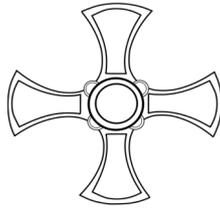


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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, 9.30am—3.30pm at St Robert's; and Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's

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

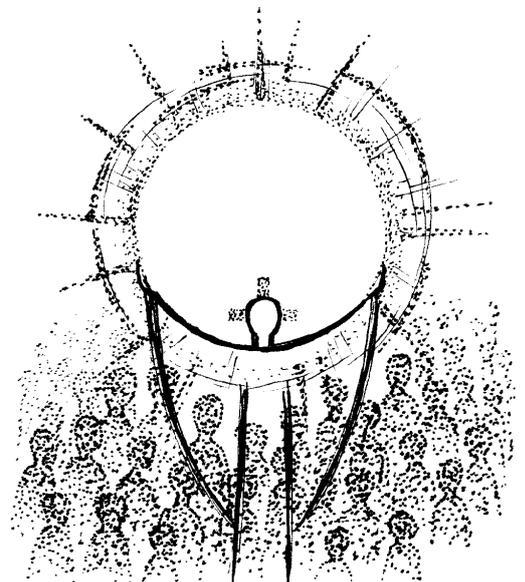
## Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022 - Fifth Sunday of Easter



Does it ever seem to you that Jesus can be a little unrealistic? Today Jesus tells us “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” But how can we go round loving everyone we meet? Isn't love reserved to those closest to us ... our parents, children, and partners? Harder still, how can we love as Jesus loved? Jesus loved us to the point of death. Surely following this kind of example is a very tall order!

The main thing to remember in following Jesus' teaching is that he wouldn't ask anything of us that we couldn't do. Secondly, we might not be ready to love each other to the point of death, but Jesus gives us plenty of other lessons in how to love. We're not talking some impossible ideal or some form of idealistic behaviour. We simply need to recognise, as Jesus recognised, that love is a basic human need. Jesus had a talent for seeing everyone as an individual. We too need to see people as individuals rather than lump them together into categories. We too need to recognise need and respond accordingly. Loving someone is a decision we make rather than the harbouring of fluffy romantic sentiments found in greeting cards. Loving someone is about serving the need to be liked, appreciated, forgiven or helped. We follow Jesus' lessons in love every time we seek to alleviate someone else's suffering ... every time we reject violence and retaliation ..... every time we make a stand against neglect or greed or apathy.

There are plenty of people who are already living their lives by Jesus' example. These people are shining examples of discipleship, not be what they say but by how they behave. Have you ever been filled with so much respect for someone that you wanted to imitate them? If you start to behave in the same way it won't be long before others are looking up to you as a role model. Watch out .... love is catching.



**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; **Peter Shepherd** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

May at 10am; **Michael Doherty** [Craster] whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's Church on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 12noon; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### Offertory Collection 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> May

St Bede's Church £229.11 - / St Robert's Church - £392.93

#### Parish Standing Orders

Standing Orders received at St Bedes' Church during April amounted to £1,181.00 and £3,855.92 at St Roberts. Many thanks to everyone.

#### Parish Standing Order Mandates

If anyone wishes to donate via a monthly Standing Order directly from your bank account to our bank account, rather than putting into the collection each week at church, copies of the Standing Order Form are available at the back of Church.

#### Sick and Retired Priests Collection

The Sick and Retired Priests Collection closes today. If any one wishes to make a donation to the Fund, please hand in no later than Sunday evening.

#### Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Retiring Collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor last weekend, which raised £218.60 at St Bede's Church and £527.90 at St Robert's Church.

#### Priests Retreat

A number of Priests are away on the Diocesan Priests' Retreat this week. Please keep them in your prayers.

#### 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 **C**offee, a **C**hat and **C**onversation 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 post pandemic get-together in the Parish Hall on **Monday, 16th May at 2pm.**

#### Sunday Obligation to Return

The Bishops of England and Wales met last week for their Easter Meeting and have announced that the Obligation for Sunday and Holyday Mass will be reinstated on Pentecost Sunday, 5th June. In a document entitled '**Returning to Mass: An Invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales**', they state, "In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person. As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives." Please pass on this message to family and friends and let them know that we look forward to welcoming everyone back to Mass.



#### 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.

#### First Confessions

First Confessions will be celebrated on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 6pm for the children from St Robert's Parish and on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm for the children from St Bede's Parish. Please keep these children and families in your prayers.



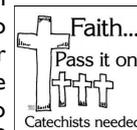
#### Holy Communion Masses 2022

First Holy Communion Masses will be held on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at St Robert's Church at 10am and Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 10am at St Bede's Church. Please pray for all the families involved. First Confessions will be arranged very soon.



#### 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.



#### Faith In Action Awards

Children in Year 6 at St Bede's School are taking part in the "Faith in Action Award" Pin 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.

#### Parish Finance Committees

Do you have any background in finance or accounting that would be a great asset to our Finance Committee at St Robert's? Please speak to Fr Peter if you feel you could offer your help. Likewise, if there is anyone with similar financial experience or background at St Bede's Parish, and you would be willing to get involved in your parish at Bedlington, please speak to Fr Peter.

#### St Bede's Volunteer required

We are looking for a volunteer from 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.



#### 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.



#### 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.



### Could you be an Altar Server?

If any young people, those who have made their 1st Holy Communion, or those preparing to, are willing to become Altar Servers at either St Bede's or St Robert's Churches, please contact Fr Peter. Many Thanks to those who have already responded.

### Bonus Ball

The members of the CWL will be running a Bonus Ball from 28<sup>th</sup> May until 31<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The weekly winner will receive £25.

### 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](http://wednesdayword.org.uk)



### 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.



### 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.

### 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 visit: [bit.ly/3NTqjoC](http://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. 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)



### 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 not be held until July. 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 after Sunday Mass.**



### Ecumenical Pentecost Service



The Churches in Morpeth will be celebrating a joint Service for the great Feast of Pentecost on Sunday 5th June at the New Life Centre in Dacre Street, Morpeth at 6pm. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

### Rainbows Bereavement Support

Do you work in a school? This may be of interest to you! The last two years have been difficult and some children will have lost close family and friends. Some teachers and schools might be wondering what to do to help children in these situations. Could Rainbows Bereavement Support help your school? Rainbows offers training in bereavement and loss, guidance to ensure appropriate bereavement policies and procedures are in place, aimed to help grieving children and young people from 4 - 19 years of age. Email [rainbows.northeast@btconnect.com](mailto:rainbows.northeast@btconnect.com) for more information or check out [rainbowsgb.org](http://rainbowsgb.org)



### 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>



### Donations for Food Banks and Refugees

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. Local Foodbanks also need some support. We now have an extra box [with a red lid] at the entrance of St Robert's Church for the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank and the food bin for the Matthew Project is at the entrance 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.



### 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<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 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/>

### Pray In May for Mary's Meals

'Mary's Meals' is a mission carried out in Our Lady's name to feed children a daily school meal in some of the world's poorest communities. During May, the month traditionally dedicated to the Virgin Mary, we are asked to pray for the children who eat Mary's Meals. [www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)



# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> In Thanksgiving & Special Intention for Kathleen & Jeff Wain 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> Intentions of Gillian Snaith (CWL)
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass:</b> Brown and Nicholson Families	12.30pm Baptism Verity Harrison
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	NO MASS / SERVICE	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b>
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	NO MASS / SERVICE	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>St John I</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	NO MASS / SERVICE
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>St Dunstan</i>	NO MORNING MASS / SERVICE 7pm Divine Mercy Devotions	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>St Bernadine of Siena</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b> <i>St Godric of Finchale</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> Helen Cone 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> John and Catherine McGinn
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b> <b>6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> John & Mary and Siobhan Turner <b>11am Mass:</b> 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.**



## Christian Aid Week - 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May

Christian Aid Week starts today with an ecumenical service at 4pm in the 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. Thanks to our envelope deliverers - please get your envelopes out this week. And of course please give generously! Thank you!

### 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](http://www.justgiving.com/Gerald-Harber).



## Vocations Weekend for Young Women

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), in Liverpool from 27th—29th May 2022. There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org).



## New Abbot of Douai Abbey

On Wednesday the monks of Douai Abbey elected Dom Paul Gunther as their new Abbot, replacing Abbot Geoffrey Scott, who stood down after being Abbot for the last 24 years. Douai Abbey monks used to live at St Bede's (1881-1967) and St Robert's (1891—1970) and so it is particularly appropriate that we remember the whole community and the new Abbot in our prayers.



## 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. This will be particularly difficult for those who need transport to get to church because they are disabled and for those who are not able to walk far.

## 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**

