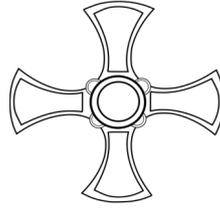


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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

**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

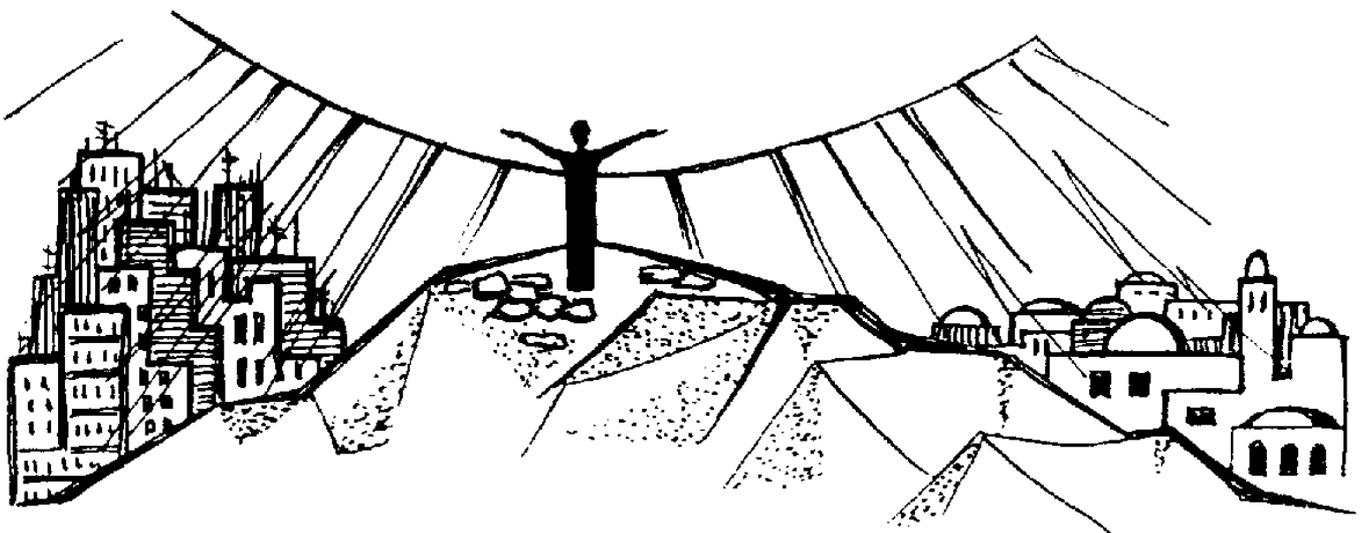
www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

## Sunday 25th February 2023 - First Sunday of Lent, Year A

If we imagine that temptation never seems to come our way, could it be that we're not worth the devil's attention? We tend to think of temptation as something that will lead us into a life of crime or immorality, but temptation is simply anything that threatens to take us away from God. If temptation never seems to come our way, perhaps it's because we are not trying to be close to God in the first place.

Many of us fail to recognise temptation, and the reason we fail is because we don't really know who we are or what we're about. It's surprising that we can get so far on in years without being about to answer simple questions like "What are you doing for God?" "How would you like to be remembered?" The reason we struggle with questions like these is because as human beings we are governed hugely by self interest. Self interest is essential for survival and it's in all of us, but as Christians we have to put self interest on a back burner and put in the time and effort into defining who we really would like to be. Once we have achieved this, then the devil's temptations are suddenly crystal clear. After all, we can't be tempted away from our path in life if we've no idea what our path in life is. If we have no plan, we are hardly worth the devil's attention.

When we choose to give up something this Lent, perhaps it should be something that reflects the path we have chosen and the temptation we are trying to transcend. If we decide to give up red wine for instance, with the intention of dropping a couple of dress sizes, God won't be hugely impressed and the devil won't be remotely interested. If we give up wine because we have identified that it is stopping us from doing some important work of God's making, our Lenten journey will take on a life changing significance. Jesus gives us an important clue; "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" When we make our daily choices ask, "Is this about me.... or is it about God?"



*Please take this Newsletter home with you, so that you know what's happening in your parish this week*



During Lent we are asked to pray for these intentions: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers. 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 **Father**

**Patrick McMahon** (retired, former Parish Priest at St Bede's, 1984-1986) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Teresa's, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 12.45pm; **Philip Duffy** (Morpeth) whose Funeral Service will take place at St Robert's Church on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm; **Pamela Wright**, (Bedlington) whose Funeral Arrangements will be announced shortly; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### Church Collections: 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> February

St Bede's Church: £180.53 / St Robert's Church: £431.09

#### 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? Please contact the Parish Office for Bank Details or a paper Mandate to complete to hand to your bank. If you are setting this up, it would be helpful for us to know that you are doing so or have done this with a quick message to the parish office.

#### CAFOD Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

Very many thanks to everyone who contributed to the retiring collections over the last two Sundays for the Disaster Earthquake Appeal. We raised another **£359.03** and a **£500** private donation at St Bede's Church and **£1,163.50** at St Robert's Church. When we add the two weeks together we have raised in total the wonderful amounts of **£1,174.13** at St Bede's and **£2,197.55** at St Robert's. Thank you very much for your generosity. This is to be sent to CAFOD and will be used to assist those who have lost everything, living in an emergency situation, in wintry conditions and who now have to try to rebuild their lives.

#### Marys Meals Earthquake Appeal

Marys Meals has worked with agencies in Syria since 2017, dealing with some of the poorest people because of the troubles they have suffered in ten years, but latest reports say that the devastation because of the Earthquakes is set to become even more serious and urgent. They are taking donations directly on their website. You can read via this link of the situation ...[www.marysmeals.org/news/articles/a-new-disaster-is-unfolding-people-have-lost-everything](http://www.marysmeals.org/news/articles/a-new-disaster-is-unfolding-people-have-lost-everything)

#### Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at St George's United Reformed Church, Bridge Street, Morpeth on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 1.30pm**. The Service this year has been arranged by the Christian Women of Taiwan, taking as their theme, "I have heard about your faith". All Welcome. Refreshments will be available after the Service.

#### "Come to the Well"

The next meeting of this group, looking at various ways of praying will be held on Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 7pm-8pm, in the upstairs meeting room at St Robert's Church Hall. A quiet hour of prayer and reflection as we embark on our Lenten Journey

#### CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

The Lent Fast Day is to be held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, and envelopes are available today for those who wish to give towards this appeal. CAFOD's Family Fast Day is an opportunity for us this Lent to eat simply, to pray and to give what we can. Take home a CAFOD envelope today and put in it whatever you save by fasting on Family Fast Day. Return the donation next weekend or soon after. You can use the CAFOD envelope to Gift Aid your donation, which boosts your donation by 25%. The focus this Lent is to support those most affected by the climate change crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

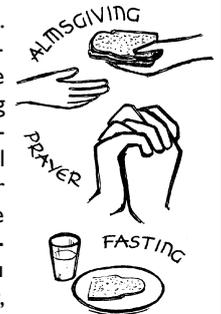
#### Soup Lunches for Lent

We will have Soup Lunches for Lent at St Robert's Church, beginning on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. These lunches will begin at 12noon. Next Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Family Fast Day, Mark Maughan, the local CAFOD representative for the diocese will be present and will give a brief talk at 12noon on the work of CAFOD, and the soup lunch will be served after his talk. All Donations received will be split between CAFOD and Mary's Meals. Very many thanks to those who have offered to make soup for the Fridays in Lent, it is greatly appreciated.



#### Do something extra for Lent

We are asked to try to do something for Lent. That may include **fasting** or giving up something ... a certain food or from something we enjoy for the six weeks; it may include doing something extra for Lent, so for example coming to Mass on weekdays during Lent if at all possible or coming along a little earlier for Adoration, or **praying** the Stations of the Cross; or it may even be just making a **donation** to a charity during Lent. Whatever you decide to do for Lent, try to do something, rather than letting it just go by like any ordinary time of the year.



#### Stations of the Cross

During Lent we will celebrate Stations of the Cross. These will be at 10.30am on Tuesday and Thursday at St Robert's Church, and some volunteers are needed to lead these. They will also be held on Sunday at 4pm at St Bede's Church.

#### Lenten Alms

Following on from Advent Alms, our Lenten Alms will also go towards St Cuthbert's Care, as it is our diocesan tradition. "This Lent, we hope to call upon your generosity once again to help us raise funds to purchase a small vehicle across our two nursing homes. Your continued support allows us to offer the little extras that mean the world to our residents – for this I am deeply grateful. Thank you. My very best wishes, Moira Ashman CEO, St Cuthbert's Care. Each Sunday a basket will be available for Lenten Alms for St Cuthbert's Care.



#### Lenten Reflections

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission has now produced the first booklet of Lenten reflections, ahead of the beginning of Lent on Wednesday. The reflections have been contributed by a mix of clergy, religious and lay people to express the richness and variety of our diocesan community. The dedicated Lenten reflection page on the diocesan website can be found here: <https://bit.ly/DHNLent2023>

#### Bedlington Churches Together - Lent Gatherings

Instead of the traditional soup and a roll, there will be tea and coffee and refreshments (savory scones or cakes). The emphasis is on coming together for fellowship and worship during Lent. These will take place at the Salvation Army in Bedlington, for six Fridays in Lent between 11am and 12 noon, beginning on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023. (Please note the earlier time than previously!) The last quarter of an hour will be devoted to a time of worship led by one of the leaders of our churches.

#### St Bede's Primary School CAFOD Big Walk for Lent

The "Mini Vinnies" Group at St Bede's Primary School in Bedlington have organised for the school to take part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. They are hoping to raise quite a bit of money to support the CAFOD Earthquake Disaster Appeal, but also hope to raise the awareness of Lent and allow the children to experience the number of days and talk with those at home about Lent.



### School Masses

Reception Class from St Bede's School will be present at 10am Mass on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March and all classes from St Robert's School will be present at 10am Mass on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

### Tea and Coffee

Tea and Coffee is available after the 5.30pm Vigil Mass and after the 9am Mass every week; and after 11am Mass on the first Sunday of the month. *If anyone is willing to help with the preparing of Tea and Coffee after the 11am Mass on a Sunday, it would be appreciated so that we can offer it more regularly.*

### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

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.

### Sycamore Course

There are two Sycamore sessions left on our Course. We will explore "The Adventure of Prayer" on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February and then finally on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March, look at "The Hope of Heaven". Please meet as usual at 7pm in the upstairs meeting room at St Robert's Church Hall.

### St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 5 pm.

### Do you have a spare carpet?

The SVP at Morpeth 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 - ☎ 517829. Thank you.

### St Robert's Senior Parishioners Social

The annual social for senior parishioners will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 3pm to 6pm. All those on the list for previous years should have received 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. Also, offers of help with transport to and from the social would be gratefully received.

### Christian Aid Coffee Morning/Toy Sale

The Morpeth Christian Aid Group are holding a Coffee Morning and selling (second hand) toys on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at St George's URC Church, from 10am to 12noon - outside if the weather is fine enough. We would appreciate any donations of toys for sale at this event, and look forward to you joining us for a cuppa.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

Pilgrimage Booking is now available by following this link to the website of Tangney Tours <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/newcastle-lourdes>  
The Pilgrimage will be for 7 nights from £870, from 28<sup>th</sup> July - 4<sup>th</sup> August 2023 by Air from Newcastle. Full information of all hotels available on this website. A special Youth Section is also available for 18-25yr olds. A few Parishioners have already booked to travel so you may wish to join them on the diocesan pilgrimage.



### Catholic Nursing Home Vacancies

There are vacancies in the Catholic Nursing Homes run by St Cuthbert's Care - St Catherine's Home in Newcastle and Holy Cross Home in Sunderland. Should you wish to know more information, please contact Gill Ennis, St Cuthbert's Care Registered Manager, on ☎ 07779 248 185 and she will be delighted to help.



### Supporting Refugees

The Justice and Peace refugee project would like to sincerely thank all those in the parish who have been supporting the refugees with donations of food. The project has been going many years and sadly, demand for help is growing. In December 2022, 462 clients were being supported. New arrivals are sometimes housed in hotels when they apply for asylum. Those who are not accepted and appeal against this decision, can then be left waiting years for the appeal process to go through. During this time they lose government support. There is a continuing need for food and also especially, toiletries. Occasional "treats" such as dates and olives are also welcome. For more information, go to <https://diocesehn.org.uk/news/justice-peace-refugee-project-update-february-2023/>

### Supporting local Food Banks and Refugees

We have boxes at the back of our Churches to help support the work of local Food bank. You can donate to Bedlington Food Bank at St Bede's Church and Wansbeck Valley Food Bank at St Robert's Church. At both churches there is also a bin / box available for food to be donated to refugees that are supported through the diocesan Justice and Peace Network and SVP at Newcastle.



### Charity Meal for Refugees in Need

Tickets are still available for a Charity Meal for Refugees in Need, organised by Ruhi Akhtar, to be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, at 7pm at Tandoor Mahal, Bridge Street, Morpeth. Money raised will help with desperately needed funds to support her work with asylum seekers in Greece. For tickets, at £23 per person, please call in to Staits, or the Tandoor Mahal, or contact Maura Illingworth on ☎ 01670 516452

### Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft) are holding a Big Brew on Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> at St George's URC, from 10am - 12noon, Tea, Coffee, Cake Fairtrade Stall and Climate Change Stall/

### Parish Social Committee

At the recent Parish Council Meeting at St Robert's Parish, the idea of a Parish Social Committee was once again raised. This Committee would be responsible for both planning and organising social events in the Parish and for the Parish. If there is interest in forming this committee please speak to Fr Peter. While it will be good to have one or two interested and committed people, we really need several people to be involved and we need to work together as a parish group to make this work.

### Holy Island SVP Vinnie Camp 2023

Are you interested in your child having a holiday in 2023? Let them join us for a week on Holy Island, They'll stay in our Centre and be looked after by DBS checked and trained helpers who will ensure they have a safe, fun time. Girls and boys can be aged 9-12 and it is a great way for them to meet new people and make friends from all over the North East. A week's all-inclusive holiday costs £150 and can be paid in instalments. In some circumstances children may be able to receive partial or full funding to attend. If you're interested, or know of a child who could benefit from such a holiday, please visit our website for further details at <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island> Applications open from 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### 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 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.

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday</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 26<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass:</b> Alan Smith	4pm Stations of the Cross
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> <i>No Intention</i>
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Pat Hopper 10.30am Stations of the Cross	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March</b> <i>St David</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> <i>No Intention</i>
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Private Intention 10.30am Stations of the Cross	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</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> <i>No Intention</i>
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i> <i>Saturday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> Andrew Kingwell 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b> <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	4pm Stations of the Cross



## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for February 2023

For Parishes: We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.



### 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 en-suite 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.

### Livestreaming of Mass

Livestreaming of our Masses from St Robert of Newminster Church is available on YouTube via this link [ <http://bit.ly/StRobert> ] Are there any volunteers to help with the Livestreaming, please contact Fr Peter or Marian Bell.

### 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](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)"

### New Liturgical Leaders of the Word and Holy Communion

This is a last minute reminder that the diocese are holding a training course for new Lay Leaders on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, all 10am-3pm. Those training must be able to attend all three sessions to complete the training, which will be held at St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY. The cost is £20 per participant and will be covered from parish funds. Booking is online at <https://forms.office.com/e/Lyk0DyKmGP>

### Catholic Schools Admission Appeals Panels

The Diocesan Department for Education is looking for volunteers to serve on admission appeals panels for Catholic schools. Appeal panel members hear parents appeal cases when, occasionally, they feel that the school they have been allocated for their child is not appropriate or practical. If you: are interested in education and want to get involved though you do not need to be a teacher; have excellent listening skills, combined with the ability to put people at ease and make balanced decisions; have the time to offer (usually appeals last half a day, a day, or two at each sitting); are willing to undertake training to understand the rules of school admissions then this is an excellent way to serve Catholic schools. For more information and to obtain an application form, please email - [education@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk) or give them a call on 0191 243 3313.

### Foundation Governors Needed

St Robert's First School currently have 2 vacancies on the Local Governing Body for Foundation Governors. All Foundation Governors are appointed in the name of the Bishop and form the majority of the governing body of a Catholic school. They have a duty to preserve and develop the Catholic character of the school. A Foundation Governor must be a practising Catholic, ie regularly attending Mass and in full communion with the Church in all aspects. Your parish priest needs to approve your application and be your referee. If you feel you have certain skills that would benefit our School, please speak to Fr Peter.

### Little Sisters of the Poor Fundraising

David and Teresa O'Neill have been raising funds for the Little Sisters of the Poor for a number of years by collecting used postage stamps (any country or period), foreign currency (again from any time or country), broken or unwanted gold & silver jewellery & military medals. So far they have raised & donated over £17,000. If you can help please contact them ..... David & Teresa O'Neill, 34 Morston Drive, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7RZ, Tel: 0191 264 5771

