30th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Jean (Sheila) Craig 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 1st May 3rd Sunday Easter	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Roger Adamson	
Monday 2nd May <i>St Athanasius</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: <i>No Intention</i>
Tuesday 3rd May <i>St Philip and St James</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Leo Horrax	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 4th May <i>The English Martyrs</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: <i>No Intention</i>
Thursday 5th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Brian Fanning 7pm Divine Mercy Devotions	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 6th May <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: <i>No Intention</i>
Saturday 7th May <i>St John of Beverley</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Intentions of Fr Peter Stott 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 8th May 4th Sunday of Easter	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	

The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for May 2022

Faith-Filled Young People: We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.



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.**



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.

National Catholic Newspapers

We have been asked to publicise the new 'Catholic Post' newspaper that is available free of charge at the back of Church. They are looking for subscriptions. *The Catholic Herald* and *The Universe* which both went digital online during lockdown are also looking for support. Check out their website if you wish to support them. To subscribe to The Universe, just click here: universecatholicweekly.co.uk/subscribe or ring Michelle on: 0743 661 7650 or email: sales@universecatholicweekly.co.uk For the Catholic Herald check out their website: www.catholicherald.co.uk

Coping with Cancer North East

Coping with Cancer is a charity that offers support to those affected by cancer, this includes counselling, coaching and complementary therapies. Their services are free to anyone who is or has been affected by a cancer diagnosis, including family, friends, and carers. They offer our services across the whole of the North East. Almost everybody knows someone who is or has been affected by a cancer diagnosis and we are ready to support them. Please find their website address below for further information on the help that they provide: <https://copingwithcancer.org.uk/>



"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>

Christian Aid Week - 15th to 21st May

Christian Aid Week starts with an ecumenical service on Sunday 15th May at 4pm 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. Also, if you can help deliver collection envelopes please sign up on the list or contact Gerry Harber on ☎ 01670 517829.

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 you can make a donation via Just Giving at: www.justgiving.com/Gerald-Harber.

Your Gift Aid Status

If you are in the Gift Aid system, please remember to keep us informed of your tax status, especially if it changes. 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

Keyholder role

We are very fortunate at St Robert's to have a couple of parishioners who open up the Church every day, but if someone from St Roberts Parish would like to take on the role of a keyholder, **to close the church each afternoon, c4pm/4.30pm**, please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible.

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**

