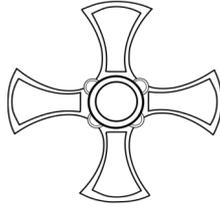


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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**

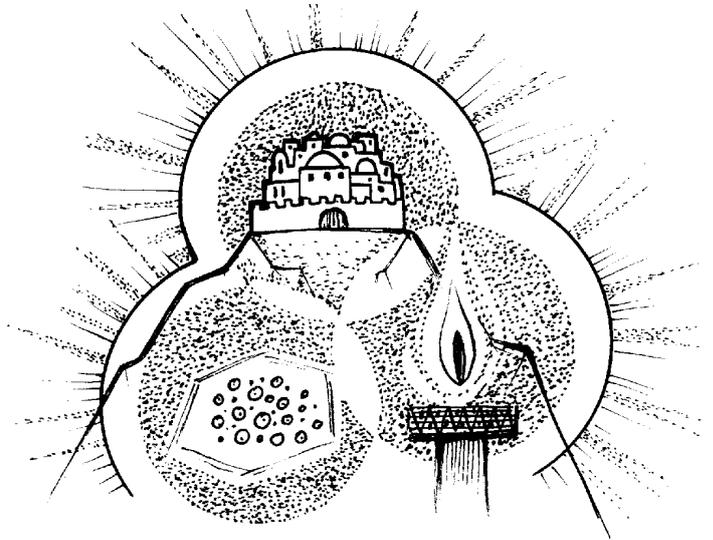
Office Hours | Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am—3.30pm at St Robert's | Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's

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

## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023 - Fifth Sunday of Year A

We often hear folk proclaim that their faith is a very private affair, something strictly between themselves and God. Of course there's a place for private worship, but at the end of the day, what good is a religious conviction that rarely impacts others and fails to make the world a better place?

Today Jesus tells us that if we live by our faith we will become 'the salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world'. How wonderful to be worthy of such compliments, but lest we get carried away, Jesus warns of us of the pitfalls. If the salt is to lose its taste it will become worthless, and if we are to hide the light beneath a bowl it will obviously fail to serve its purpose. What a silly idea! Why on earth would we go round hiding lights underneath bowls .... yet we do it all the time.



We deny the salt and hide the light every time we keep our faith to ourselves. It isn't fashionable to be a Christian nowadays and hiding God's light gives us a get out clause. Hiding the light means we can choose the comfortable or the easy option. Hiding the light means ignoring someone who is alone, or suffering. Hiding the light means keeping quiet and erring on the side of popular opinion. Hiding the light means keeping quiet in the face of injustice or intolerance.

Today we are invited to remember all those who Jesus might have described as the 'salt of the earth'. We all remember someone who has motivated and inspired us. We all remember someone who has stood out against the crowd. Today we ask, "Are we guilty of practising our faith quietly and only when it's safe, or are we shining examples."

*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: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
St Robert's Church **£571.38**

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.***

#### First Holy Communion Preparation

Preparation continues this week with Session 7 "Bread to Offer" and Session 8 "Fruit of the Vine". It's a lot of work to go through, so children will undoubtedly have some work to complete at home. St Bede's Children will meet on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm in St Bede's Church Hall and children at St Robert's will meet at 3.30pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Please remember to make sure children come with the "I Belong" books on the days they are needed.



#### Sycamore Course

The Sycamore Course continues on Monday evening. This week's meeting is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February with the theme of "Forgiveness, Confession, Healing and Mission".

#### Lent Begins on 22nd February

Ash Wednesday is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 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.



#### Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> February, at 10.30am, in St Robert's Church Hall.

#### The Three Cs Group

The 3C's Group will meet once again on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm - 4pm in St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth. It is an opportunity for anyone to come along and to share friendship, prayer and cup of tea with fellow parishioners, a cuppa, a chat and some conversation with God. Come along.

#### St Robert's SVP

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

#### 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



#### Preparing for Baptism

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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*

#### 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**. Anyone who would like to join the choir and music group are asked to come along to rehearsals at St Georges Church on 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> February at 11am. On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

#### Eucharistic Miracles

Carlo Acutis was born 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1991, in London, where his parents were working. Just a few months later, his parents, Andrea Acutis and Antonia Salzano, moved to Milan. As a teenager, Carlo was a gamer and computer programmer who loved soccer and the Eucharist. He was diagnosed with leukaemia and he offered his sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Church, saying "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church." As a young man, as a young child, Carlo loved to pray the rosary. After he made his First Communion, he went to Mass as often as he could, and he made Holy Hours before or after Mass. He went to confession weekly. He asked his parents to take him on pilgrimages — to the



places of the saints, and to the sites of Eucharistic miracles. He created a database of Eucharistic Miracles throughout the world and he told people that "the more often we receive the Eucharist, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on this earth we will have a foretaste of heaven." He died on October 12<sup>th</sup> 2006, aged 15 and was buried in Assisi, at his request, because of his love for St. Francis of Assisi. His cause for canonization began in 2013. He was designated "Venerable" in 2018, and was designated "Blessed" October 10<sup>th</sup> 2020. A full account of the Eucharistic Miracles that Carlo listed is available on [www.miracolieucaaristici.org/](http://www.miracolieucaaristici.org/) When we read about these miracles, let us never underestimate the power of the Eucharist, it is a great gift to us and we should never lose our faith and trust in the Most Holy Eucharist and the power it has to transform and save us.

### Sacristans Course

Would you like to become a Sacristan, someone who prepares, sets-up and tidies away after Mass or services? Are you already a Sacristan who wants a refresher on what to do? A course which helps sacristans understand 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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



### 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 28<sup>th</sup> February, 10.00am – 3.00pm.**
- **Session 2: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00am – 3.00pm.**
- **Session 3: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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. 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 their website .. [www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk](http://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? Until 31<sup>st</sup> January they will double your donation! Go online to make a donation - <https://www.marysmeals.org/>



### 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.



### 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 14<sup>th</sup> February, 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 ensuite 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.

### 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.

### St Benet Biscop presents "The Addams Family"

St Benet Biscop Academy has tickets available for their school production "The Addams Family" on Monday 13<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:maughanl@stbb.org.uk)

### Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February is the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (as in the statue of Our Lady in our Grotto) and it is the 31<sup>st</sup> World Day of Prayer for the Sick. The Holy Father's message is entitled: "Take care of him" – Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing. In light of the Church's synodal journey, Pope Francis invites "all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness." ... Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty. In this way, when evil bursts onto the scene and wounds us, we are left stunned. Moreover, others might abandon us at such times. Or, in our own moments of weakness, we may feel that we should abandon others in order to avoid becoming a burden. This is how loneliness sets in, and we can become poisoned by a bitter sense of injustice, as if God himself had abandoned us. Indeed, we may find it hard to remain at peace with the Lord when our relationship with others and with ourselves is damaged. It is crucial, then, even in the midst of illness, that the whole Church measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true "field hospital", for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time. We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who go on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers.

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> John Addison 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> Patrick, Owen and Molly Ruddy
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of the Year</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish 12.30pm Baptism Lyla Elle Whitley	
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Paul Miki and Companions</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b>
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Douglas D'Netto (AD)	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Josephine Bakhita / St Jerome Emiliani</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>
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b> <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Brian Fanning 11am Burial of Ashes of Stevie Matthews	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Scholastica</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> Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>Our Lady of Lourdes</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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Year A</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish 12.30pm Baptism Rafe Teddy Reardon	



## 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.



### 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!

### 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 15<sup>th</sup> February, 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



### Diocesan Vacancies

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

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

Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact HR Staff on ☎ 0191 243 3301

### Safeguarding Information

We received this week an updated list of all who have / should have DBS checks for the volunteering role in the parish. The following paragraph accompanied the email, "Please find your latest Parish Update List enclosed with this communication. As we have to prepare the documents a couple of days prior to you receiving them, the update lists may not reflect updates made in the last couple of days. Please be assured that these are still updated and will appear on your next list. As you will be aware, it is absolutely essential that any regulated role (DBS role) within your Parish must have an up-to-date DBS clearance. I completely understand some ministries have not yet resumed since Covid, however unless the DBS's are completed, the volunteers will not be able to participate when the ministries resume. **If any volunteer is out of date, no matter for how long, they MUST NOT undertake any ministry until they receive their new DBS Certificate.** Please can you review your attached list and speak with your volunteers who are outstanding and start the renewal process, or if the volunteer is no longer wishing to volunteer please inform the safeguarding office and we can remove them from your list. If we don't hear from you by the end of February 2023, we will assume the volunteer is no longer wishing to volunteer and they will be removed from the list and will be unable to carry out ministry."

### 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 need several people to be involved and we need to work together as a parish group to make this work.