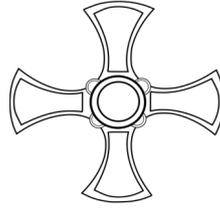


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 3rd July 2022 - 14th Sunday Year C

We only need to check the spam in our emails or listen to our answer phones to understand the constant worldly pressures in our lives. Unless you've managed to blank all those nuisance calls, it's more likely that your answer phone will be filled with adverts for injury claims, insurance refunds and pension plans than calls from friends. Whilst commercialism grows louder and louder, the Christian message seems quieter and less popular. We think that 'good' might speak for itself, but it seems that Jesus' teaching needs promoting now more than ever. For this purpose Jesus gives us some practical advice.

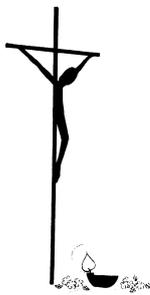
"Travel light" Jesus tells his missionaries, "no purse, no bag, no sandals," It seems austere advice for missionaries about to embark on an arduous journey, but it makes sense. The less the missionaries had to worry about, the more focussed they would be on the task in hand. The same goes for us tenfold. Think how much our worldly concerns slow us down. We might have some inspirational life changing ideas with which to change the world, but first we have to fix the washing machine, pay the mortgage, fill in a tax return, vacuum the car and bath the dog. The life changing ideas will just have to wait until tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow. Travelling light goes deeper. Jesus knows how much importance we humans attach to possessions. Jesus knows how easy it is for our possessions to possess us! Do we work to live or live to work? Is the house a roof over our head while we live, or do we live to pay the mortgage? Does the car get us to work in the morning, or do we go to work to pay for the car?



Jesus' second strategy is to stay with those who extend a welcome but not to entertain a town that does not offer a welcome. Today we would call it knowing our audience. We have to know when to promote Jesus' teaching, but we also have to know when the time or the situation is not right.

This gospel speaks to us all and that isn't a comfortable thought. Perhaps we've never imagined ourselves as evangelists. Unlike the evangelists in this story, we have no special powers to cast out evil, but we all have the power to spread goodness and kindness. We might feel small in the face of impacting our beliefs on an unbelieving world, but we've huge advantages over those first missionaries who had to evangelise in completely uncharted territory. Working with small numbers in a hostile climate without the modern advantages of computers or television, those early missionaries spread a message that exists two thousand years later. How much easier it ought to be for each of us today.

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 Collections

St Bede's, 12th June – £177.60; St Bede's, 19th June – £215.55; St Bede's, 26th June - £169.88; St Robert's 26th June - £357.45

The Day for Life Collection

The Day for Life Collection at St Bede's Church on Saturday 18th June came to £75.36

Peters Pence

The Collection for Peter's Pence last weekend raised **£71.25** at St Bede's Church and **£291.40** at St Robert's Church.



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.

St Bede's Gift Aid Donations

Many thanks to everyone at St Bede's who is in the Gift Aid Scheme. Gift Aid contributions (collections) for last financial year at St Bede's amounted to £15,259.56 which should give the parish a return of **£3,814.89**. Thanks to everyone who is in the Gift Aid Scheme. If you pay tax and give a regular contribution to the Church, you can join the Gift Aid Scheme ... just ask us for more details.

giftaid it

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.

Sea Sunday 10th July

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Sea Sunday is Sunday 10th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

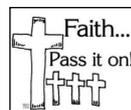


Teas and Coffees

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. 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.



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 be held on Thursday 7th July at 7.30pm at St Robert's Church Hall. 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 the Newsletter please send them to the parish email address (see front page of this Newsletter) by 7pm on a Thursday evening for inclusion in the newsletter.

Bonus Ball

Many thanks to everyone playing in the Bonus Ball. Winners were Andrea Mitchell and Betty Armstrong with number 6. Congratulations.



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. **If interested please complete this online form ... https://form.jotform.com/Fr_Peter/sycamore**

“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 or mildly thinking, please let Fr Peter know.

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 to come and join in the discussion if you are interested in what we do as a parish. Part, if not most of the meeting will discuss the preliminary findings of the recent parish survey. We are also looking for someone to take the minutes of the meeting, so if able to help, please let Fr Peter know. If you are coming along, it would be helpful if you could let us know beforehand, or a quick email to the office to indicate.

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.

Preparing for First Confession and Holy Communion

We would like to begin preparation for First Confession and Holy Communion for 2023 in September if possible. We therefore need the information of the children to be prepared. This can be done online on https://form.jotform.com/Fr_Peter/first-confession-and-holy-communion (please cut and paste this address into your browser and you should be directed straight to the form to be completed) or you can collect a form from Fr Peter at Sunday Mass anytime over the next couple of weeks.

Meeting for Catechists for 2023

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 6th July at 11.30am at St Robert’s Church Hall, for those who responded to the request for help as catechists for preparing our children for First Confession and Holy Communion, for both St Bede’s Parish and St Robert’s Parish.

Cases of Covid

News reports this week, confirm that there has been an increase of approximately 32% in cases of covid recently around the UK. The data suggests that cases have risen from 1.7 m to 2.3 m cases in one week, which is approximately 1 in 30 people. Experts say two new fast-spreading subvariants of Omicron - called BA.4 and BA.5 - are likely to be driving new infections. UKHSA officials expect more people to test positive in the next few weeks. People can catch the newer variants even if they have had coronavirus recently. There were 16 cases in Morpeth in the last week of June (up 60%) and 16 cases (down 5.9%) in Bedlington in the same period. 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, but it is reducing the spread of aerosol particles that is important, and a face covering, more than anything, can help do this.

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!

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. The Agenda for the Meeting has already been emailed to all concerned.

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.

Loud Family Liturgy

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission invite families across the Diocese to gather and celebrate for a Loud Family Liturgy and Lunch, taking place at St Cuthbert’s Church, Chester-le-Street on Sunday 10th July between 1pm-3pm. Families are asked to bring their own picnic. For more information, or to book, please email adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 2nd July <i>Weekday</i>		10am Mass: First Holy Communion Mass 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	
Monday 4th July <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Claire Boulter and Lee Heads
Tuesday 5th July <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Beatrice Buchta	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 6th July <i>St Maria Goretti</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass:
Thursday 7th July <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Dorothy Marr 7pm Divine Mercy Devotions	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 8th July <i>Weekday</i>	10am Requiem Mass: Sheila Kilgallon	
Saturday 9th July <i>Weekday / Saturday of Our Lady</i>	9.40am Rosary 10am Mass: Betty Dymond 10.30am—11am: Adoration and Confessions	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: John Carter
Sunday 10th July 15th Sunday Yr C	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Special intentions of Cole family	



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.**



Christian Aid Sponsorship - thank you

Very many thanks to all the generous people who sponsored Gerry Harber for his cross-Scotland walk. The total donated in cash and on Justgiving was £1,476.54. This is a terrific result which will make a real difference to the lives of hundreds of people through the work of Christian Aid.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

I have been informed that the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land will go ahead. We will be joining with another parish group from North London whose pilgrimage recently was cancelled when BA cancelled their flights to Tel Aviv. If anyone is interested in travelling with the group, please contact Gill at Tangney Tours, Tel 01732 886666.



Mill Hill Mission Red Box Appeal

On the weekend of 24th and 25th July a Mill Hill Missionary Priest will be visiting us to make a Red Box Mission Appeal. This will not be a monetary Appeal but one which will encourage you to take a Red Box and to raise funds in your own home for the Red Boxes. Many people already have a Mission Box, but there are still a lot of people who do not have a Red Box. In their homes. We look forward to welcoming Father Frank Graham MHM who is local to the North East.



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**



Afghanistan Crisis

The 6.1 magnitude earthquake struck shortly after 01:30 local time, as people slept, on Wednesday 22 June. It is the deadliest earthquake to strike Afghanistan in two decades. The powerful earthquake has killed over 1,000 people, injured more than 1,500 people, and destroyed thousands of homes in south-eastern Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan are now in desperate need of help. Their situation has been made worse by the Taliban takeover. You can help. Please donate online at www.cafod.org.uk

