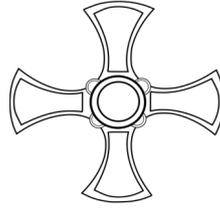


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 8th May 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

In his gospel St John quotes Jesus as saying that he is the Good Shepherd whose sheep listen to his voice. And, clearly, if the sheep are to benefit from the shepherd's experience then they have to listen to where he is directing them. Most of us would accept that what God is trying to say to us can be found in the bible. Some might go further and say that when the bible is proclaimed in our liturgy then God is actually speaking to us here and now. We would probably accept too that the teaching of the Church is another way of knowing what God wants to communicate to us. But are there other ways of listening out for the shepherd's voice?

Christ, the Good Shepherd, speaks to us through other people. When we come across others we see the face of Jesus reflected in them, for they like us are made in God's image and likeness. Yet sometimes we see them only as physical beings rather than as mini-words of God, as glimpses into the divine. Do we hear the voice of God in other people? What about the events of our daily lives? If we are finding things hard financially, it may be because of the recession. But do we ever think that God's voice may be prompting us to ask about whether we're in the right job, using our talents to the full, managing our lives and money properly? Conversely, if we are doing really well, do we consider that we deserve a good pat on the back or do we instinctively bless God for our prosperity? And when we hear of natural disasters such as recent earthquakes do we jump on the bandwagon of "How can a loving God allow such a thing?" or do we learn anything about our own lives and those of others by looking deeper at the consequences of what has happened?



How do we listen for the shepherd's voice?

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



At this time of the Church's year, we are asked to pray for new Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work: Please pray for those we know who are unwell, as well as the many who have no one to pray for them; for those in hospital; for many people who have COVID-19 at the moment; for all who have died recently, including **Raymond Lamb** [Edinburgh Drive, Bedlington]; **Maureen Taylor** [Ashington]; **Peter Shepherd** [Morpeth]; **Sheila Webb** [Foxton Court, Morpeth]; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collection 30th April / 1st May

St Bede's Church £193.80 - / St Robert's Church - £310.73

Sick and Retired Priests Collection

The Sick and Retired Priests Collection remains open until Sunday 15th May. If anyone wishes to make a further donation please hand in to the Presbytery in an envelope marked 'NBF: Sick and Retired Priests' Fund'. Many thanks to those who have already contributed or completed Standing Order Forms.

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

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



World Day of Prayer for Vocations

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is held each year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. In the Gospel of John read on this Sunday, in each of the three years, Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd who has come so that people may have life to the full, the one who lays down his life for his sheep, the one who knows his sheep — they recognise his voice. As Catholics, we firmly believe that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, and others to religious life or to live as generous single people. Fully living our own vocations—and teaching young people how to discern God's call—is a serious duty, but also a joyful one. During this week, please encourage the young people in your life—children, grandchildren, students, and friends—to be open if God calls them to priesthood or religious life.

Catholic Women's League

We offer our congratulations to the Catholic Women's League who are celebrating their Sixtieth Anniversary this year. They be holding their 60th Anniversary Lunch on Tuesday 10th May, at 12.30pm in St Robert's Church Hall.



Confessions

If you have been away from Church throughout the pandemic, you may feel the need to go to Confession before receiving Holy Communion once again. Please remember that we have Confessions on a Saturday morning at St Robert's Church and a Saturday evening at St Bede's Church. You can also ask anytime if you need to go to Confession.



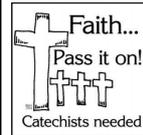
St Robert's Hymnbook Amnesty

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



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.



First Holy Communion Masses 2022

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

Faith In Action Awards

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



Keyholder role

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

Parish Finance Committee

Matt Boyle recently stood down as the Chair of St Robert's Parish Finance Committee. Matt has been Chair of the Finance Committee for many years and was especially involved in the raising a great deal of the finances via Heritage Lottery Funding for all the repairs to the Church Tower stonework and the new church roof at St Robert's. We offer our thanks to Matt for his many years of active involvement with the Finance Committee. It is greatly appreciated. Our New Finance Committee Chair is Linda Hood and we offer her our thanks for accepting this responsibility. Mrs Mary Laux also stood down from the Finance Committee recently and we thank her particularly for her work preparing the monthly and annual financial returns. Obviously our Finance Committee now needs a couple of new members. Do you have any background in finance or accounting that would be a great asset to our Finance Committee? Are you a financial guru? 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.

Services of Word and Communion

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

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.

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.

Teas and Coffees

Teas and Coffees are now available after the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and also after the 9am Mass at St Robert's. All Welcome.

Altar Servers Needed

If any young people are willing to become Altar Servers at either St Bede's or St Robert's Churches, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible. Many Thanks to those who have already responded.

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 get-together in the Parish Hall on **Monday, 16th May at 2pm.**

May, the Month of Our Blessed Lady

May is the month of Our Lady. Please try to pray the Rosary throughout this month. May 13th is the anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in the small village of Fatima in Portugal in 1917. As we recently consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on this day pray the Rosary for peace in Ukraine.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



We have Adoration Monday to Friday at either St Bede's Church or St Robert's Church, from 9.25am for half an hour and on Saturday after Mass. Adoration is a wonderful opportunity to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the Altar and a great chance for quiet personal prayer in the presence of Jesus.

Bonus Ball

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

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.

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

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 scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/3NTqjoC. This Mass is open to everyone but also to engaged couples preparing for marriage, those who have been married since our last Mass in 2021 and all married couples. We include those widowed and bereaved who were unable to visit wives and husbands in hospital and homes prior to their deaths. In these unprecedented times, we remember couples in crisis and individual adults and children experiencing difficulties and abuse in their family relationships. We wish all to know that no-one is forgotten and that the Sacramental life, despite our Covid experiences over the past two years, is very much alive and prayed for.

Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea)

Stella Maris is holding a Day of Prayer & Pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on Saturday 4th June 2022, led by the Rt Rev Paul Mason. 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 be held on 12th May at St Bede's Church, Bedlington at 6.30pm. 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.**

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.

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.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 7th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Intentions of Fr Peter Stott 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 8th May 4th Sunday Easter	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 9th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass:
Tuesday 10th May <i>St Philip and St James</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Brian Fanning	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 11th May <i>The English Martyrs</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass:
Thursday 12th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Sylvia Thompson 7pm Divine Mercy Devotions	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 13th May <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass:
Saturday 14th May <i>St John of Beverley</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: In Thanksgiving & Special Intention For Kathleen & Jeff Wain 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass:
Sunday 15th May 5th Sunday of Easter	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Brown and Nicholson Families	



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.**



YouCAN On Fire! Conference

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

MA in Catholic Theology

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

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



Diocesan 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: 12 May 2022.

Hexham, St Mary: Parish Secretary – 20 hours a week, Closing date for applications: 18 May 2022.
Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact HR on ☎ 0191 243 3301



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**

