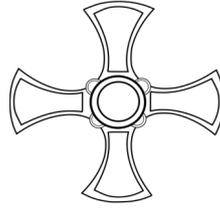


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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
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 | Tel 01670 823258 | Email 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 24th April 2022 - Second Sunday of Easter



Today's gospel reading has a disturbing element for those of us who harbour doubts over what Jesus asks us to believe. Disturbingly Jesus tells us, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Because we are used to beatitudes having a flip side we somehow imagine the unspoken words to be "... And woe to those who ask for forensic evidence!" We imagine that it is sacrilegious to express doubt or search for proof and so we keep our doubts to ourselves. Thomas however had no such inhibition.

When the disciples told Thomas that the crucified Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared amongst them in the upper room, Thomas declared that unless he could see the mark of the nails and put his hand into Jesus' side he could not believe. Thomas was a loving and courageous disciple of Jesus. Thomas wasn't someone who would have thrown his faith away or turned his back on Jesus, but nor was he a man who would say he believed something that he didn't or that he understood something that was beyond him. Importantly, Jesus does not scold Thomas for asking for proof; on the contrary, Jesus is quick to give physical confirmation of his resurrection. Perhaps the message here is that if we want to believe, God will show us a way.



Thomas teaches us not to be afraid to express doubt. For Thomas, doubt was not the same as disbelieving. Thomas's doubts proved stepping-stones to faith. Pretending that we believe things we don't, or claiming to understand things that elude us is a shaky foundation for faith. Doubt is not the same thing as disbelief, and faith only eludes us when we give up looking for the truth.



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; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Sick and Retired Priests Collection

The Sick and Retired Priests Collection will be taken this 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 can give up to £450 (depending on their means) to each retired priest, if he requests it. The NBF often pays out over £15K per month. Please note that the Diocese provides accommodation, but does not financially assist our sick and retired priests. Our retired priests receive their state pension and they can also receive an NBF monthly grant.

In 2021, the Collection raised just **£5,928**;

In 2020, it raised **£7,908**;

In 2019, it raised **£21,465**. TOTAL in 3 years = **£35,301.00**

The Northern Brethren Fund 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, if you can, support this collection.

Easter Sunday Collections

Many thank for the Easter Sunday Collection at St Robert's which came to **£1,072.24**.



Good Friday Holy Places

Very many thanks for a further £262 for Holy Places on Good Friday at St Robert's Church, in addition to the £379.79 collected on Palm Sunday, making a total of **£641.79**. A great amount.

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

There will be a special retiring collection in our churches on the weekend of 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/

Appeal for Welcomers

Many thanks to those who have volunteered for the "Ministry of Welcoming" in both of our churches. We have only had nine volunteers in St Robert's for both Masses and at St Bede's we have had four! **Interestingly, not one man has volunteered for this role!!** 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 name and contact 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.



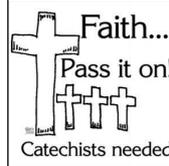
Children's Liturgy Group



There is 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 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. If you would be willing to help, please 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. I would also like to appeal for catechists to support those children not in the Catholic School system and those children and families who are older and who need a different form of "instruction". If anyone can help, or for further information, please contact Fr Peter.

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?**

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.

Collection Envelopes

We still have many boxes of collection envelopes left at St Robert's Church that parishioners have not yet collected. These boxes are now in the Church and can be collected there.



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.

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.

Missio Red Boxes 2021 - Thank you!

In 2021, St Robert of Newminster Parish raised **£2,130.00** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank You! Our missionary community here at St Robert's is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. The founder of this network (APF/Missio), Pauline Jaricot, will be beatified in May this year. This remarkable lay woman's life was marked by intense suffering and great trust in God. Pauline's life helps us to see how every prayer, however short, and every contribution, however small, is valued by God and can transform the world for the better. Thank you for being part of Pauline's legacy. Visit missio.org.uk to find out more about Pauline, and how your support of Missio changes lives for the better. If your Red Box needs to be emptied or if you would like to make a donation to Missio, please contact Elizabeth Dixon. Thank you.



Today. Tomorrow. Together.

Heritage Open Day Parish Support

Heritage Open Days will be held in September, for us it will probably 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!



St Robert's Hymnbook Amnesty

Do you have one of our hymnbooks at home? The increased number of people at Mass on Easter Sunday highlighted a problem with the number of hymnbooks we have at St Robert's Church. When originally bought, there were 200 hymnbooks, but we ran out at both the 9am Mass (attendance was 181) and the 11am Mass (attendance was 194) so obviously some hymnbooks are missing! 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. Hymnbooks are expensive and we prefer not to have to buy more. Thank you.



Divine Mercy Devotion

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

Catholic Women's League



The next meeting of the CWL will be held on Thursday 28th April, at 10.30am in St Robert's Church Hall. Open to new members who might wish to experience prayer and spirituality, friendship, fellowship and fundraising.

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.



"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

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 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.



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 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

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!

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.



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!

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.

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/>



The Northern Cross

We receive The Northern Cross monthly, a newspaper for the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Available now at the back of Church



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 23rd April <i>Saturday in Easter Week</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 Second Sunday Easter	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Mary Nicholson	1pm Baptism Luca Rutherford
Monday 25th April <i>St Mark</i>		10am Mass: Deceased of the Monaghan family
Tuesday 26th April <i>St George</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Paul McCole & Fr Lawrence Jones	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 27th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	10am Mass: In Thanksgiving
Thursday 28th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Vera Cullen & Family 7pm Divine Mercy Devotions	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 29th April <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:
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 of Easter	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Roger Adamson	



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.**



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

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/Appeal/pentecost22>



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.



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**

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

