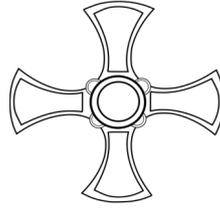


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

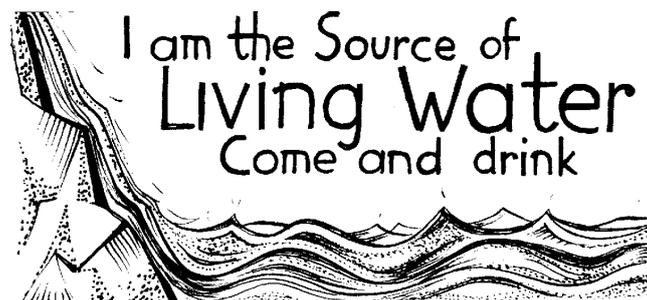
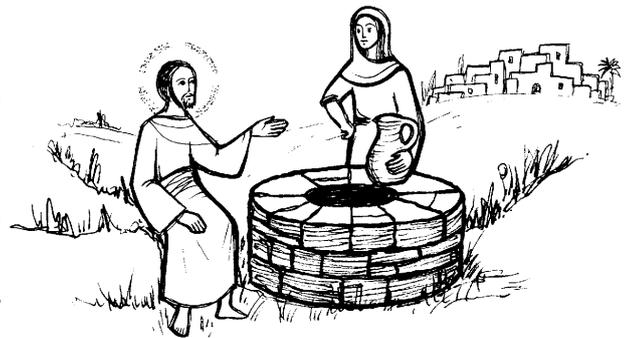
Office Hours | Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am—3.30pm at St Robert's | Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's

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

Sunday 12th March 2023 - Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

“Are you hiding anything?” It's an uncomfortable question that probably invites a heated denial from most of us; yet most of us are probably hiding something. We might be trying to shrug off a nagging guilt or an unforgiving sin. We might be trying to forget an episode in our lives where we behaved unwisely. We might be trying to cover up the agony of a failed relationship or putting a brave face on a lifetime of loneliness and rejection. How many of us are covering up weaknesses and flaws in our character? Most of us are trying to hide something, yet we would all acknowledge that burying something isn't the best way to find healing or improvement.

The woman at the well in today's gospel was struggling through life with a great deal of baggage. Firstly she was a woman with a lesser role in society, not only that, but a woman without a husband and to add insult to injury, a woman with a bad reputation. Secondly the woman was a Samaritan, a foreigner, and as such, regarded by most as a person to be avoided altogether. Jesus puzzles the woman. He is a man and he is a Jew, in other words, the very last person she would have expected to strike up a conversation. Life had taught the woman to expect something very different. Life had taught her to expect contempt and rejection. Is this why we keep our own failings under wraps? Do we, like the Samaritan woman expect our friends family and work mates to be unforgiving and uncompromising if they knew the real us?



God's love is like a sprinkler system spreading Christ's unconditional life giving water without prejudice or judgement. Lent is the time to unravel all our hidden pain and set it before God. Lent is the time to take a leaf out of Jesus' book, to see the pain in the lives of others and break down the barriers that society has built.

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; **Pamela Wright**, (Bedlington) who will be received into St Bede's Church on Wednesday 15th March at 5pm followed by Funeral Service at Cowpen Crematorium on Thursday 16th March at 10.45am; **Angelina Nardini** (Morpeth) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on Friday 24th March at 10am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections: 4th / 5th March
St Bede's Church: n/a / St Robert's Church: **££546.13**

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 week raised **£149.40** at St Robert's Church.



Collection Envelopes

The new Collection Envelopes at St Robert's Church are now available 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.

Donate to your Parish Online

You are now able to make a donation to your parish via the Diocesan Website. Click onto <https://diocesehn.org.uk/>, click on DONATE at the top of the page and then scroll down until you come to the parish you wish to donate to and then follow the onscreen instructions.

Soup Lunches for Lent

Soup Lunches for Lent continue at St Robert's Church, beginning 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.



Praying Through Lent

As we now begin the third week of Lent you may be wondering how your prayer life is This website from the USA might just give you some help if needed. <https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/>

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. (*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.*

St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be on Wednesday th March commencing at **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 25th 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 11th May 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.



Changes to Masses and Services this week

Please note that there are No Masses between Monday - Saturday this week and changes to Services of Word and Communion as well. Please remember to look at the back page of this newsletter for what's on.

TOY SALE

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, 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 28th July - 4th 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.



Partnership Meeting

The next meeting of our St Benet Biscop Partnership will be held on Thursday 23rd March. The reps for St Robert's Parish are Michael Quincey and Chris Smith and the reps for St Bede's are Deacon Stephen and Sandra Boulter.

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.

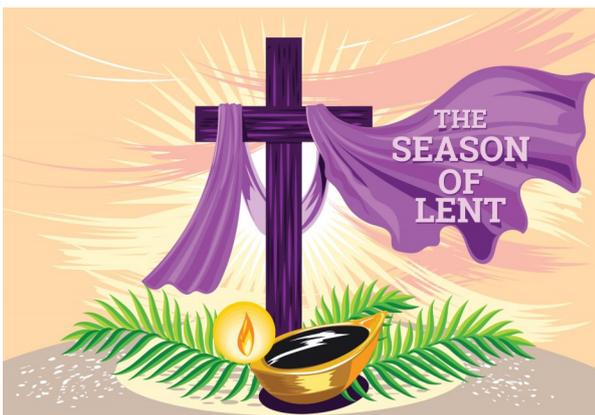
Supporting local Food Banks and Refugees

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. All support with food for those less fortunate are greatly appreciated.



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.



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 10th 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"

Being Admitted to Hospital

If you, a friend or relative are admitted to hospital, a visit / Holy Communion / the Sacrament of the Sick can be arranged by the chaplaincy team. You can contact the chaplaincy via the hospital switchboard on 03448118111 and ask to be put through to the chaplaincy department. If the call is urgent, please ask the nurse to contact the Roman Catholic Priest on call. We now have three Chaplains for the Northumbria NHS Trust - Fr Steven Forster, Fr Sebastian Thekkeyil and Deacon Stephen Boulter, who cover Wansbeck Hospital Ashington, NSECH (Cramlington) and Rake Lane Hospital (North Shields). The local priests of Morpeth, Whitley Bay, Cullercoats, North Shields, Wallsend and Forest Hall also provide emergency cover when the Chaplains are not on call.

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 or give them a call on 0191 243 3313.

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 vacancy is 15th March 2023. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact HR on 0191 243 3301 for further information.

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.



St Patrick's Day Mass

The 50th Anniversary Saint Patrick's Day Mass will be celebrated at Saint Michael's Church, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7RE, at 10.30am on Friday 17th March. Everybody Welcome!



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 11th March <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass:
Sunday 12th March Third Sunday of Lent	9am Mass: Michael Lillico 11am Mass: People of the Parish	4pm Stations of the Cross
Monday 13th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		
Tuesday 14th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 15th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	5pm Reception into Church: Pamela Wright [Funeral Service at Cowpen Crematorium on Thursday at 10.45am]
Thursday 16th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		
Friday 17th March <i>St Patrick</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 18th March <i>St Joseph</i>		5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 19th March 2023 Fourth Sunday of Lent	9am Mass: Sylvia Thompson 11am Mass: 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.



Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)

There will be a meeting at St. Paul's Church in Alnwick on Wednesday 22nd March at 7pm to establish a new local SPUC Branch. Everyone is warmly invited to attend. Earlier in the evening, from 5-6pm, there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and an opportunity to venerate a first-class relic of St. Gianna Molla, the great pro-life heroine canonised in 2004 by St. John Paul II. Following Adoration, there will be a short talk on the life of St. Gianna. For further details, please contact Terry Graham, SPUC Northern Development Officer, on ☎ 07549 068226 or by email at terrygraham@spuc.org.uk

CAFOD Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is still responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors of the Earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. 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>.

Handel's "Messiah" at Alnwick

Alnwick & District Choral Society are performing Handel's "Messiah" with Professional Soloists & Chamber Orchestra on Saturday 1st April at 7.30pm, at St Paul's Church, Alnwick. Admission £15.

St Robert's Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of St Robert's Parish Council will be held on 13th April. It is still over 5 weeks away, but I would like to take this chance to invite people to come along and to get involved with the Parish Council, especially some of the younger people and parents from the Parish. We need to keep the existing people who attend because of their knowledge and experience, but also think about the future of the parish and how we plan for days when the "regulars", the steady parishioners that we rely on, are no longer able to attend. There needs to be some planning for the future, with input from younger people in the parish. Please give it some thought and put the date in your diary.

Altar Servers

If any young people wish to join our team of Altar Servers, you would be very welcome, because our teams are actually very small! If you have made your First Holy Communion, please contact Fr Peter and we will make arrangements for you to begin.

Easter Cards available

Easter Cards will be available in St Robert's Hall both this Sunday 12th March and 19th March after 9am Mass and before 11am Mass. After those dates the remaining selection will be available on the stand at the back of Church until Easter.

Reading the Gospel of St John in Lent

During the weekdays and Saturdays of Lent, The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is delivering daily podcasts from the Gospel of John – "the disciple whom Jesus loved". Starting with an introduction from Canon Christopher Thomas, 'Reading John in Lent', telling us how "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" – Jesus Christ, the only Son from the Father. We then follow the Gospel through all 22 chapters concluding on the Friday of Easter Week. Join us as for 'Reading John in Lent'. Taken from the English Standard Version of the Bible. You can listen to all the podcasts at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/series/reading-john-in-lent/>



2023 Clergy Jubilarians

We congratulate our priests who celebrate jubilees of ordination this year:

Diamond Jubilarians (60): Fr John Gibbons, Fr Seamus O'Kane and Canon Robert Spence

Golden Jubilarians (50): Fr John Butters, Fr Peter Carr, Canon John Cooper, Fr John Clohosey and Fr John James

Ruby Jubilarians (40): Fr Colm Hayden, Fr Michael Weymes, Canon Peter Leighton and Fr Bernard Pitt

Silver Jubilarians (25): Canon William Agle, Canon Paul Douthwaite and Fr Shaun Swales