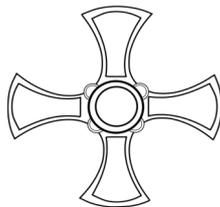


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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
Tel 01670 823258 | Email bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk

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

Sunday 3rd April 2022 - Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

It's a sad fact of life, if you do something good, it isn't remembered for very long. You are only as good as your last good deed. But if you do something bad, there will be those who insist on never forgetting it. There will always be those who mutter, "Oh that's 'so and so' the one who had the affair." "That Mr. Thingymajig, the one who embezzled the company funds." It's a very sad human failing. We are loathe to let the failings of others go.

In today's gospel reading the Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. According to the Law of Moses such a woman should be stoned. What has Jesus to say on the matter? As ever, The Scribes and Pharisees are seeking to trap Jesus into giving an answer that is unlawful. Jesus however is great at not falling into traps. "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone," he replies.



When we have made a mistake in life, the last thing we need is condemnation. Condemnation is rarely useful. Condemnation sends us to a dark place where we fester. Denied our second chance, our self esteem is eroded. We begin to see ourselves in a different light. Other people think we are bad or weak so perhaps we are. Our self image spirals downwards, we start to behave the way people expect us to behave... badly! But the people, who have pointed the finger of blame; are they really in any position to judge?

We are extraordinarily quick to throw the first stone. Our powers of empathy are limited. Perhaps we enjoy moral outrage. Perhaps we enjoy gossiping at someone else's expense. Today we are challenged. The next time we open our mouths to condemn, we are asked to find mercy instead, the same mercy we expect when we have fallen from grace.

If we find ourselves in a difficult situation which we have caused, we need forgiveness. Forgiveness brings the light of Christ into a difficult situation. It is Jesus Himself who offers to each and every one of us, the mercy that brings light into our lives.



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; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

St Robert's Offertory Collections

Very many thanks for collections received at St Robert's during March.
Loose Collection - **£1,645.92**
SOs / Bank Transfers - **£3,494.92**

Lenten Alms Collection

There will be a Special Retiring Collection at Masses this weekend [2nd/3rd April] for Lenten Alms, for the work of St Cuthbert's Care in the diocese. St Cuthbert's Care run two homes for the elderly - St Catherine's Home in Newcastle and Holy Cross Home in Sunderland - as well as residential care for children aged 7—17 years of age in three locations in the diocese, fostering services, as well as day-centres and other facilities throughout the diocese. If you can help, please leave a donation.



Holy Places Collection



Next Weekend on Palm Sunday [9th/10th 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.

Your Gift Aid Status

Has your status for Gift Aid changed in the last year? Have you told us? Are you no longer paying tax? We need to know. We do not know your status, if you do not tell us. Please contact us to tell us, 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.



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, 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.



Parish Secretaries

On 14th April, Mrs Bernadette Rich will retire as Parish Secretary at St Robert of Newminster Parish. Bernadette has become a great asset to our parish during recent years and we take this opportunity to thank her for all she has done for us as Parish Secretary at St Robert's. She will certainly be a miss around the Presbytery, but I'm sure we will continue to see her in the Parish and at Mass. We wish Bernadette well in her retirement when it comes around. Bernadette's place as Parish Secretary will be taken by Mary Carter, who is also the Parish Secretary at St Bede's Parish in Bedlington. The two roles will be combined and Mary will continue at St Bede's, as well as taking on her new role at St Robert's. Office times will obviously change but we look forward to welcoming Mary into her new role at St Robert's and hopefully everyone will get the opportunity to say hello and make her welcome at St Robert's.

Stations of the Cross

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



Confirmation Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to Breffney and Danielle from St Bede's Parish and to Sophie, Luke, George, Harry, Conor and Aidan from St Robert's Parish who were among the eighteen young people who were confirmed on Friday evening at St Bede's Church. We also offer our thanks to their families for their support and to our catechists who gave of their time and energy to help prepare these young people for this very special celebration. Thank you to everyone.



Mass with the School

St Robert of Newminster First School will be with us for Mass on Thursday at 10am. This will be the first full school Mass for two years! *Some of the children in school have not yet been into St Robert's Church!*

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.

Partnership Development Group

St Benet Biscop PDG meets this Thursday 7th April at 7pm at St Bede's Church Hall, Bedlington.

COVID Guidelines and Coming to Mass

Everyone coming to church is asked to use the hand sanitising gel on entrance and it is also available in the benches which we encourage you to use before coming forward to receive Holy Communion. There are no longer any social distancing rules and face coverings are now optional. Please note that all restrictions are also removed for our Church Halls and Meetings Rooms. If serving food or drink, it is advisable to wear a face covering for the benefit of your brothers and sisters! 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. 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.

Return to Church for all

Bishop Robert has written to all the priests with this message ...
"Please do all you can to encourage your parishioners to return to church. As Cardinal Vincent has done in the Westminster Diocese, I would ask all those who have returned to church, to encourage those who have not yet done so to join them at Mass. As the usual patterns of life return, it is important that we keep a healthy balance in our own guidelines to parishioners. At present there still seems to be a number of parishes in our Diocese, where many restrictions from an earlier time in the pandemic are still in place. Live streaming has been a benefit for everyone and remains so for those unable to come to church. It is not, however, an alternative to a full, active and conscious participation in the liturgy. It is important that this should be communicated to parishioners". So we encourage everyone to make a concerted effort to return back to Mass, to full and active participation at Sunday Mass and to physically receiving Holy Communion. If you know someone not yet back with us, please, as Bishop Robert says, encourage them that now is the time to come back. [if you have a long-term illness or disability or you are classed as vulnerable then we understand if you are unable to join us.]

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.

Appeal for Welcomers

We want to have a team of people who will act as welcomers in our churches, just as we had in the time before the pandemic hit us. If you can help with this, in welcoming people to our church, it would be greatly appreciated.

Bedlington Lenten Lunch

This week it is the turn of St Bede's to prepare soup for the Bedlington Lenten Lunch. Please contact Deacon Stephen if you can help.

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

Our Children's Liturgy Groups have started at both the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and the 9am Mass at St Roberts Church. We are very grateful to our Catechists and helpers who are leading this. 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.

Coffee Morning to Support Ukraine Refugees

The Catholic Women's League is holding a Coffee Morning with a Sales Table, on Saturday 9th April, from 10am - 12noon, in St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth, to raise funds to support refugees from Ukraine. Please do what you can to support them.



Preparing for Baptism

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held in 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 NOTE: Please telephone the office to speak about Baptisms, please do not send in an email.* **Better still speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen when you come to Mass.** 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.

Using our Halls

We have Church Halls at both St Bede's and St Robert's which are available for parish use throughout the day. Other denominations in Bedlington and Morpeth seem to have thriving activities throughout the day during the week, while our Halls stand empty not being used. If anyone wants to consider events for the parish - Coffee Mornings, activities and events, craft groups, book clubs, discussion groups, scripture or prayer groups - with somebody who is prepared and committed to leading these events, please speak to Father Peter. Outside Groups / Non-Parish Groups can also book the Hall at the usual rates. If interested please speak to either Bernadette or Mary in our Parish Offices, or to Father Peter.

Newsletter by Email

We are now printing more newsletters as more people come back to Mass, but you could help us offset our carbon footprint by receiving the Newsletter by email. You will receive the e-version newsletter on a Friday evening rather than waiting for the paper copy at Sunday Mass. Email us with your details.

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.

School Chaplaincy Vacancies

There are currently two vacancies for the appointment of school chaplains at St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Washington and St Bede's Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Lanchester. The closing date for both vacancies is Wednesday 6th April 2022. Please visit the Diocesan Education Vacancies page at <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/job-vacancies #EduDHN>

Rosary Chain for Peace

Could you join the Rosary Chain by saying one decade of the Rosary each day during Lent and offer it for Peace in the World? There are still several "mysteries" that have not been signed for. To take part all you have to do is sign your name on the form at the back of Church, and say that Decade of the rosary each day. If everyone on the list does this then we will eventually have a complete Rosary (the Four Mysteries) said every day.



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.

Ukraine Appeal

There are many organisations raising funds to support the people of Ukraine but some Catholic Charities doing this are ...

- cafod.org.uk ... and click on the DEC Appeal for Ukraine.
- acnuk.org and click on their link for the Ukraine Appeal
- <https://www.caritas.org.ukraine-appeal-22/> has a donate button and explains what they have done in Ukraine since the 2014 Russian invasion into Eastern Ukraine. Caritas Ukraine has helped nearly 826, 500 people affected by the humanitarian crisis. Its work is crucial especially for the most vulnerable people, such as the elderly and children.
- The Jesuit Refugee Service also has a donate button on their website ... jrseurope.org/en/news/ukraine-jrs-in-action-to-welcome-refugees/ and explains what they do to support refugees from Ukraine

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

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.

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.**

Inner Healing Course

The Diocesan Faith and Mission Department will be providing training in this ministry, initially to help you discern how God may be directing you. A residential training course will take place at Minsteracres Retreat Centre and will run across 2 sessions: Session 1: 22nd - 23rd April 2022; Session 2: 15th - 16th July 2022. The cost of the course is £180.00 per person. For more information look for the poster on your parish notice board, or contact the Vicariate for Faith & Mission admin team who can provide further details and application forms. admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Holy Week and Easter Masses

Holy Week begins next weekend with Palm Sunday and the Blessing of Palms. A full list of all Masses and Services is available on a separate sheet now available at the back of church.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 2nd April <i>Weekday in Lent</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass:
Sunday 3rd April 5th Sunday of Lent	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Alan Smith (K&BB) Baptism 12.30pm Ruben Lawley	
Monday 4th April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		10am Mass: Arkell & McAlroy Families
Tuesday 5th April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: In Thanksgiving (RO'M) <i>(followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 6th April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	10am Mass: Craik & Freel Families
Thursday 7th April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Ken & Eileen Percival <i>(followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 8th April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Jim Craik
Saturday 9th April <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.40am Rosary 10am Mass: For Vocations (Catenians) 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: George & Ellen Arkle
Sunday 10th April Palm Sunday	9am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	1.00pm Baptism: Tobias Whittaker 4.00pm Stations of the Cross



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.



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 now meets again, but this time 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 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. Please join us 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.

