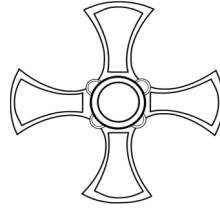


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

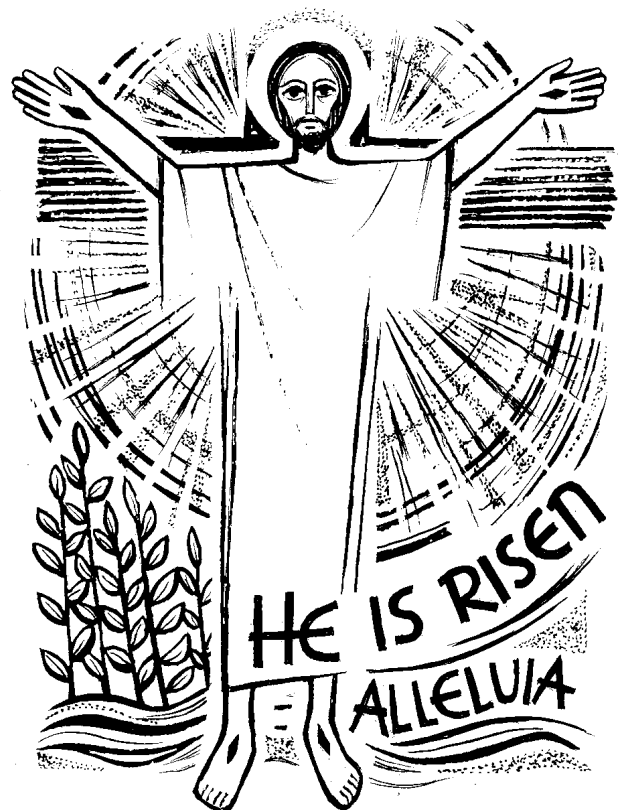
Sunday 9th April 2023 - Easter Sunday

Belief in the resurrection is essential to our faith, yet the account of Jesus' resurrection, or rather the lack of it, leaves us as confused as the original disciples. We've been left with a puzzle with pieces missing, a story with an important part untold. As Christians we are reminded that religion is ultimately a faith not a science.

Our human search for certainty urges us to try and work out who moved the stone, but at this point all we can do is put the resurrection into the context of the rest of Jesus' life and teachings. We have to trust that everything Jesus has told us is true, and that the resurrection is not just an invention to give a tragic story a happy ending, but the realisation of the promises Jesus made all along. Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as truth.

So how do we find that trust that everything Jesus has told us is true? First of all we have to develop a toolbox of faith, trust, and intuition. Christians are accused of propping up impossible and improvable theories with blind faith. If this were true the accusers would have a point, but true faith runs deeper than this. We all use faith in every walk of life and we all need trust. People of faith are people who can push boundaries and take brave steps into the unknown. People of trust recognise possibilities in others and in themselves. People of intuition recognise integrity and truth. Anais Nin said, "We don't see things as they are, we see things as we are." "What you believe sets a course for your future and directs your daily activities. Consequently, when you believe only what you can see, a whole world of possibility is lost."

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ.



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: 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 **Jim Thompson** [Bedlington] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Church on Wednesday 19th April; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections: 25th / 26th March,
St Bede's: **£195.00** / St Robert's: **£491.70**

Holy Places Collection

The Holy Places Collection on Palm Sunday came to **£413.94** at St Robert's Church and **£162.50** at St Bede's Church

Lenten Alms

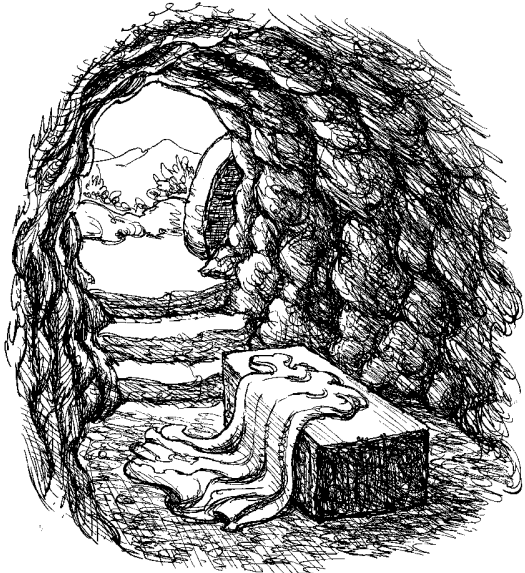
The amount raised for Lenten Alms for the work of St Cuthbert's Care was **£1,017.10** at St Robert's Church and **£331.39** at St Bede's Church. Very many thanks to you for your generosity and your support.

Lent Lunches

The final amount raised at the Lenten Lunches for the work of Mary's Meals and CAFOD was **£944.50**. This is a tremendous amount and will be split between the two charities.

"Serving those who have served us well"

The **Diocesan Sick and Retired Priests' Collection** will be taken NEXT WEEKEND, 15th/16th April 2023, and the Fund will remain open until 5th May for anyone who might like to make further or individual donations. This collection goes to support our Sick and Retired Priests who have served our diocese over many years and we wish to make sure that this Fund is also there for future retired priests. Recent years have been very difficult and income has drastically dropped. If people were to give a suggested minimum of £5 or £10 per person in recognition of all the priests who have served their parishes over many years, it would be a great gesture as we "serve those who have served us well". For further information on Gift Aid, one-off larger donations, or a bequest in your Will, please do not hesitate to contact us on ☎ 0191 586 4319 or 📠 01670 513410



Setting up or Reviewing a Standing Order

Would you like to set up a Standing Order so that your Offering to the Church comes 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 is important for us to know that you are doing so or that you have done this, with a quick message to the parish office. Have you had a Standing Order for a while and haven't changed the amount you give? Do you still give today the same amount you gave 20 years ago? With Phone Apps and mobile banking it is much easier to alter the amount you give and can be done in just a few minutes. Please consider increasing the amount you give if possible.

Gift Aid

Do you pay UK Tax and give regularly to our church collections? You could join the Gift Aid Scheme and we could claim an extra 25% from HMRC at no extra cost to you. Contact the Parish Office for further details.



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.



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.**

Altar Servers

If any young people wish to join our team of Altar Servers, you would be very welcome, because our team is actually very small! If you have made your First Holy Communion, please contact Fr Peter and we will make arrangements for you to begin. If there are currently young people in Year 4 interested in becoming Altar Servers, please let us know so that we might begin some preparation for the coming weeks before June.

Tea and Coffee

Please note: NO Refreshments this weekend. In normal circumstances 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 12th April at 7.30pm.

Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday, 13th April, at 10.30am, in St Robert's Church Hall. This will be our Annual Review meeting.

St Robert's Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting of St Robert's Parish Council will be held on 13th April at 7pm in the upstairs meeting room of the Hall.

Pope John Paul II Award

We are still looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Coordinator of the Pope John Paul II Award at St Robert's. If interested, please let Fr Peter know.

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.

Being Admitted to Hospital

If you, a friend or relative are admitted to hospital, a visit can be arranged by the chaplaincy team. You can contact the chaplaincy via the hospital switchboard on ☎ 0344 811 8111 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). Many of the local priests of North Tyneside and Parts of Northumberland also provide emergency cover when the Chaplains are not on call.

Coming Soon - A Diocesan Day for Catechists

Are you involved with Baptismal Preparation, First Holy Communion, Confirmations, Marriage Preparation, RCIA, Children's Liturgy or other faith sharing initiatives? We are excited to host the largest gathering of Catechists the diocese has seen in recent times. This will be a special opportunity to come together and renew our approach to sacramental preparation and faith-sharing post-pandemic. Whether you are a seasoned catechist or just considering becoming one, we want you to join us. We will be sharing key principles from the New Directory of Catechesis and affirming good practices, as well as providing new ideas and inspiration. Individuals and parish groups are welcome. To register your interest/book a place, please visit bit.ly/DHNDOC23.

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year runs from 14th to 20th May. Organisers need some people willing to deliver Christian Aid envelopes to a street or two, all very local, and people willing to allow their house to be used as a return address for those who wish to post their envelope through the letter-box. We always need more volunteers, especially on the new estates. Please put your name on the list at the back of church, indicating what you are prepared to do and please provide a contact telephone number. Thank you.



Supporting local Food Banks and Refugees

We have boxes at the back of our Churches to help support the work of local Food banks. 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 and donations of food for those less fortunate are greatly appreciated.

Diocesan Justice and Peace Project

In their latest update the Justice and Peace Project reflects on the stark news of the recent devastating earthquakes in Syria and Turkey which reminds us all of the plight of so many people across the world who are forced from their homes to seek refuge elsewhere. J&PP continues to provide a warm welcome and a safe space for many people who are seeking asylum. It says there are new clients registering with the project every week, most recently predominantly from Afghanistan, Iran, El-Salvador, Kuwait, Syria, Albania and Eritrea. J&PP continues to rely on the generosity of individuals and parishes for donations. They receive donations of food on Mondays between 10.30am and 1.30pm. The items which are put in the weekly food bag and therefore are in greatest demand are:- toilet rolls, individual packets of biscuits, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish & chickpeas. Refugees and asylum seekers are able to choose from other food items to supplement their food bags. JP&P has described the range of roles at the project which volunteers are getting involved with. Some provide English lessons, meet and greet clients when they arrive, provide refreshments, distribute food and toiletries, support client requests for other items and help with the social aspects of the project. Volunteers are also always ready to provide reassurance to vulnerable clients and signpost them to other agencies that can support them. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can contact their Project Coordinator, Azad (azad.hasan@diocesehn.org.uk or 07407 091184).

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 8th April <i>Holy Saturday</i>	9.30am Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	7.00pm Easter Vigil Mass:
Sunday 9th April Easter Sunday	9am Mass: Special Intention 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 10th April <i>Monday in the Easter Octave</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: <i>No Intention</i>
Tuesday 11th April <i>Tuesday in the Easter Octave</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Special Intentions (P&FS)	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 12th April <i>Easter Wednesday in the Easter Octave</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: <i>No Intention</i>
Thursday 13th April <i>Thursday in the Easter Octave</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Marciano B Senior	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 14th April <i>Friday in the Easter Octave</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: <i>No Intention</i>
Saturday 15th April <i>Saturday in the Easter Octave</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Special Intentions (OS) 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 16th April 2023 Second Sunday of Easter Feast of Divine Mercy	9am Mass: Christopher Everitt 11am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for April 2023

For a culture of peace and non-violence:

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.



Divine Mercy Celebration

There will be a Divine Mercy Celebration, Sunday, 16th April at 2.30pm at St John Vianney Church, Newcastle upon Tyne, including Litany, Rosary and Divine Mercy Prayers. Everyone Welcome.

Diocesan Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

- Administrator, Vicariate for Faith and Mission (maternity cover) – full-time. Closing date: 18th April 2023.
- Senior Administrator, Dept for Education, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time. Closing date: 18th April
- Parish Secretary and Cleaner (2 roles) – St Patrick's, Langley Moor, Durham – part-time. Closing date: 12th April

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact them on ☎ 0191 243 3301

Ongoing Catholic Education

It is easy for the children in Bedlington whose parents wish for them to continue in their catholic education, because St Bede's is a feeder school at the end of Year 6, into St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy. The situation in Morpeth is very different and sadly there is no direct link with ongoing catholic education for the children of Year 4 at St Robert's First School, and Chantry and Newminster Schools seem to be the only option. However, it may be possible to transfer to Year 5 at St Aidan's School at Ashington or St Bede's School at Bedlington. It is also possible to transfer from the Morpeth Schools at the end of Year 6 to go into Year 7 at St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy. We are not sure if these options are ever put to parents, especially if a catholic education is considered important. Headteachers of all schools, as well as Fr Peter will be available for anyone who wants further advice. It is so disappointing that parents do not have the same simple choice for Catholic Education in Morpeth as they do in other parts of the local catholic community.

Nurturing Christian Hope in the North East

You are invited to join a free interactive event for all those involved in churches, Christian social action and related research, to learn & work together on shared priorities and action as they engage with wider communities in the North East of England. The event is being organised by the William Leech Research Fund, on Saturday 17th June 2023, 12:00 – 17:00 (at *Cornerstones, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3TF*), as it listens to regional priorities and seeks to support research on Christian social ethics and practical theology in the North East. Those interested can find out more and book a place at the event using the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nurturing-christian-hope-in-the-north-east-connecting-research-practice-tickets-559629676427>

The Northern Cross AGM

You are cordially invited to attend the Northern Cross AGM which is to take place at 11am on Wednesday 19th April. This will take place online by Zoom, so if you'd like to attend, please register your confirmation with a brief email. Subject to the numbers which the system allows, you'll then be sent a link from which you can enter the meeting. You're welcome to take part or just listen to the proceedings, whichever you prefer. We look forward to seeing you. Kind regards from the team at Northern Cross.

