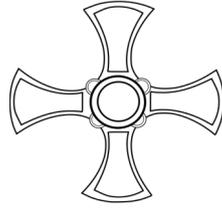


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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**

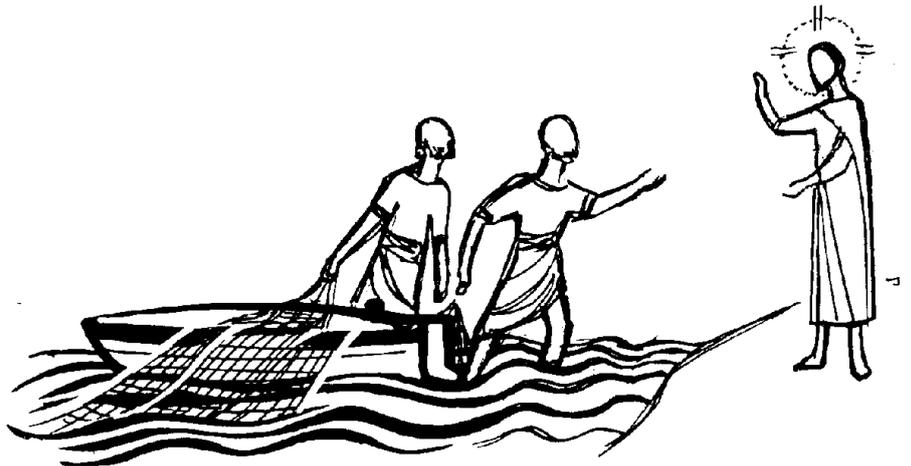
Office Hours | Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am—3.30pm at St Robert's | Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's

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

## Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2023 - Third Sunday of Year A

It's at this time of year, when the Christmas holiday is well and truly over and people are back to work, back to school or just back to normality, that we wonder what we are really doing with our lives. When we meet the first disciples in today's gospel, they are wondering pretty much the same thing. Were they going to spend the rest of their lives catching fish, or were they going to follow Jesus and become 'fishers of men'? The early disciples were unerring in their discipleship. They left their nets and followed Jesus 'at once' .... 'immediately'. There was no doubt in their minds about how they wanted to live out their lives. Discipleship was a job for life.

Jesus' work is never done and there will always be vacancies for new disciples. Discipleship is something akin to an army. Without active supporters, a cause can grow faint. We are not asked to keep Christ's teaching to ourselves, we are asked to be 'fishers of men' always opening up God's opportunities to others. The world is a dangerous place full of greed and extremism. There are too many people in the world who feel that money and coercion are the way to get what they want. There are not enough people who believe that love and respect for every human being they meet might be a better answer.



We might feel uncomfortable with the idea of being 'fishers of men'. It conjures the idea of notching up conversions like some kind of biblical salesperson. Today we are asked to sweep our preconceptions aside. Being a 'fisher of men' needs to be about making a real difference in other people's lives by demonstrating our discipleship. Discipleship is a job for life.

*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 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 10am, followed by Cremation at Northumberland Crematorium; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Church Collections: 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
St Bede's Church **£142.90** / St Robert's Church **£522.08**

### 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

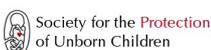
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Account Number: 32010755  
Bank: HSBC City Branch, Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
Sort code: 40-34-18

#### 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

Very many thanks to all who contributed to the White Flower Appeal last weekend. We collected **£115.00** at St Bede's Church and **£407.02** at St Robert's Church. Thank You very much for your generosity.



### Sunday of the Word of God

On September 30<sup>th</sup> 2019, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. Pope Francis states, *This Sunday of the Word of God will be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity ... May the Sunday of the Word of God help his people to grow in religious and intimate familiarity with the sacred Scriptures. For as the sacred author taught of old: "This word is very near to you: it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance" (Dt 30:14)*



### First Holy Communion Preparation

As part of celebrating the "Sunday of the Word of God", we will make a presentation to the First Holy Communion 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.

### Catholic Women's League Burns Night

Morpeth CWL will be meeting for their Burns Night celebration on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, at 4.30pm - 6pm in St Robert's Church Hall.



### St Robert's Three Cs

The next meeting of the Three Cs club will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, beginning at 2pm, in St Robert's Church Hall.

### Finance Committee Meeting

St Robert's Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm, as agreed at the previous meeting.

### St Robert's Parish Council Meeting

St Robert's Parish Council will meet on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> 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. Any items for the Agenda should be handed to Fr Peter as soon as possible please.

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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 Housebound. 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 31<sup>st</sup> January, with further information below. The training will take place at St Aidan's, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8AD.

- Session 1: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 7pm – 9pm
- Session 2: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm – 9pm
- Session 3: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Sacristans Course

Would you like to become a Sacristan, one who sets up and tidies away after Mass or services? Are you a Sacristan already who wants a refresher on what to do? An introductory course which helps sacristans to begin learning about this ministry, finding out how to set up the pages of the Lectionary and Missal, set up what is needed for Mass etc etc. If you would like to come along, please contact Father Peter to discuss with him and then he can complete a registration form on your behalf. The Training will be held at St Bede's, Chapel Road, Jarrow, NE32 3LX on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February, from 10.00am – 3.00pm\* (to include a Commissioning Mass) Participants to bring a packed lunch – tea and coffee provided. Parish will cover the £7.50 cost of this course.



### Day of Reflection for Ministers of Holy Communion

A Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February, from 10.30am-4.00pm at The Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, 37 High Street, Amble, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 0LE. The cost is £15.00 per person, and you are asked to bring your own packed lunch (tea and coffee will be provided). Booking Details: To reserve a place on this Day of Reflection please go to the Diocesan website or contact admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk. Deadline: Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

### Appeal for Altar Servers

If any young people at Mass regularly wish to join our Altar Serving Teams at either St Bede's Church and St Robert's Church, please speak to Fr Peter.

### **New Lay Leaders of Holy Communion Course**

The Liturgy Team in the diocese are organising an introductory course for new Lay Leaders of Holy Communion. If you feel you could help with the leading of our Services of Word and Holy Communion we ask you to go on this course. Please contact Father Peter to discuss with him. This will be held at St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY on the following dates, which you must be able to attend.

- Session 1: Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am – 3.00pm.
- Session 2: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am – 3.00pm.
- Session 3: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am – 3.00pm.

Participants are asked to bring their own packed lunch for the day (tea and coffee will be provided). The Cost will be £20 per participant, but will be covered from Parish Funds.

### **St Robert's SVP**

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be on Wednesday 1st February.

St Robert's SVP have a need for a living room carpet 5m x 4m for a family they are visiting. If anyone has one they could donate please contact Gerry Harber - Tel 517829. Thank you.

### **St Robert's Senior Parishioners Social**

The annual social for senior parishioners will take place on Saturday 25th March, 3pm to 6pm. All those on the list for previous years will be receiving an invitation from an SVP member, but anyone who qualifies (over the age of 70) is welcome, together with their spouse if not a catholic. Please put your name on the list at the back of St Robert's church if you would like an invitation. As in the past, the SVP would welcome donations of prizes for the raffle at the social. Please leave them with any SVP member or at the presbytery labelled for this purpose

### **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 have 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**

We are very grateful that two new volunteers responded last weekend at St Robert's to the appeal for extra people to get involved. It is greatly appreciated. We rely on volunteers to do this and we are extremely grateful for what they do to help the catholic understanding of scriptures for our young people. However, we always need a little more help for the Children's Liturgy Groups. 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.

### **Sycamore Course**

The Sycamore Course continues on Monday evenings ...

- 23rd January: Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation
- 30th January: The Holy Eucharist
- 6th February: Forgiveness, Confession, Healing and Mission
- 13th February: Single Life, Marriage, Ordination
- 6th March: The Social Teaching of the Catholic Church
- 13th March: The Adventure of Prayer
- 20th March: The Hope of Heaven

### **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!

### **Preparing for Baptism**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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*

### **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/'

### **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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023. If you would like to find out more information please email [lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk) or look at their website .. [www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk)

### **Vocations Weekend for Women**

The Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), are holding a weekend on "Discerning God's Call in your life" from 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> February in London, giving 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](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

### **Mary's Meals**

There is an unprecedented need for the school feeding programme that Mary's Meals offers. The total number of children receiving Mary's Meals every school day as they learn now stands at 2,429,182. However the rising cost of living and global inflation, together with fuel, fertiliser and grain prices which have skyrocketed over the past year, and programme delivery costs have increased as a result (rising by 20% in 2022), it now costs £19.15 / €22 and \$25.20 (USD) to feed a child for a whole school year. Some of us may spend similar amounts on one round of drinks at the pub, in a café or for a meal or a takeaway. How much does it cost you to fill your tank with fuel for your car? Can you support Mary's Meals? Until 31<sup>st</sup> January they will double your donation! Go online to make a donation - <https://www.marysmeals.org/>



# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January</b> <i>St Agnes</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> Peter Shepherd 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b> <b>Third Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b> <i>Weekday</i>	<b>10am REQUIEM MASS:</b> Stevie Matthews <i>Followed by Cremation at Northumberland Crematorium, Bockenfield</i>	
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> A Sick Child	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>The Conversion of St Paul</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> David, Angela & David Robertson
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>St Timothy and St Titus</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Deceased of the Dalton Family	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>St Angela Merici</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> Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> Stevie Matthews 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Year A</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Deceased of the McLaughlin Family <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	

Livestreaming is available on YouTube via this link [ <http://bit.ly/StRobert> ] and the Masses that are live-streamed are those indicated above with the little red symbol as shown 



## 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.



### Vocations to the Priesthood Enquiry Evenings

The Priesthood Vocations Team invite men aged 18+ who might be experiencing the call from God to discern priesthood to join the Vocations Team in finding out more. Discernment Evenings for 2023 are planned for: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December. These will be held at the Cloister Café - St Mary's Cathedral Clayton Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5HH from 6pm - 8pm. There will be a time of Prayer, talk/discussion, followed by a meal together. If you would like to attend, or for more information, please contact the Vocations Promoter, Fr Shaun Purdy by email: [vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk) or by phone: 01670 812 200.

### Is God calling you to be a Priest?

The Diocesan Vocations Team have organised an overnight retreat for men aged 18+ to discern whether God is calling them to the Priesthood. Date ... Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023, 5pm to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2023 (after lunch) Place Emmaus Youth Village Pemberton Rd, Allensford, Consett DH8 9BA Cost £50 (including all meals and ensuite accommodation) Spaces are limited. Please contact Fr Shaun Purdy to book a place or for more information: Email [vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk) Telephone 01670 812 200. Bookings to be made by Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk) or Tel: 0191 243 3313.

### Bedlington Food Bank

On 3<sup>rd</sup> January, The Matthew Project ceased "trading" and the Bedlington Food Bank was created. All donations now go to Bedlington Food Bank, which is now based at Trinity Church, Clovelly Gardens, Bedlington and it will work in exactly the same way as the Matthew Project. Please continue to place your generous donations of unperishable food in the Bedlington Food Bank bins in the Church entrance.

### 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](http://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.

### Diocesan Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following permanent vacancies: Caretaker/Cleaner, Whitley Bay and North Shields - 11 hours per week, Closing date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact ☎ 0191 243 3301

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity continues into the middle of this week with Services in the following churches ...

Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	6pm	Morpeth Methodist Church
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	6pm	St George's UR Church
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	6pm	St James' Anglican Church
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	6pm	Morpeth Methodist Church