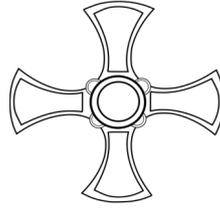


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

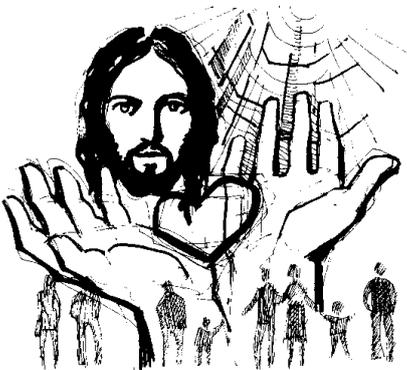
Office Hours | Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am—3.30pm at St Robert's | Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's

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

Sunday 12th February 2023 - Sixth Sunday of Year A

How often do we hear solicitors wrangling over the law, looking for a loophole to suit their own agenda? Those seeking loopholes seem perfectly happy to ignore the spirit of the law in their quest to win.

In today's gospel reading Jesus invites us to consider that it is not just laws in themselves that are important but our attitude towards those laws. Perhaps we haven't committed murder, but have we harboured hatred? We might not have committed adultery, but have we failed to live up to the love we once promised our spouse? We might not have committed theft, but are our hearts set on the wealth our neighbours have earned? Laws might seem to fence our lives with rods of uncompromising iron, but most laws are simply expressions of how we should behave towards each other. The unwritten laws of love bind us in promises that we wouldn't dream of compromising let



alone riddling with loopholes. When it comes to those we love, we don't need a statute book, our hearts tell us what to do. The written law should be no different. Laws are written down in books of statute and commandments are written in the Bible, but the spirit of the law must exist in our hearts.

What exists in our hearts is as important if not more important than our actions because it's what written in our hearts that defines us.



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, 10am, 17th February; **Father Patrick McMahon** (retired, formerly priest at St Bede's) and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections

St Bede's Church 29th Jan: **£178.00** and 5th Feb: **£195.75**
St Robert's Church 5th Feb: **£462.51**

Racial Justice Sunday

We collected **£21** at St Robert's and **£59** at St Bede's for Racial Justice Sunday. We forgot to advertise this, so many thanks to those who handed in their envelopes!

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

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. CAFOD has already made a donation of £100,000 to help those affected, but so much more is needed. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Turkey Syria Emergency Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.



We will have a Retiring Collection this weekend 11th/12th February and next weekend 18th/19th February for CAFOD/Emergency Disaster Committee.

Tea and Coffee

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.

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 four Sycamore sessions left on our Course and are given below. Please meet as usual on Monday evenings, at 7pm in the upstairs Meeting Room at St Robert's Church Hall.
13th February, Single Life, Marriage, Ordination, Consecration
20th February, The Social Teaching of the Catholic Church
27th February, The Adventure of Prayer
6th March, The Hope of Heaven

Lent Begins on 22nd February

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 22nd February and it marks the beginning of our Season of Lent. Masses with the distribution of Ashes will be celebrated at 10am at St Bede's Church, Bedlington and at 12.30pm and 7pm at St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth.



Soup Lunches for Lent

We will have Soup Lunches for Lent, beginning on Friday 24th February. These lunches will begin at 12noon, however, on Friday 3rd March, Mark Maughan, the local CAFOD representative for the diocese will be present and will give a 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.



St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be on Wednesday 22nd February. The SVP report to the parish on what we have done in 2022 is available at the back of church. Please pick one up as you leave.

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. 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

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Service for this years Women's World Day of Prayer has been arranged by the Christian Women of Taiwan, taking as their theme, "I have heard about your faith". The Service will be held at St George's United Reformed Church, Bridge Street, Morpeth on **Friday 3rd March at 1.30pm**. Anyone who would like to join the choir and music group are asked to come along to rehearsals at St Georges Church on 17th and 24th February at 11am. On Friday 3rd March for the Service for the Day of Prayer, readers are asked to attend from 10am and the service begins at 1.30pm. Refreshments will be available after the Service.

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 for Wednesday and Friday Services. 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. Closing Date for Booking is 20th February.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

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. 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



Mary's Meals

The total number of children receiving Mary's Meals every school day 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** to feed a child for a whole school year. Can you support Marys Meals? They are also supporting a special emergency donation for children affected in the earthquakes in Syria.



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.



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/>

Charity Meal for Refugees in Need

A Charity Meal for Refugees in Need, organised by and to support 'Biryani & Bananas', will be held on Wednesday 8th March, 6.30pm for 7pm at Tandoor Mahal, Bridge Street; £23 per person. Ruhi Akhtar, a former nurse from Morpeth, whom our parish helped with medical supplies in 2016, desperately need funds to support her work with asylum seekers, many from Syria, Iran, Afghanistan and war zones in Africa who have been forced to leave their homes, and are utterly destitute. For further information please take an information sheet which is available at the back of the church. For tickets, call in to Staits, or the Tandoor Mahal, or contact Maura Illingworth on ☎ 01670 516452



Indian Cuisine

Livestreaming of Mass

Livestreaming of our Masses from St Robert of Newminster Church is available on YouTube via this link [<http://bit.ly/StRobert>]

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.

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?

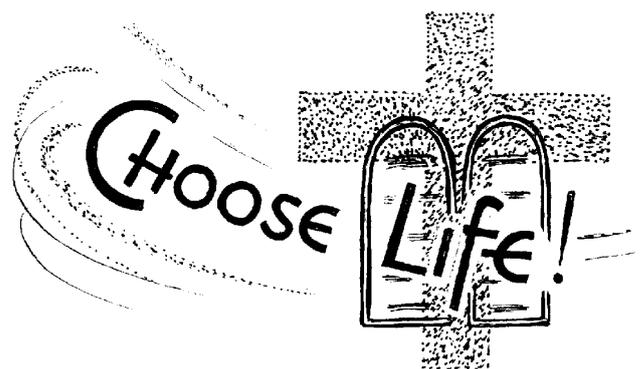
The Diocesan Vocations Team have organised an overnight retreat for men aged 18+ to discern whether God is calling them to the Priesthood. Date ... Friday 3rd March 2023, 5pm to Saturday 4th March 2023 (after lunch) Place - Emmaus Youth Village Pemberton Rd, Allensford, Consett DH8 9BA Cost £50 (including all meals and en-suite 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.

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.

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



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 11th February <i>Weekday</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 12th February Fifth Sunday of the Year	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Intentions of Fr Peter 12.30pm Baptism Rafe Teddy Reardon	
Monday 13th February <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Holy Souls
Tuesday 14th February <i>SS Cyril and Methodius</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Tommy Dodds	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 15th 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: In Thanksgiving (MC)
Thursday 16th February <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Douglas D'Netto	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 17th February <i>Seven Founders of the Servite Order</i>	10am Requiem Mass: John Kilgannon	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 18th February <i>Weekday / BVM</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Dorothy McEvoy 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Tom, Elizabeth & John Coates
Sunday 19th February 2023 Seventh Sunday of Year A	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Jack and Sheila Brown	



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.



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. We do lots of interesting and enjoyable activities such as rock pooling, longball, football, rounders, walking, craft and art, table tennis, long ball, Quizzes and competitions and marathons as well as laser tag, silly sports, sand castle building, swimming and scavenger hunts. 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 10th February 2023

Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University

The Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) are seeking to appoint a part-time Administrator, 21 hours per week, whose work will focus on CCS events and communications. Do you know anyone who might be interested in applying? Full details can be accessed at "Job Description - CCS Administrator (22001983)" (taleo.net) The closing date for applications is midnight on Monday 20th February 2023.

SVP Newcastle

St Vincent de Paul Society (England & Wales) are seeking a Support Centre Manager in Newcastle upon Tyne. View full job details and apply here: <https://www.svp.org.uk/work-with-us>, looking for the Newcastle Centre Manager (scroll down the page) Closing date for applications is Friday 17th February 2023.



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Tree Maintenance

Tree Maintenance work is due to begin on the Tuesday of half term, 21st February at St Robert's Church Grounds. All trees in the entrance driveway, the approach to Church, the Grotto area and the boundary fence along the Wansbeck River are to be trimmed. As St Robert's grounds are in the Morpeth Town Conservation area, and some of our trees have tags on them, all permissions and approvals have been granted by Northumberland County Council for the works to be completed. Please note, that some bays of the car park will not be available from 21st - 24th February to allow for machinery and access to trees.



The Universe Catholic Weekly

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