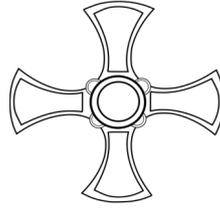


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

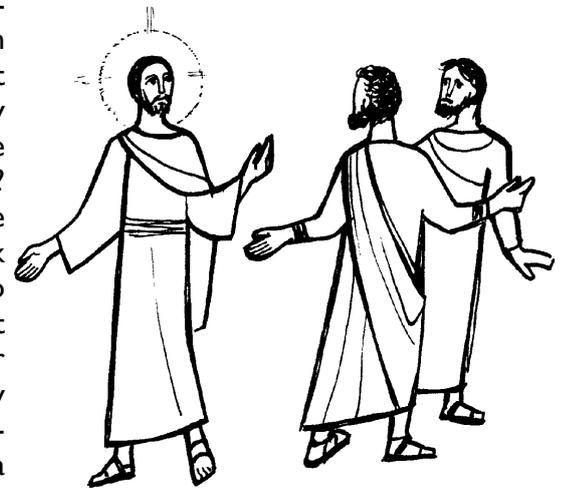
Office Hours | Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am—3.30pm at St Robert's | Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's

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

Sunday 26th June 2022 - 13th Sunday Year C

You will be familiar with the expression, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." It's a harsh proverb that tells us that good intentions alone are of little use. The would-be disciples in today's gospel wanted to follow Jesus, but not straight away, they had other more pressing things to do first. They were full of good intentions but lacked the resolve to realise them.

Today we sympathise with the would-be disciples, after all, their requests to say goodbye to their families and bury their dead don't seem unreasonable. We too would like to follow Jesus but we too might hit the same stumbling blocks. Would we be prepared to go to any lengths to be true disciples? Is it likely for instance, that we would be prepared to leave our families our homes or our jobs to follow Jesus? For many of us, making a commitment to follow Jesus is something we try to slot into our lives only when we have time to stop and think about it. We promise ourselves that one day we will get around to reading the Bible. We'll make that charity donation once we have a bit of spare cash and only when we've managed to pay all those other pressing bills. We might do a bit of voluntary work for a worthy cause, but only when we've got a free weekend. Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow..... is it any wonder that Jesus sounded a touch exasperated with his well-meaning disciples. The road to Jerusalem was to be a hard one ending in suffering and death. Jesus needed his disciples to recognise this hardship and make a real commitment to following him he needed more than just good intentions.

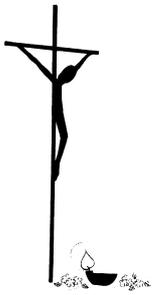


We too are asked to make a real commitment. It might be irresponsible of us to abandon our children and rush off to evangelise in a dangerous part of the world but what we do need to do is decide where our priorities lie.

follow me

We need to make tough decisions and ask ourselves searching questions. Do the pressures of our modern society stop us from following Jesus' teaching? Do we know what path we should be taking but make endless excuses to avoid following it? Do we know how to say 'no' politely, when things conflict with our priorities? Does our quest for personal gain, advancement and security impede our would-be discipleship? The bottom line is that God never asks us to do something that is impossible for us to do, so if we think today's Gospel is too hard, we need to think again.

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 A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights, Europe; Human Life; and Seafarers: 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 those still struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic; for all who have died recently, including **Michael Sweeney** [Chester

Court, Bedlington, formerly Widdrington and London] whose Funeral Service will be held at Cowpen Crematorium on Monday 4th July at 1.45pm; for **Sheila Kilgallon** [Northlands Nursing Home, Morpeth] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert of Newminster Church on Friday 8th July at 10am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collection 19th June

St Robert's - **£459.88** / St Bede's - n/a

Day For Life Collection

Many Thanks for the Day for Life Collection at St Robert's Church last week which raised **£278.02**.

Parish Standing Order Mandates

If you wish 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 Parish Standing Order Mandate are available at the back of Church.

Lay Training Fund

We were supposed to take the Lay Training Fund recently, but it was missed! As this Fund remains open until 3rd July if you have a collection envelope in your box and you wish to make a donation, please bring it any time over the next three weeks.

Peters Pence

The Holyday of Ss Peter and Paul will be celebrated on Wednesday 29th June (see details for Masses below). The Collection for Peters Pence will be taken at Sunday Masses on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June.

Holyday of Obligation

Wednesday, 29th June, is the great Feast of the two wonderful leaders of the church at its very beginning, Saint Peter and Saint Paul. It is now once again a Holyday of Obligation and so Masses will be held at St Bede's Church at 10am and at 12.30pm and 7.00pm at St Robert's Church.



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. We have a rota of volunteers but if anyone else would like to sign up to take a turn in future they would be most welcome. If anyone would be willing to begin making / serving tea and coffee after the 11am Mass please contact Fr Peter.



First Holy Communion Masses

Congratulations to **Harry Allison, Thomas Gladwin, Lucy Heatley, Adam Jones, Jessica Jones, Joshua Thomas Lewis, Jack Macron, Henry Moore, Jack Morton, Alesha Allison Miller, Aidan Mills, Sadie Riley and Faith Wilson** who celebrated their First Holy Communion at Mass yesterday, Saturday at St Robert of Newminster Church. We look forward to next Saturday when the children from St Bede's Church will celebrate this special occasion. Please pray for all the families involved. Please note that if there are any queries about these celebrations, please speak to Fr Peter



Could you be an Altar Server?

If any young people 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



No Confessions at St Robert's Church

Please note that there are No Confessions at St Robert's for the next Saturday, due to the celebration of an Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate at Hartlepool on 2nd July. Confessions on a Saturday evening at St Bede's Church remain unchanged.

Bishop Seamus Cunningham

Bishop Robert Byrne would like to invite you to a Mass to mark the 80th birthday of Bishop Seamus Cunningham. This will be celebrated on Thursday 30th June 2022 at 12.05pm at St Mary's Cathedral. All are most welcome to attend.

Parish Catechists for First Holy Communion

If there are any parishioners willing to prepare children for the Sacraments who are not at our catholic schools, or who perhaps are a little older than normal, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible.



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.**

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.

Thanksgiving Mass for NHS

Bishop Robert Byrne invites you to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving for NHS Staff, Chaplains and Care Workers at 7.00pm on 14th July, the Feast of St Camillus, at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Clayton Street West, Newcastle. This Mass will be the opportunity to express the gratitude of the Diocese to medical, nursing and healthcare staff and chaplains as we continue to emerge from the COVID Pandemic. All welcome.



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 Items

If you have any notices to go into this Newsletter can they please be sent to the parish email address (see front page of this Newsletter) by 7pm on a Thursday evening for inclusion in the newsletter.

We need your help

We are actively looking to recruit volunteers for all areas within Parish Ministry. We need Catechists, Altar Servers, Readers, Musicians, Tea/Coffee Makers, Livestreaming Operatives! (St Robert's) and general helpers around the parish. If you have a specific talent you can share with the parish community, have a word with Fr Peter. Your help would be much appreciated!

Coming into the Church

Each year we normally have one or two people who make the big decision to "convert", to change their whole way of life and become a catholic. Most people come to this decision only after a lot of thought and some prayer. Perhaps that person is you? We invite you to consider making this change? This year we're inviting all who wish to become Catholic to join the Sycamore Course from September through to Easter. If interested or mildly thinking, please let Fr Peter know.

Sycamore Course

We will run a Sycamore Course from September onwards, right through to Easter. The Sycamore Course is a course about the Christian faith and its relevance for life today. Each Sycamore session involves a short film and time for discussion. Everyone is welcome. The Course explores the richness of the Christian tradition from a Catholic perspective, connecting the core Christian message with a vision of the sacramental and moral life. This will be our Journey of Faith for this coming year, so all enquirers are asked to take part. We also encourage any other members of the Parish to come along to deepen their own knowledge about the Christian and Catholic tradition. It will also be particularly helpful to parents wanting their children baptised and to parents of the First Holy Communion groups, past, present and future. This will run for approximately 20 weeks, so is quite a commitment, but hopefully those attending will gain something from it.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

In this Year of the Eucharist it is very good that we have the opportunity for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. At the moment Adoration is held Monday - Friday 9.25am - 9.55am between our two churches. A wonderful time of SILENCE in church for quiet prayer. Come along a little early to experience this quiet time.

Diocesan Vacancy

Refugee Project Co-ordinator – part-time (18 hours), initial 12-month contract. Closing date for applications: 4th July 2022. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact 0191 243 3301. There are also many vacancies advertised on the Education section of the diocesan website for those looking for school jobs.

Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle

St Joseph's Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle are looking for volunteers to help throughout the Home (e.g. helping with residents' activities, administration duties, fundraising and other various duties). If you are interested and would like to help, please contact Sister Evelyn or Mother Deirdre at St Joseph's Home on ☎ 0191 273 1279 for further details.

St Benet Biscop Partnership Meeting

The next Meeting for representatives of the St Benet Biscop Partnership will be held on Thursday 7th July 7pm at St Bede's Church Hall, Bedlington.

St Robert of Newminster Parish Council

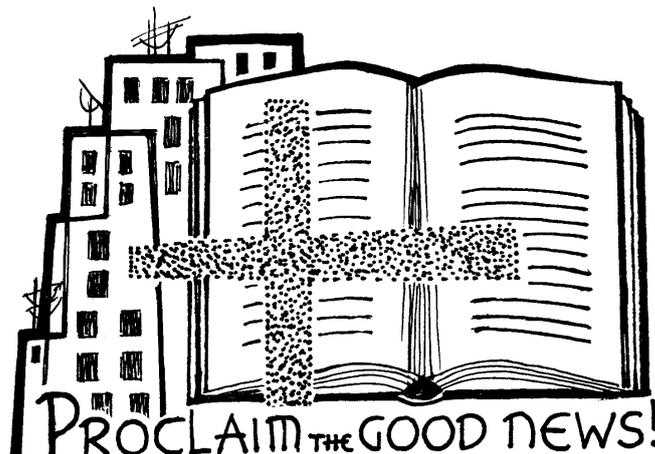
The next meeting of the Parish Council of St Robert's Parish will be held on Monday 11th July at 7pm in the Upper Room of St Robert's Church Hall. Any items for discussion should be handed to Fr Peter no later than Friday 8th July. We invite you come and join in the discussion if you are interested in what your parish council does. Part of the meeting will discuss the preliminary findings of the recent parish survey.

Bonus Ball

Many thanks to everyone playing in the Bonus Ball. Week 4 winners were Mary Turnbull and Sheila Adamson with number 21. Congratulations.

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**



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 25th June <i>Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>		10am Mass: First Holy Communion Mass 5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 26th June 13th Sunday Yr C	9am Mass: Joe McKee 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 27th June <i>St Cyril of Alexandria</i>		NO MASS
Tuesday 28th June <i>St Irenaeus</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Michael Doherty	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 29th June St Peter and St Paul	12.30pm Mass: Stephen Kealy 7.00pm Mass: People of the Parish	10am Mass: Maureen Goonan
Thursday 30th June <i>First Martyrs of Rome</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Pat and Leo Horrax 7pm Divine Mercy Devotions	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 1st July <i>St Oliver Plunkett</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Julie Coyle
Saturday 2nd July <i>Weekday / Saturday of Our Lady</i>		5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 3rd July 14th Sunday Yr C	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for June 2022

Families: We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives



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.**



Cases of Covid

As news reports tell us this week, there has been an increase in cases of covid recently around the UK and quite a few parishioners have also been poorly in recent weeks with the virus. If people still wish to wear face coverings in church this is perfectly acceptable, both to keep themselves and everyone else in church safe, by restricting the spread of aerosol germs. We do still ask everyone coming into Church to use the hand gel at the door and to use the gel available in the benches before coming out for Holy Communion.

Diaconate Ordinations

On Saturday 2nd July, Bishop Robert will ordain Rhodie (Bong) Nidea, Gareth Rowe and Carl Watson to the Permanent Diaconate. Please keep these three candidates in your prayers.

Justice and Peace Prayer Vigil

All are welcome to come along to a short prayer service at the Derwentside Immigration Centre (DH8 6QY) on Sunday 3rd July at 3pm. For more information, email Liz Archibald: lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com.

Bishop Paul McAleenan who has special responsibility for migrants and is Chair of the Office for Migration Policy at the Catholic Bishops' Conference made this statement on June 14th 2022:

The UK's plans to forcibly deport to Rwanda some of those seeking refuge in our country is shamefully illustrative of what Pope Francis has called the 'loss of that sense of responsibility for our brothers and sisters on which every civil society is based'.

The plan is presented as a humanitarian response to combat people trafficking and smuggling yet the result will compound the suffering of those who are already victims. Crime is defeated by confronting the perpetrators not by punishing victims. This scheme will increase the difficulties of those hoping for a new beginning, and it does nothing to address the problems which cause people to flee their homes.

Migration is a complex issue, but it is not resolved by delegating our roles and responsibilities to other countries. Our starting point should be the innate dignity of every person, created in the image and likeness of God. Our Christian faith demands that we respond generously to asylum seekers whose dignity must be protected and upheld.

Whether or not the flight to Rwanda takes off today we are now in a new situation. With greater force we insist that asylum seekers are not commodities for profit, nor are they problems to be rejected and deported by government. Instead we should be guided by the four verbs provided by Pope Francis in our approach to migrants and refugees, 'Welcome, protect, promote and integrate'.