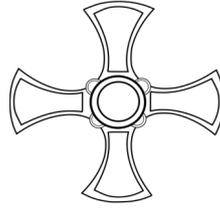


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - The Baptism of the Lord

Has anyone ever told you that they're proud of you? It's a good feeling .... it's a feeling that empowers ..... a feeling that makes you believe you can do anything. Imagine for a moment that day on the River Jordan at Jesus' baptism. Consider how Jesus must have felt when the heavens opened and the Spirit of God spoke the words "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Remember that this significant event took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry before he had gone out into the world to teach or to heal. Before Jesus had done anything at all, God was already well pleased with him. With this kind of support and this kind of love, Jesus was empowered to do anything.

As baptism identified Jesus, so too are we identified in our baptism as children of God. So what significance does baptism have in our lives? Do we feel proud at God's affirmation? Do we feel empowered to carry out God's plan? In truth most of us would be confounded if we had to provide an answer to these questions. To most of us, our baptism is an old photo in a forgotten album of childhood memories, or a neglected christening mug collecting dust on a high up shelf. In our own baptism we do not have the obvious benefit of God speaking directly to us from the heavens. Nevertheless, we have made promises in baptism and confirmation, and like any other promise we have to work at keeping them. Baptism isn't a one off event. Baptism is a sacrament that we have to work at daily .... setting aside time to think about what we are meant to be doing and having the faith that God is supporting us in our efforts.



Jesus said of his baptism. "Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness." Jesus didn't explain what he meant by this, but in biblical context, the word 'righteousness' is often used to express a good relationship with God. By this, we understand that our own baptism sends us off on the road to building a good relationship with God and with others, and by believing in God's backing, we are empowered to do more than we can imagine.

*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 **Pat Hopper**, (Morpeth) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 11am at St Robert of Newminster Church; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Church Collections: 31<sup>st</sup> December / 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023**  
St Bede's Church **£160.77** / St Robert's Church **£574.77**

#### Crib Donations

Very many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Crib Offerings for the people of the Holy Land, to all who contributed at the end of our Christmas Masses and to those who made contributions into the basket in Church. "These contributions for the most needy in Bethlehem would be greatly appreciated. Let us not allow the light of the Christian faith in the Holy Land to be extinguished". The amount collected is **£462.46** at St Bede's and **£450.83** at St Robert's. Thank You.

#### Standing Orders

Standing orders for December at St Bede's Church is **£1,261.00** and **£3,549.92** at St Robert's Church. 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 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

The Annual White Flower Appeal for the Society for the Promotion of Unborn Children will take place **next weekend, 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January**. 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. 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.



Society for the **Protection** of Unborn Children

#### Requiem Mass for Pope Benedict XVI

A Diocesan Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral, TOMORROW, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 12.05pm. Bishop Séamus Cunningham will preside at this Mass and all Clergy, Religious and Laity of the diocese are welcome to attend.



#### St Benet Biscop Partnership Mass

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January is the Feast of St Benet Biscop and therefore the patronal feast for our Partnership of Parishes, consisting of Longhorsley, Morpeth, Ashington, Bedlington, Blyth, New Hartley, Cramlington and Annitsford. There will be a Partnership Mass on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington to celebrate this Feast Day and to pray for all our parishes in the Partnership. Everyone welcome to come along. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

#### Preparing for Baptism

The next Baptism preparation Meeting in January has been cancelled as no-one was asking to have a child Baptised. The next meeting therefore will be held on February 9<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the Upper Room at St Robert's Church Hall.

16<sup>th</sup> January: The Community of Church  
23<sup>rd</sup> January: Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation  
30<sup>th</sup> January: The Holy Eucharist  
6<sup>th</sup> February: Forgiveness, Confession, Healing and Mission  
13<sup>th</sup> February: Single Life, Marriage, Ordination

#### 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?



#### St Robert's Three Cs

The Three C's will be meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January in St Robert's Church Hall from 2pm until 4pm. Come along and join with others for a Cuppa, Chat and Conversation with God. Everyone is very welcome.

#### Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, at 10.30am, in St Robert's Church Hall. Members are asked to please bring your favourite Christmas card along to the meeting.

#### Mass Attendance

Since we fully reopened in April 2022, we have kept a record in both Churches of the numbers coming to Mass. We include the average attendance here with the previous years that are available. It is noticeable how our numbers have dropped in recent years. It also raises concerns for the future.

Average Numbers	St Bede's Church	St Robert's Church
<b>2016</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>283</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>288</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>312</b>
<b>2020</b> Covid	<b>121</b> (Jan - March only)	<b>72</b> (4 wks October)
<b>2021</b> Covid	<b>51</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>2022</b> April - December	<b>88</b>	<b>218</b>

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



As we begin a New Year, we ask all 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.

### Local Fatima Centre for Pilgrimage 2023

Fr Manoj Joseph, Parish Priest of St Paul's, Cramlington, is establishing St Paul's Church as a Local Fatima Centre for Pilgrimage for the year 2023. Fr Manoj would like to involve various parishes and schools where they may wish to take the statue of Our Lady for a visitation. The Centre will organise first five Saturday devotion, Rosary, Message of Fatima, Prayer and Adoration, spiritual reflections, along with wide range of functions and events throughout the year

### Children's Liturgy Resumes

Our Children's Liturgy groups at both St Bede's Church and St Robert's Church resume this weekend. While not wanting to put people off attending, please remember that Children's Liturgy is not a creche for under age children. It is for those children of school age 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 going to Children's Liturgy.

Welcome to Children's Liturgy



### Tea and Coffee

We resume with our regular Tea and Coffee and Biscuits after the Vigil Mass each week at St Bede's Church and the 9am Mass at St Robert's Church. At 11am Mass this will continue on the First Sunday of the month, with the first one taking place TODAY 8th January. Anyone willing to help with the 11am rota please contact us.

### 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 yr 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'



### 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.



### 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.

### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January	6pm	St George's UR Church
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	6pm	St Robert of Newminster Church
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	6pm	St James' Anglican Church
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> January	6pm	Baptist Church, Abbeyfields School
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

### Counting Teams at St Bede's Church

We have had another two offers of help, which makes 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!

### 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.

### Admissions to Schools for 2023

For prospective parents in our parishes looking for Admissions into either St Robert's First School or St Bede's Primary School, the "admissions portal" for September 2023 Reception places is now open on the Northumberland County Website under "Reception entry applications". It closes on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and any applications must be made by then.

### 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.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

The Pilgrimage to Lourdes is in urgent need of help to enable next years 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 [the-pilgrimage-website...](http://the-pilgrimage-website...) [www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk)



# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Weekday after Epiphany</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b> <b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Jim McKee <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Weekday Yr I, Week 1, LH 1</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Alexander Robinson	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</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> John Carter
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>St Benet Biscop</i>	No Mass	<b>7.00pm Partnership Mass:</b> Celebrant's Intentions
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Weekday</i>	<b>11am Requiem Mass:</b> Patricia Hopper <i>Followed by Burial at Fairmoor Cemetery at 12.30pm</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> Canon John Mc Allister 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Year A</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass:</b> Deceased Members of the Cole Family	



**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.



### Bugs and Viruses

Some people are suffering from the severe cold bug that is circulating at the moment or to one of a variety of other bugs and a lot of people are coughing and sneezing. If you have a bug or a virus and find that you are coughing or sneezing a lot, then you are, if possible, encouraged to stay at home and avoid gatherings of large people where bugs can be spread more easily. Please remember the hand gel we have available in our churches, available for your use to wipe away the bugs from your hands as you come into church and also during your time in the Church in case you need to cleanse your hands after a cough or sneeze. Beware the new covid variant "XXB.1.5 Kraken"! Let's keep everyone safe from all our bugs and viruses in the coming weeks.



### Diocesan Vacancy

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following permanent vacancy: Cleaner, St Cuthbert, Chester le Street - 6 hours per week. Closing date for applications: 12<sup>th</sup> January. Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact ☎ 0191 243 3301

### Parish Boundaries

Following diocesan-wide consultation with Parish Priests, revised Parish Boundaries have been decreed for all parishes of the diocese. Maps with Boundaries for St Bede's, Bedlington and St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth are available to view in both churches and on the diocesan website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

### 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. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, 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](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)"

### Retreat on the Monastic Music Hours

This retreat will be held at Minsteracres from 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> 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. We draw on the historical and liturgical 'Music of the Hours', a monastic tradition dating back to the 8th Century and music includes sublime 16<sup>th</sup> 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 the many historic communities who lived through adversity, yet found this faithful rhythm of prayer, (intricately related to the Psalms and Scripture - in which are found expressions of joy, praise anguish and remorse) a fundamental mainstay in developing a trusting and loving relationship with God. The suggested donation for this weekend is £250. Contact [info@minsteracres.org](mailto:info@minsteracres.org) or ☎ 01434 673248.

### First Holy Communion Preparation

Our First Holy Communion Preparation continues this week, with Session 5, "Glory to God in the Highest" in the "I Belong" books. In this chapter we talk about the concept of 'glory' and how important it is to give thanks and praise to God. At Mass, the Gloria is the most wonderful song of praise to our God. The Children's catechesis meetings will be held at St Bede's Church Hall, Bedlington on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 3.30pm and at St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 3.30pm. We look forward to welcoming the Children. We remind parents of the importance of attending either the Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass and encouraging the children to have the Passports signed.

There will also be a special Mass for the Children on the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> January and we hope all FHC children will be at Mass that day.

