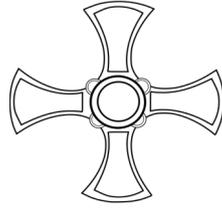


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

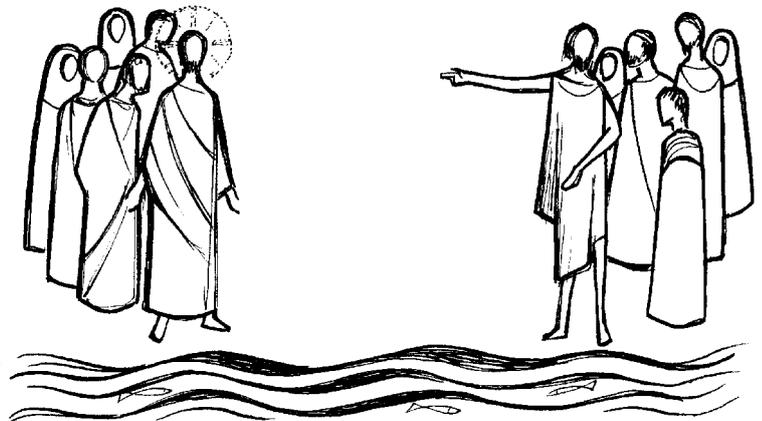
www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

Sunday 15th January 2023 - Second Sunday of Year A

There are those in our society who stand head and shoulders above the rest of us ... great entrepreneurs, politicians, writers, scientists and humanitarians. We look up to these people and wish that we were more like them. When interviewed, these great people might pass some of the credit for their success on to a teacher who has made a big impression on them, an influential mentor, or a family member.

Bearing witness is essential. Without witnesses we would know nothing of Jesus. Without John the Baptist, without the disciples, without the writers of the gospels, we would not have Jesus' teachings today. Without our parents and teachers, we would never have learned our first bible stories. Yet there are plenty of people in our world that would still benefit from Jesus' philosophy for living. There are plenty of people still consumed by greed, hate, crime obsession and misery. There are plenty of people who could still benefit from Jesus' teaching if only we as Jesus' witnesses could bring it about.

So why do we hesitate to bear witness? Well, first of all there's something about bearing witness that makes us feel uncomfortable. No one wants to be the man in the city centre wearing the biblical billboards. No one wants to be the woman with her foot wedged in the front door predicting the end of the world. Yet these people are well meaning and trying to get God's message across in the best way they know how. If these aren't the ways that we would choose, then perhaps we can find other more imaginative ways, rather than do nothing at all. The challenge we are offered today is to reach those people who remain unaffected by God in ever new and more imaginative ways.



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: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed. 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 and for all undergoing treatment for serious illnesses. We pray for all who have died recently, including **Stevie Matthews** (Morpeth) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 23rd January at 10am, followed by Cremation at Northumberland Crematorium; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections: 7th / 8th January 2023
St Bede's Church **£196.20** / St Robert's Church **£469.10**

Crib Offerings for the people of the Holy Land
Crib Offerings have increased to **£515.83** at St Robert's and **£499.46** at St Bede's. Very many thanks.

Setting up a Standing Order

Would you like to set up a Standing Order so that your Offering to the Church comes directly out of your Bank Account automatically? Our bank details are below, or alternatively, a paper copy of a Bank Mandate can be obtained from our Parish Office, which you then complete and hand to your bank. If you are setting up a new SO, it would be helpful for us to know that you are doing or have done this.

St Robert's Church

Account Name: DHN Morpeth St Robert of Newminster
Account Number: 32010755
Bank: HSBC City Branch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Sort code: 40-34-18

St Bede's Church

Account Name: DHN Bedlington St Bede
Account Number: 81163620
Bank: HSBC City Branch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
Sort code: 40-34-18

White Flower Appeal

TODAY we have the Annual White Flower Appeal for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. SPUC wants a world where abortion is unthinkable, and is raising awareness of the widespread problem of 'abortion coercion'. According to an independent poll, 87% of GP's are concerned that the Governments "pills by post" scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion.



Society for the **Protection** of Unborn Children

SPUC is calling on the Prime Minister to condemn this abhorrent tragedy. Also, very recently a woman, standing alone, praying silently, close to an abortion clinic, was arrested because she was praying silently! Can we do anything to prevent this happening to others. Raising awareness of such issues is important. SPUC works to raise awareness of these issues. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC by highlighting this difficult and urgent crises. There will be a Retiring Collection at all Masses for their work.

Preparing for Baptism

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9th February at St Bede's Church, Bedlington. Please speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen after weekend Mass to make arrangements to attend this meeting. *For Baptism in one of our Churches, parents should live within the Parish Boundaries and be attending Mass regularly in one of our churches.*



Sycamore Course

The next meeting of the Sycamore Course will be held on Monday 16th January at 7pm in the Upper Room at St Robert's Church Hall.
16th January: The Community of Church
23rd January: Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation
30th January: The Holy Eucharist
6th February: Forgiveness, Confession, Healing and Mission
13th February: Single Life, Marriage, Ordination

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held from 18th - 25th January. Morpeth Churches' diary for this is given below ...

Wednesday 18 th January	6pm	St George's UR Church
Thursday 19 th January	6pm	St Robert of Newminster Church
Friday 20 th January	6pm	St James' Anglican Church
Saturday 21 st January	12noon	Morpeth Baptists, Contact Centre
Sunday 22 nd January	6pm	Morpeth Methodist Church
Monday 23 rd January	6pm	St George's UR Church
Tuesday 24 th January	6pm	St James' Anglican Church
Wednesday 25 th January	6pm	Morpeth Methodist Church

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

As we begin a New Year, we ask all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who take Holy Communion to people in their homes or Nursing Homes, **to contact the Parish Office with the names, addresses and contact numbers** of those they are currently visiting, so that parish lists are up to date. Many Thanks.

New Extraordinary Ministers Training Course

We are always looking for people willing to be new Ministers of Holy Communion, especially able to take out Holy Communion to the Sick and House-bound. If you think you could do this and are prepared to attend the three training meetings please speak to Fr Peter. A course for those wishing to be commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion begins on Tuesday 31st January, with further information below. The training will take place at St Aidan's, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8AD.



- Session 1: Tuesday 31st January, 7pm – 9pm
- Session 2: Tuesday 7th February, 7pm – 9pm
- Session 3: Saturday 11th February, 10.30am – 3.30pm*

*Participants to bring their own packed lunch for the day event, tea and coffee provided. NB. The Saturday session ends with a Mass of Commissioning at 3.00pm. Cost: £15 per participant. Please speak to Fr Peter if you feel able to commit to this ministry for the parish community.

Children's Liturgy Resumes

Our Children's Liturgy groups at both St Bede's Church and St Robert's Church have resumed. Please remember that Children's Liturgy is not a creche. It is for those children who are at school to help give them a better understanding of each Sunday's readings. If children have already celebrated their First Holy Communion then they are now considered to be at an age when they should attend the whole of Mass rather than go to Children's Liturgy.

Children's Liturgy Helpers

Our Children's Liturgy groups are run by volunteers from our parishes and we are extremely grateful for what they do to help the catholic understanding of scriptures for our young people. However, we need a little more help for the Children's Liturgy Groups. We need one or two more 'leaders' and a couple of adults as 'Helpers'. To be a leader, all you need to have is faith, a commitment to help proclaim that faith and an idea of how to put that across to children (there are books to help!!) You don't need a degree or to be a teacher to do this! Can you help us out? All those willing to help, must have a DBS check through the Diocesan Safeguarding Office. Males or females welcome to get involved.

Tea and Coffee

We have Tea and Coffee and Biscuits after the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and after the 9am Mass at St Robert's Church each week. After 11am Mass, this will continue on the First Sunday of the month. Anyone willing to help with the 11am rota please contact us.

Counting Teams at St Bede's Church

We now have six people offering to be Counters, but we need another three people - one to join each group - to comply with diocesan guidelines for safety and security requirements. Can you help? Your Parish NEEDS your support!

Livestreaming on YouTube

If you are unable to get to Church, sick or housebound, please use this link to be able to watch the Masses from St Robert's Church live or at a later time ... <http://bit.ly/StRobert> Are you able to assist with the tablet/laptop control for the livestream of Masses. It's not difficult a difficult task and so we wonder if you would be able to help and be available for the 9am Mass on a Sunday or at the 10am Mass on a Tuesday or Thursday?

Pope St John Paul II Award

If anyone is willing to become the Parish Representative at St Robert's Parish and to promote this diocesan award in St Robert's Parish for 16-18 year olds, please contact Fr Peter. If anyone wishes to read further information the Pope John Paul II Award, it is available on the website 'thepopejohnpauliiaward.com/hexham-and-newcastle'



Hall Heating

This is just a reminder to all who use the Hall, that the Heating for the Hall should be switched off when you have finished using it. If there is no-one in the Hall when you finish, please switch off the heating. Unfortunately, it was left switched 'on' on Friday morning!



Appeal for Altar Servers

If any young people at Mass regularly wish to join our Altar Serving Teams at both St Bede's Church and St Robert's Church, please speak to Fr Peter. We have only one server at the vigil Mass at St Bede's, three for 9am Mass and one for 11am Mass at St Robert's.

St Robert's Parish Council Meeting

St Robert's Parish Council will meet on Thursday 27th January at 7pm in the upstairs Meeting Room in the Hall. As we do not have an elected Parish Council, this meeting is open for anyone interested to attend. Please make an effort to come along. Items for Agenda to be handed to Fr Oeter as soon as possible please.

First Holy Communion Preparation

Next Sunday we are asked to think more especially about the Word of God in our lives. We will make a presentation to the First Holy Children of a copy of the "Gospel of St Matthew" and this will happen at the 5.30pm Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and at the 9am Mass at St Robert's Church.

The Chosen

"The Chosen" is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Primarily set in Judaea and Galilee in the 1st century, the series revolves around Jesus and the different people who met and followed him. It is a series of seven seasons on the life of Christ and Series 1 (8 episodes) and Series 2 (8 episodes) are available to watch free on Amazon Prime video. Series 3 is now available on watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen The other four series are yet to be aired. The Chosen also has its own App available on Apple Store and Google Play. It is highly recommended.

Schools Admissions Consultation

All schools in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle are consulting on their admissions arrangements for 2024-25 including St Bede's Primary and St Robert's First School, as part of the Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust. The consultations will run for a minimum of six weeks between 5th December 2022 and 27th January 2023. For more information, go to the Diocesan Website where you find all information on Admissions, and click on the appropriate schools. For further information if needed, please contact the Diocesan Education Offices, email: education@diocesehn.org.uk or Tel: 0191 243 3313.

Safety in the Car Park

Unfortunately the fast and unsafe driving of some people using the car park has led to the installation of speed humps at the entrance to the Car Park. Hopefully some people will be forced to drive a little more slowly and safely from now on. Stay Safe!

Booking our Parish Halls

Our Church Halls at both Morpeth and Bedlington are available for booking for groups. The rate is £20 an hour. Please contact the parish office for further information. If any regular groups want to use the hall outside their usual times, please always check the diary with the Parish Office, just to make sure no one else has booked it and that it is clear for your use. Also if you have a regular booking and are not using the Hall, please let us know.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

The Pilgrimage to Lourdes is in urgent need of help to enable the 2023 Pilgrimage to go ahead. Can you help the Pilgrimage to Lourdes next year or know of someone who can? They need nurses, healthcare assistants, doctors and volunteers to provide care to the assisted pilgrims who travel with them. Previous helpers have found it is a rewarding and spiritually uplifting week. The Pilgrimage hopes to travel on Friday 28th July 2023. If you would like to find out more information please email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk or look at the [pilgrimage website ... www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk)

Vocations Weekend for Women

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), "Discerning God's Call in your life" from 3rd -5th February in London. Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. 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 fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24th - 26th February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6th - 9th July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



Diocesan Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following permanent vacancies:

- ◆ Cleaner, St Peter, Low Fell - 8 hours per week, Closing date: 19th January
- ◆ Caretaker/Cleaner, Whitley Bay and North Shields - 11 hours per week, Closing date: 23rd January

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 14th January <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Canon John McAllister 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 15th January 2023 Second Sunday Yr A	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Deceased Members of the Cole Family	
Monday 16th January <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Betty James
Tuesday 17th January <i>St Anthony</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Intentions of Anne Dawes	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 18th January <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: John Dymond
Thursday 19th January <i>St Wulstan</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Ann and Tom Reape	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 20th January <i>St Fabian / St Sebastian</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Francis Reid McAlroy
Saturday 21st January <i>St Agnes</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Peter Shepherd 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 22nd January 2023 Third Sunday of Year A	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for January 2023

For educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.



Mary's Meals

We recently sent a cheque to Mary's Meals from St Bede's Church, the result of donations to the Saturday evening Teas and we have had a reply ...

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your precious gift of £554.57, which is helping us to transform the lives of hungry children around the world with a nutritious daily meal in school. Your kindness is bringing food, joy and hope to the children who eat Mary's Meals, allowing them to make the most of their education and giving them the chance of a better future. As part of our Double The Love appeal, your donation will be matched – all thanks to a group of generous donors who are doubling donations, up to £1.5 million, at this time. This means your gift will feed even more hungry children with Mary's Meals. Our meals make a huge difference to children like Aung who came to Thailand as a baby from Myanmar. Now 15, Aung who works during the week, attends school at the weekend, where he hopes he can learn his way to a better future. He says: "I am grateful to those who support us with lunch meals, rice and curry at school. I'd like to thank your donors for supporting our future generation at school." Today, more than two million hungry children in 20 of the world's poorest countries – including South Sudan, Ethiopia, India and Yemen – are sitting in classrooms with full stomachs, and learning how to read and write, thanks to supporters like you. Together, we are bringing the hope of a brighter future to so many little ones who depend on the promise of a daily meal in school. I thank you, with all my heart, on behalf of the children who eat Mary's Meals. Daniel Adams, Executive Director, Mary's Meals.



The Universe Catholic Weekly

"The Universe Newspaper is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it", keeping Catholics informed about their faith, and bringing them ever closer to God. Please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount. Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk"

Day of Prayer for Peace

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon says, "2022 has been a year of war and rumours of war. Lives lost, people displaced, fear and suspicion overwhelming many communities around the world. These wars are also contributing to the destruction of our environment. Sometimes it feels as though we have moved backwards in our efforts to bring peace and justice to our world. However, the constant, faithful voice of Pope Francis urges us to keep going. Whether he is speaking about Ukraine and Russia, Yemen or the Middle East, his message is always the same: No to war and no to the trade in weapons that fuel war. His All Saints Angelus message offers these questions: 'Brothers and sisters, let us look within and ask ourselves: are we peacemakers? In the places where we live, study and work, do we bring tension, words that hurt, chatter that poisons, controversy that divides? Or do we open up the way to peace?' Pax Christi England and Wales works all year round to 'open up the way of peace'.

Pax Christi Prayer for Peace

God, our Creator and Redeemer, May we see the sorrow of war in the eyes of those who suffer and have known only violence in their lives. Give us a voice for those who have no voice and are not heard; those who know that there is no tomorrow in war, and that the violence of weapons destroys both the beauty of creation and the joy of life. That way, with your help, will we become true instruments of your peace. Amen

Retreat on the Monastic Music Hours

This retreat will be held at Minsteracres from 27th - 29th January. It offers an opportunity to provide a relaxing meditative break away from the hustle and bustle of the world, whilst enjoying the beauty and serenity of music. Drawing on the historical and liturgical 'Music of the Hours', a monastic tradition dating back to the 8th Century and music includes sublime 16th Century Polyphony by the likes of Byrd and Victoria which punctuates the day with times of music, insights, reflection and prayer. Listening to the very popular Gregorian chants sung by professional singers, we reflect on the monastic journey that comforted and supported many historic communities. The suggested donation for this weekend is £250. Contact info@minsteracres.org or 01434 673 248.