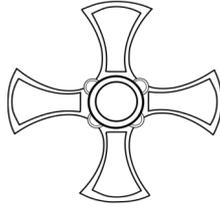


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

There are times in our lives when we feel a sense of abandonment. We might be left with feelings of panic, despair and emptiness at the break up of a relationship, the loss of a loved one; or when the future we thought so secure is turned on its head through job loss, financial ruin or illness. The disciples must have felt a little like this today at the prospect of Jesus' departure.

In today's gospel, Jesus is preparing his disciples for life without his physical presence. He is teaching them how to transcend these moments of fear and uncertainty "Those who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them..." Undoubtedly, knowing we are loved helps transcend feelings of abandonment, but Jesus reminds us that love is a two way street. Love isn't just a feeling it's a decision, and staying in God's love means making a decision to keep his words. This doesn't mean God will no longer love us if we fail to keep a commandment, but it does mean that wanting to keep his words is at the heart of our relationship. It's not about trying to live up to an impossible set of expectations; it's about developing into confident Christians in an atmosphere of love and support.



Today's gospel speaks to those who are suffering insecurity and fear. As a Christian community we have a responsibility for promoting belief in God's love and in the continued support of the Holy Spirit. In this way, when any one of us comes to grief, that belief can come to the rescue. For those who know they are loved, healing comes more quickly. There can be no abandonment in a kingdom that knows no orphans.

**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 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> May

St Bede's Church £214.90 - / St Robert's Church - £474.11

### 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.

### World Communications Collection

Next Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> May is World Communications Day when we pray for the work of communicating the message of the Gospel around the world. There will be a Retiring Collection at all Masses next weekend. In addition to promoting the Church's and the Bishops' message in the local, regional, national and international mass media, the Bishops' Conference Media Office helps journalists with their queries and to a better understanding of the Church's activities and witness. It also runs the Bishops' Conference website, which has been a primary source of information throughout the pandemic. As we emerge from the pandemic, communications will become even more important as we seek to re-establish more regular patterns of worship and continue to promote our Gospel values. Further details will be posted on the diocesan website.

### Feast of St Bede

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May is the Feast of St Bede. Come along to Mass at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Wednesday and mark the Parish Feast Day.

### Ascension Thursday

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May is the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Masses will be celebrated at 10am at St Bede's Church, and 12.30pm and 7pm at St Robert's Church.



### Sunday Obligation to Return

The Bishops of England and Wales met recently for their Easter Meeting and have announced that the Obligation for Sunday and Holyday Mass will be reinstated on Pentecost Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> 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.*" The Bishops have stressed that those who still do not feel safe enough to return to Mass should not do so. All other Catholics are subject to the precept to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holydays of Obligation. Live streaming of Masses has been a great benefit to many during the pandemic, and will continue to be for those genuinely unable to attend Mass. The Bishops remind us, however, that watching a live streamed Mass does not fulfil the obligation.

### 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 and Holy Communion Masses

First Confessions will be celebrated on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 6pm at St Robert's Church for the children from St Robert's Parish and on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm At ST Bede's Church for the children from St Bede's Parish. Please keep these children and families in your prayers. 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. Please note that if there are any queries about these celebrations, please speak to Fr Peter



### Parish Catechists for First Holy Communion

I am very grateful to the parishioners at both St Bede's and St Robert's Churches who have offered to help with this and to enable us to continue to prepare our children as we did before the covid pandemic hit us. There is still time for others to get in involved; just 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.



### 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.



### 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.



### 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. Good luck to those taking part.

## 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 [wednesday-word.org.uk](http://wednesday-word.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.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 sea-side 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>

### The Relics of St Bernadette

The Relics of St Bernadette will be brought to the United Kingdom later this year from Lourdes. There will be a National Pilgrimage to various sites in the UK and these relics of Saint Bernadette will be brought to St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne on 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> October. More details will follow later.



## Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am in St Robert's Church Hall.

### May Rosary Service

The Catholic Women's League will be leading a Rosary Service to honour Our Blessed Lady in the Month of May. You are warmly invited to come and be part of this Service at 2pm, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May in St Robert's Church.



### 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)



### 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-Harber1](http://www.justgiving.com/Gerald-Harber1).



### Vocations Weekend for Young Women

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), in Liverpool from 27<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup> 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).



### Morpeth Fair Day - 12th June

**Advance Warning ...** Please note that the organisers of Morpeth Fair Day have made an agreement with Northumbria Police about parishioners vehicle access to St Robert's Church Grounds on Morpeth Fair Day. When we have received this in writing we will pass on its contents. In the meantime prepare for restricted access to church grounds on 12<sup>th</sup> June.

### The Three Cs

The next Meeting of the 3Cs will be on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2pm - 4pm. Come along to enjoy Coffee / Tea, a Chat and Conversation with God.

### 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>

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</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 Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> John & Mary and Siobhan Turner <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	<b>10am Requiem Mass: Peter Shepherd</b>	
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Joseph McCole	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>St Bede, the Venerable</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Peter Shepherd
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>	<b>12.30pm Mass:</b> Marie Cairnduff (MC & Collins family) <b>7pm Mass:</b> People of the Parish	<b>10am Mass:</b> Fr Joe Park [NBF]
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b>
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> Thanksgiving for daughter's birthday 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions 12.30pm Baptism Sofia Patricia Vescio	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Dolly Brew <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.**



## Society of St Gregory Summer School

This will take place at Belsey Bridge Conference Centre, Ditchingham, Norfolk, NR35 2DZ from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> August. The theme is Talking, Listening, Responding: the call to be a synodal church. This is a residential summer school. Invited speakers include Bishop Peter Brignall, Dr Sue Price (Margaret Beaufort Institute), Maria Hall (Pontifical University of Maynooth), Bob Hurd, Deacon Peter Tibke. There will be talks, workshops, liturgies, music, shared meals and social time. Further details and booking forms are available at [www.ssg.org.uk/summer-school-2022/](http://www.ssg.org.uk/summer-school-2022/).

## New Syro-Malabar Parish

At the request of Mar Joseph Srampickal, the Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy of Great Britain, Bishop Robert has given the pastoral care of the Parish of Our Lady and St. Vincent in Walker to the Syro-Malabar Eparchy. With the agreement of Mar Joseph, Bishop Robert has appointed Fr. Jojo Plappallil Devasia as Parish Priest of Our Lady and St. Vincent, this will be a joint parish of the Syro-Malabar Rite and Latin Rite of which Fr Jojo will have pastoral care of both communities. We warmly welcome Fr Jojo to the Diocese.

## Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

**Property Surveyor** – full-time, fixed term contract – 2 years. Flexible working is available. Closing date for applications: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022.  
**IT Project Manager** – full-time. Fixed term contract – 12 months. Closing date for applications: 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact ☎ 0191 243 3301



## 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)

## 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**



We have been asked to give a plug for Alma's Kitchen, a refugee's food stall, at Morpeth Market on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 9am—3pm for flavours of Eastern Europe. We're not sure exactly what it is, but if you're at the Market on Wednesday you might want to have a look and you can report back!!

