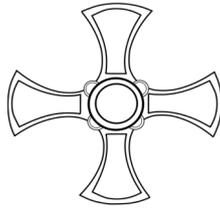


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.strobertsmorpeth.com) | [www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk](http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk) | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - Seventh Sunday of Year A

What strange advice! “If anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.” “If anyone forces you to go one mile go also the second mile...” “If anyone sues you for your outer garment, give them your undergarment too.” Jesus tells us not to resist evil. Does he mean us to roll over and allow our enemies to walk all over us?



It's very easy for us to love our friends. Only loving those who are easy to love doesn't provide very much of a challenge, and consequently doesn't earn us much of a reward. The challenge Jesus poses today is to meet our enemies with love. Jesus' advice is to meet violence with non-violence and to meet force with acquiescence. If we only love those who love us back, we are not doing anything more than anyone else, but if we love our enemies, we show ourselves to be true disciples of Christ.

In our conflict-ridden world, today's gospel has never been more relevant. Never has there been a better time for Christians to get more involved in campaigning for non-violent strategies. Jesus isn't suggesting we roll over and allow our enemies to walk all over us, nor is he suggesting we turn a blind eye. What he is suggesting is that we always make a stand for justice in the spirit of love and not aggression. There are a million and one little things we can do each and every day to help tackle the causes of poverty, prejudice and oppression. The world has never been more ready.



*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 **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 Duff** (Morpeth) husband of Georgina, whose Funeral Service will take place at St Robert's Church on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Church Collections: 12<sup>th</sup> February**

St Bede's Church: **£153.60** / St Robert's Church: **£549.46**

**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 another Retiring Collection this weekend, 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> February for the CAFOD / Emergency Disaster Committee Appeal.** Last week we raised a wonderful amount - **£315.10** at St Bede's Church and **£1,034.05** at St Robert of Newminster Church. Thank You!

**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)

**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?

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 1.30pm**. Refreshments will be available after the Service.



**Lent Begins on 22<sup>nd</sup> February**

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February and it marks the beginning of our Season of Lent and is an important day in the Church's year. 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 at St Robert's Church, beginning on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February. These lunches will begin at 12noon, however, on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 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**

During Lent we are asked to try to do something for Lent. That may include fasting from 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 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>



### The Three Cs

The next meeting of the 3 C's Group will be meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm in St Robert's Church Hall

### Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, at 10.30am, in St Robert's Church Hall.

### 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 three 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.

- \* 20th February, The Social Teaching of the Catholic Church
- \* 27th February, The Adventure of Prayer
- \* 6th March, The Hope of Heaven

MATTHEW 5:43-45

"You have heard that it was said,  
'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'  
But I tell you:

# LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

and pray for those who persecute you,  
that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

### St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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

### 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.



### 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 (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.

**TOY SALE**

### 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

A Charity Meal for Refugees in Need, organised by and to support 'Biryani & Bananas', will be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> 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



### 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.



### 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

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday</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> Tom, Elizabeth & John Coates
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Seventh Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass:</b> Jack and Sheila Brown	
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b>
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Stevie Matthews	NO SERVICE OF WORD AND COMMUNION
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>12.30pm Mass:</b> Pat Hopper <b>7.00pm Mass:</b> Stevie Matthews	<b>10am Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Douglas D'Netto (AD) 10.30am Stations of the Cross	NO SERVICE OF WORD AND COMMUNION
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February</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> For Peace in Ukraine
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Saturday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</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 2023</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



**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.



## 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.

## 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.

## 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](http://taleo.net)) The closing date for applications is midnight on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## 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.

## Tree Maintenance

Tree Maintenance work is due to begin this week, on the Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> February to allow for machinery and access to trees.



## The Universe Catholic Weekly

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