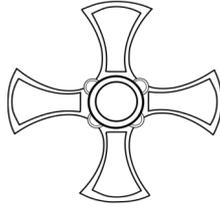


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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

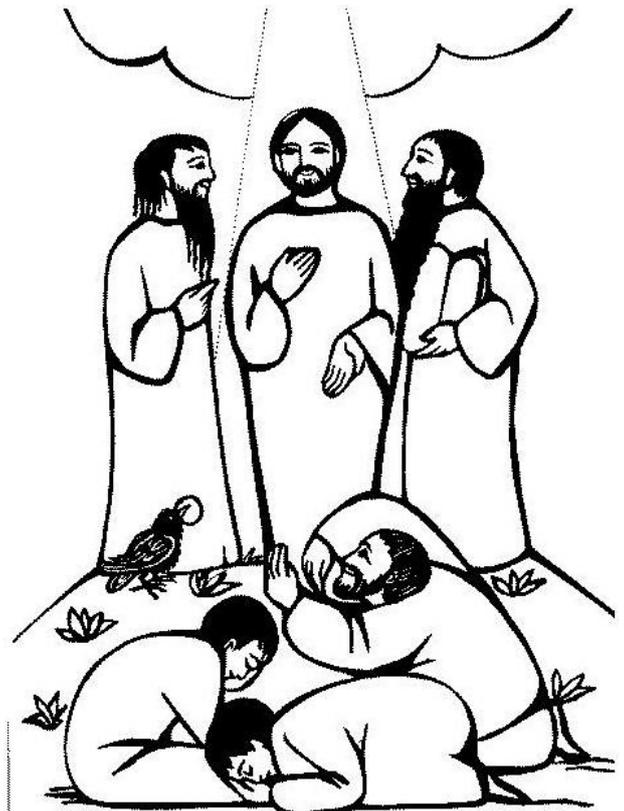
## Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - Second Sunday of Lent, Year A

Jesus is the Son of God, but there are those who have other opinions. Perhaps, they say, he was just a very good man with a gift for teaching and healing. Perhaps he was just a prophet. Perhaps he was just a charismatic leader, a social worker, a philanthropist, a rebel or some kind of religious genius.

Today Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray. And as Jesus was praying the appearance of his face is changed, and his clothes become a dazzling white. Suddenly they see two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They have appeared in glory and are speaking of his departure, which he is to accomplish at Jerusalem.

What the Bible is saying here is that Jesus of Nazareth was no ordinary human being. Jesus was no ordinary carpenter from Galilee. Jesus was not just a miracle worker, not just a teacher, not just a healer. In the 'Transfiguration' Jesus reveals his true identity. Jesus is the Son of God, the only Son of God'. It's no wonder that Peter wants to erect three tents to hold onto this truth. How privileged the early disciples were to have been given this vision. We have not been given first hand experience of the Transfiguration, but what we do have is the evidence of how the disciples' lives were changed by the Knowledge of Jesus' identity. The disciples had the memory of the Transfiguration to motivate them through the difficult times ahead. We have the memory of Peter's commitment and influence to motivate us similarly.

There are those who think it is good enough simply to believe Jesus was a good man. For those of us who believe Jesus is the Son of God, we will never attend the funeral of a loved one with thoughts of never seeing them again. Believing in God, means believing that one day we will share in Jesus' glory.



*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; **Philip Duffy** (Morpeth) whose Funeral Service will take place at St Robert's Church on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm; **Pat Lewin** (Morpeth) who died recently and whose Requiem Mass is to be celebrated on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March; **Joseph Edington** (Hartford, Bedlington) whose Requiem Mass is to be celebrated at St Bede's Church on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10am; **Pamela Wright**, (Bedlington) who will be received into St Bede's Church on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 5pm followed by Funeral Service at Cowpen Crematorium on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45am; **Angelina Nardini** (Morpeth) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10am; **Marion Dodds**, great-grandmother of Josh Marshall, who died on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February aged 100; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Church Collections: 25<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup> February

St Bede's Church: £154.65 / St Robert's Church: £470.89

### Lenten Alms

Our Lenten Alms collections go towards St Cuthbert's Care, as it is our diocesan tradition. They are continuing their fundraising to purchase a small vehicle across their two nursing homes. Check their website for all their work throughout the diocese <https://stcuthbertscare.org.uk/> Your continued support allows them to offer the little extras that mean the world to the residents at Holy Cross Home and St Catherine's Home. Each Sunday a basket will be available for Lenten Alms for St Cuthbert's Care. Last weekend we raised £161.65 at St Robert's and £51.00 at St Bede's Church



### Collection Envelopes

This weekend, Peter Smith will be distributing the new Collection Envelopes at St Robert's Church as the current ones end soon. There are named envelopes for all who Gift Aid their donations or who have Standing Orders and we ask that you take the envelopes, even if you don't use them because you have set up a Standing Order (you will still need these envelopes for your Special Collections)

### 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.

### 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)

### CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

The Lent Fast Day was held on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Envelopes are still 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. 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 are holding Soup Lunches for Lent at St Robert's Church. These lunches will begin at 12noon until 1pm every Friday during Lent. 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. Thanks to everyone for your support.



### 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 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 (savoury 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. (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.

### 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

The last session of our Sycamore Course will be held 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 5pm.

### 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.

### Preparing for Baptism

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March at St Robert's Church, Hall, Morpeth. 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

### 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 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.

### 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.

### 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

### 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



### 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)"

### 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@diocesahn.org.uk](mailto:education@diocesahn.org.uk) or give them a call on ☎ 0191 243 3313.

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday</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> George and Ellen Arkle
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March</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
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	<b>2pm Funeral Service:</b> Philip Duffy <i>Followed by Cremation at Northumberland Crematorium</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Mai and Michael Ryan
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i> <i>(Ss Perpetua and Felicity)</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Isabel Walker 10.30am Stations of the Cross	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent (St John of God)</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> Pamela Wright
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent (St Frances of Rome)</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Pat Horrax 10.30am Stations of the Cross	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	<b>10.00am Requiem Mass:</b> Pat Lewin <i>Followed by Burial at St Mary's Cemetery</i>	<b>10am Requiem Mass:</b> Joseph Edington <i>Followed by Burial at Bedlington Cemetery</i>
<b>Saturday 11<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> James Robert Weatheritt 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> March 2023</b> <b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Michael Lillico <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	4pm Stations of the Cross



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

For victims of abuse: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church itself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.



### Foundation Governors Needed

St Robert's First School currently have two 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.

### New Lectionary for Mass

The Bishops of England and Wales gave their final approval to the new Lectionary recently which will now be sent to Rome for its definitive approval. The Lectionary will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition with the Abbey Psalms and canticles. It is hoped that following the 'confirmation' from the Holy See, the Lectionary may be published and ready for use in our parishes for the beginning of Advent 2023.



### Receiving Holy Communion under both forms

The Bishops' Conference has decided that the distribution of Holy Communion as Precious Blood from the Chalice, would be able to begin once again at the Mass of the Lord's Supper in Holy Week 2023. However, they have left the decision as to whether this is reintroduced in the Parish to the Parish Priest. Fr Peter has discussed this during the week with parishioners at both Churches and the general feeling is that we should not introduce this just yet. Ministers of Holy Communion in particular, feel that they are not ready for this to be reintroduced as they would have to consume what is left in the chalice at the end of Holy Communion. Listening to several priests earlier this week, the same feelings have also been expressed by them. So while the Bishops may feel it is appropriate to reintroduce Communion from the Chalice, we will not begin this form of Holy Communion until a much later date in our parishes.

### First Holy Communion Preparation

Our Parish Preparation for First Holy Communion continues this week. St Bede's First Holy Communion group will meet on Tuesday 7th March at 3.30pm and St Robert's on Thursday 9th March at 3.30pm. We are extremely grateful for the work of our catechists who give their time each month to lead these catechesis sessions with the children and we are also grateful for the support provided by our parents throughout this preparation course.

### Diocesan Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancy: Administrator in the Vicariate for Faith and Mission (maternity cover), full-time. Closing date for the vacancies is 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact HR on ☎ 0191 243 3301 for further information.

### The 3Cs Group

The 3C's will be meeting on Monday 6th March at 2:00pm. All welcome to come along and join in the friendship.

### St Bede's SVP Report

St Bede's SVP have written a report of their work in the last year and this is available this weekend if you would like a copy. You will find them in the Narthex as you come into Church.

