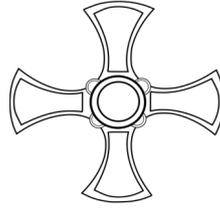


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 29th January 2023 - Fourth Sunday of Year A

Today we listen to Jesus' most famous sermon; a list of promises to the poor, the meek and the merciful that we now call 'The Beatitudes'. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven," promises Jesus, "Blessed are the meek, blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness." Is Jesus telling us we can only be blessed if we make ourselves poor? Is he telling us to sit back meekly and let others walk all over us? Is Jesus encouraging us to go out and actively invite persecution and insult?

It's difficult to embrace Jesus' values because we have been brought up to value everything that Jesus does not. From an early age we have been taught to work hard at school so that we will get a good job and earn lots of money. We are scolded for not speaking up for ourselves and applauded for pushing ourselves forward. Our culture is all about winning, prestige and material success.

The challenge we find in the Beatitudes is to work contrary to our human instincts in order to find true happiness and fulfilment. Our instincts are to amass wealth, earn fame, and bask in our perceived self-importance. It is often our cowardly instinct to turn a blind eye to injustice or to fail to stand up for what we believe because we are afraid of ridicule. It is the instinct of governments to engage in conflict in the pursuit of material gain and power.



In his sermon, Jesus was not suggesting we live in dire poverty or become human doormats for the sake of it. Rather Jesus is asking us to look again at our values. We are asked to look at the things that we think will bring happiness. Jesus challenges us 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: 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 **John Kilgannon** (formerly of Stakeford) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on 17th February; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections: 21st / 22nd January 2023
St Bede's Church **£179.80** / St Robert's Church **£368.98**

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 so 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

Tea and Coffee

Available after the Vigil Mass and after the 9am Mass every week and after 11am Mass on the first Sunday of the month.

Candlemas Day

Thursday 2nd February is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, Candlemas Day, the day that Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to be presented to the Lord and it celebrates also the purification of Our Blessed Lady, 40 days after the birth of Jesus. Candlemas Day is one of the oldest feasts, celebrated since the 4th century in Jerusalem. Mass on Thursday will begin with the Blessing of Candles. Come along to Mass and share this Feast with everyone else present and then at home, light a candle that day to remember the light of the world, Jesus and the difference he made to the lives of Simeon and Anna.



"Come to the Well"

We will continue with our time of Prayer and Reflection, led by Chris Smith, on Thursday February 2nd at 7pm in the upper Meeting Room of St Robert's Church Hall. All Welcome.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Many thanks to the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for sending in the names of those they visit. **If any Ministers of Holy Communion wish to put themselves forward to take Holy Communion out to the Sick and Housebound, please let us know and we will add your name to the list so that we can allocate you when the need arises.**

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.

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 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 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.

Sacristans Course

Would you like to become a Sacristan, someone who prepares, sets-up and tidies away after Mass or services? Are you a Sacristan already who wants a refresher on what to do? A 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 is being held at St Bede's, Chapel Road, Jarrow, NE32 3LX on Monday 13th February, from 10.00am – 3.00pm* (to include a Commissioning Mass). Participants should bring a packed lunch – tea and coffee provided. Parish will cover the £7.50 cost of this course. 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.



New Lay Leaders of Holy Communion Course

We have only one Commissioned Lay leader in St Bede's Parish and we have only three active Lay Leaders at St Robert's Church at the current time. We do need a couple of people to come forward if we are to continue with Services of the Word and Holy Communion into the future. Fortunately, the Liturgy Team in the diocese are organising a course for new Lay Leaders of Holy Communion, so if you feel you could help with the leading of our Services of Word and Holy Communion we ask you to sign up for this. Please contact Father Peter to discuss this with him. The course 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 28th February, 10.00am – 3.00pm.
 - Session 2: Tuesday 7th March, 10.00am – 3.00pm.
 - Session 3: Tuesday 14th March, 10.00am – 3.00pm.
- Participants are asked to bring their own packed lunch for each day (tea and coffee will be provided). The Cost will be £20 per participant, but will be covered from Parish Funds.

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 ...

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

Day of Reflection for Ministers of Holy Communion

A Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be held on Saturday 4th 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 31st January 2023

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

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*



Pope St John Paul II Award

We have not had any offer of help yet for this but, 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. One of the difficulties here is that our young people tend not to attend the local Catholic High School in Bedlington and therefore do not get to know about the opportunities as do those at St Benet Biscop Catholic School do, so the award needs to be promoted more in Morpeth. 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 28th July 2023. If you would like to find out more information please email lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk or look at their website .. 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 3rd - 5th 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 or visit our website 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 Marys Meals? Until 31st January they will double your donation! Go online to make a donation - <https://www.marysmeals.org/>



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 14th February, Tuesday 4th April, Tuesday 27th June, Tuesday 3rd October and Tuesday 5th 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 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 3rd March 2023, 5pm to Saturday 4th 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 Telephone 01670 812 200. Bookings to be made by Thursday 16th February.

Bedlington Food Bank



On 3rd 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.

Wansbeck Valley Food Bank and Refugees

Boxes / Bins are available at the entrance to both St Bede's Church and St Robert's Church for donation of non-perishable food for our local food-banks and for refugees and asylum seekers. If you can, make a donation, and sincere thanks for all you do to support those in need.



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 28th January <i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Stevie Matthews 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 29th January Fourth Sunday of the Year	9am Mass: Deceased of the McLaughlin Family  11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 30th January <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Holy Souls
Tuesday 31st January <i>St John Bosco</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Douglas D'Netto (AD) 	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 1st February <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: Holy Souls
Thursday 2nd January <i>The Presentation of the Lord</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Ken and Eileen Percival 	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 3rd February <i>St Blaise / St Ansgar</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 4th February <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: John Addison 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 5th February 2023 Fifth 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.



The Chosen

The Chosen is a 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.

Diocesan Vacancies

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

- Diocesan Offices, Newcastle, Management Accountant – full-time, permanent, Closing date: 6th February
- Parish Secretary, St Peter, Low Fell - 10 hours per week. Closing date: 10th February

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

St Benet Biscop presents "The Addams Family"

St Benet Biscop Academy has tickets available for their school production "The Addams Family" on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th February at 7pm in the main school hall (all other performances are sold out). Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for concessions and the show boasts an exceptionally talented cast and fabulous 9 piece orchestra. Tickets can be booked by ringing the school on ☎ 01670 822795 and reserving them via Louise Maughan. Payment can be made on the evening. If you would like to arrange a group booking please email Louise Maughan on maughanl@stbb.org.uk

Christian Aid Coffee Morning/Toy Sale

The Morpeth Christian Aid Group are holding a Coffee Morning and selling second hand toys on Saturday 1st April at St George's URC Church (outside if the weather is fine enough). Any donations of toys for sale at this event would be appreciated and they look forward to you joining them for a cuppa.

Livestreaming of Mass from St Robert of Newminster Church 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 

Homes for Ukrainians

I am writing to request your support in promoting our programme for individuals displaced by the war in Ukraine. Our Catholic charity, St John of God Hospitaller Services, together with our partners Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is currently running a Homes for Ukraine programme, which provides temporary housing and support for Ukrainian displaced individuals as they adjust to life in the UK. The purpose of our programme is twofold – to evacuate people from the warzone and prevent homelessness amongst those Ukrainians already in the UK. The programme has received funding from The Albert Gubay Foundation and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities. We believe that the church community has an important role to play in supporting and advocating for refugees, and we would greatly appreciate any assistance you could offer in spreading the word about our programme. This could include sharing information about our programme with your congregation through announcements, mailing lists, or displaying our posters on your parish noticeboard and website (social media, newsletters and parish magazines. More information on the project can be found at the following links Website: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> or E-mail: homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk Facebook page: [facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine](https://www.facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine)

Planning Your Catholic Funeral

Sometimes when people die, their families plan their funeral and the person who has died may not get the Funeral they desired! Sometimes, because the extended family do not go to Church, they do not plan a Church Funeral. Have you told your family what you want for your funeral? We have Funeral Planning Forms available in St Robert's Presbytery that helps you plan your Funeral so that you and your family are able to sort it out now, and so that everyone knows what you want! Complete the Form and let people know where its kept!