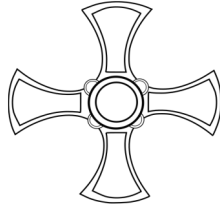


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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**

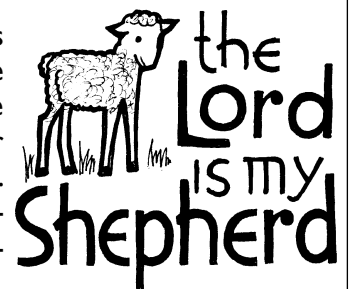
Office Hours | Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am—3.30pm at St Robert's | Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's

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

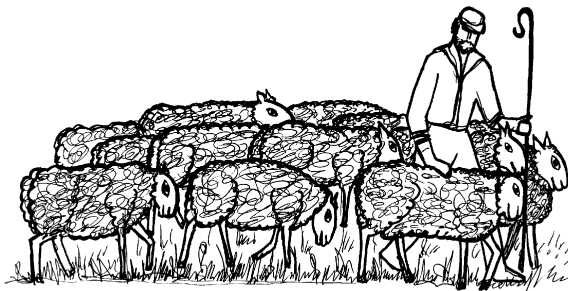
# Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Who wants to be likened to a sheep! Sheep are seen as silly animals that follow each other blindly and do not act or think for themselves. When Jesus invites us to be 'his flock', he is not asking us to behave like sheep, rather his is asking us to think of him as our 'good shepherd'. As followers, we are not asked to follow blindly, we are asked to discern his voice and his values in a world full of distractions and competing values.

From the moment we get out of bed in the morning there are a million and one demands vying for our attention. We make a list of things we have to do in a day and discover we have more things to do than hours to do them in. Most of the things we have to do are things that we will get into trouble for if we don't do them. We have to go to work or we won't get paid. We have to do the housework or we will be considered dysfunctional. We have to pay the bills or we will receive a court summons. We have to help our children with their homework or we will get disapproving letters home from the headteacher. Finding time to listen for Jesus' voice probably isn't on our 'list-to-do'.



The good news is that we don't have to add Jesus to the list; Jesus is part of the list. The trick is to know, that Jesus' voice is in every little job that we do, and in each one of our day to day activities. We don't need a special time to sit down and listen to what Jesus is telling us. Hearing Jesus' voice is a habit we need to develop on a day to day basis. The trick is to know that Jesus' voice is everywhere that encourages us to impact our world as Christians. Jesus' voice is the voice at work that encourages us to do our best, the voice that encourages us not to gossip, the voice that encourages us not to ignore the person who needs a lift at home time. Jesus is the voice that encourages us to respond to family members and the wider community who are in need. Jesus' voice is the voice that tells us how to vote and how to campaign for those who do not have a voice of their own. The voice of the impostor on the other hand is everywhere that encourages us to act out of self-interest and greed. Being part of Jesus' flock is certainly not for the 'sheep'; it's for those with discerning ears from the first moment we get out



of bed in the morning to last thing at night.

The voice of Jesus the good shepherd is the one that offers us spiritual sustenance, guidance, love and protection. Jesus wants us to recognise his voice as the one who addresses what we are and what we stand for. Key to a healthy spiritual life is an overriding commitment to hearing the word of God and applying it to one's own life.

*Please take this Newsletter home with you, so that you know what's happening in your parish this week*



During Easter we are asked to pray for: New Members of the Church, Vocations, Human Work, The Right Use of the Media, The Church. 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, and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Church Collections:** 22<sup>nd</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
St Bede's: £213.00 / St Robert's: £508.50

### Altar Servers

If any young people in Middle or High School wish to join our team of Altar Servers, you would be very welcome. 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.



### Young People to Read at Mass

I would like to invite young people at Middle or High School to read at our Sunday Masses at St Bedes and St Robert's Churches. If interested please let Fr Peter know who you are and we will try to fit you into the Readers rota.

### Sacrament of Confirmation

The St Benet Biscop Partnership Parishes are to hold joint preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, probably in June and July and hopefully celebrate Confirmation in August. [Cramlington and New Hartley Parishes have already begun their preparation separately]. We have a few people ready to help with preparation from the Bedlington and Ashington Parishes, but if anyone wants to help with preparation, they must be DBS cleared before any volunteering can begin, so please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible. Confirmation is open to anyone in Year 9 and above. All those who wish to be confirmed should be coming to church for Mass each week and while at Mass they can speak to Fr Peter about their wish to be Confirmed. An application form will be available soon. More details to follow in coming weeks.



### Three Cs Group

The 3C's will be meeting on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May (Bank Holiday) from 2pm until 4pm. Why not come along and give it a try. Cuppa, Chat and Conversation with God; plus light refreshments, Bingo, and a sing-a-long.

### 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.

### New to The Parish

Are you new to our Parish? Have you let us know you are here with us? You can scan this QR code with your mobile or tablet and complete an online form; or type this link into your search engine [https://form.jotform.com/Fr\\_Peter/new-parishioner-updated-info](https://form.jotform.com/Fr_Peter/new-parishioner-updated-info) and complete the form. We also have a paper form "Keeping in Touch" at the back of Church for you to complete with your name and contact details.



### First Holy Communion Preparation

First Holy Communion Preparation takes next week, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm at St Bede's Hall and on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 3.30pm at St Robert's Hall. As time is quickly moving on and we are only weeks away from celebrating the Mass of First Holy Communion, parents are asked to make sure their children attend Sessions 9 and 10 in May and June.



### Pastoral Letter

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, a Day of Prayer for Vocations, we have a Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Malcolm McMahon which will be read today.

### Retiring Collection Today - Little Sisters of the Poor

The Little Sisters of the Poor at St Joseph's Home in Newcastle are finding these difficult economic times, which everyone is facing, increasingly more challenging. It is certainly a worrying and anxious time for us all. The current economic climate is having a significant impact on our fundraising activities and the charitable donations we rely on to meet the ever increasing daily running costs of the Home.



We are working hard to raise vital funds to help with the cost of replacing the three lifts in the Home. They have served us well over the years and with us relying heavily on them, they are in constant need of expensive repairs. As you can appreciate, the lifts play an integral role in helping to maintain the safety of our residents at all times, helping to increase their level of mobility and allowing them to maintain their independence for longer. For this reason we are appealing for urgent donations to assist us in our efforts to make critical upgrades to our lifts, which in turn will help the Sisters and Staff deliver essential person centred care at all times. Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' can be sent to: St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, secure, online donations can be made by visiting: [www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/) Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are extremely grateful to you for the kindness shown to us.

### Sick and Retired Priests Collection

Very many thanks to all who have already contributed to the **Diocesan Sick and Retired Priests' Collection**. This Collection remains open until 5<sup>th</sup> May for anyone who might like to make further or individual donations. For further information on 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 reviewing the amount you give.

### St Robert, Morpeth Bank Details

Sort Code 40-34-18  
Name of Account "DHN Morpeth St Robert of Newminster"  
Account Number 32010755

### St Bede, Bedlington Bank Details

Sort Code 40-34-18  
Name of Account "DHN Bedlington St Bede"  
Account Number 81163620

### 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.

### Children's Liturgy Group

Please remember we have Children's Liturgy Groups at the 5.30pm Vigil Mass and at the 9am Mass on a Sunday morning. Children of school age that are at Mass are invited to attend. With renewed thanks to all our leaders and helpers.

### Pray the Rosary During May

There is a list the back of St Robert's Church today for people to sign to pray the Rosary during May, which begins on Monday. All we ask is for you to say one decade of the Rosary a day during the month of Our Lady; and we only need twenty people!



### Seven Bridges Sponsored Walk

St Robert's Parish "Seven Bridges Sponsored Walk" will take place on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June, starting from the Bridge at the end of Gas House Lane at 2pm to walk to the Low Ford Bridge on the Mitford Road, close to the site of Newminster Abbey, crossing all seven bridges in Morpeth during the walk. More information will be available next week on how to get sponsors for your walk.

### Presbytery Roof Repairs

Long-needed repairs are to be carried out to the roof of Collingwood House later this week. Please note that there may be some disruption in our Car Park on either Thursday or Friday because of the access that is needed for the "cherry-picker" being used to gain access to the roof.



### Cafod and Camels

On Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May at St Cuthbert's Church, North Shields, at 7.00pm, Karen Kilby, Bede Professor of Catholic Theology will be giving a talk titled: "On CAFOD and camels: theological reflections on a recent trip to the horn of Africa". Professor Kilby recently travelled with CAFOD to a region in East Africa suffering drought. She will speak about what she saw and heard and offer some reflections on the complexities of compassion and the nature of hope. Karen has served as a Trustee of CAFOD for the last 6 years. All are welcome.



### Coronation of King Charles III

To mark the Coronation of The King on Saturday, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have prepared a small leaflet with prayers for the King and a message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols. These are available at the back of Church this weekend.



### Civic Evensong for the Coronation

This will take place at St Mary the Virgin Anglican Church, Morpeth at 6pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. All Welcome.



### Coronation Prom - 6<sup>th</sup> May

Together with the All Souls Orchestra, London, All Souls Music are delighted to confirm that the historic occasion of The Coronation Prom on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.30pm will be streamed and available for free, across the world. Broadcast live from the Royal Albert Hall on the evening of this memorable day, the Coronation Prom will draw on the rich historical tradition of Coronation music. The massed choir and All Souls Orchestra will perform royal anthems and overtures by Elgar, Holst, Handel and John Williams. This will be broadcast live on [www.allsoulsmusic.org](http://www.allsoulsmusic.org)



### 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.*

### Come to the Well

Come along to St Robert's for an hour of quiet and contemplative prayer, on Thursday May 4<sup>th</sup> from 7pm - 8pm in the upstairs room of the hall at St. Robert's.

### Thy Kingdom Come

The Churches of Morpeth are praying together in preparation for the Feast of Pentecost using the Church of England "Thy Kingdom Come" resources. A service of Evening Prayer will be held every evening at 7pm from 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May, ending on 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday with a "Praise Party" at Morpeth Methodist Church 6pm. St Roberts will host the prayers on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Everyone Welcome.

### Preparing for Baptism

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May at St Bede's Church, Bedlington at 6.30pm. It should last no more than 90 minutes. Please speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen after weekend Mass to make arrangements to attend this meeting.

### Join our Choir

Do you enjoy singing? Would you like to join the choir at 11am Mass on a Sunday? They practise every Wednesday evening from 7.15pm, so pop along if interested.



### Bonus Ball

We are running a Bonus Ball, from May until July, costing £10 for 10 weeks. If you wish to be in the draw please contact the members of the Catholic Women's League who will be around after the 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday to take payment for your number. This will cover the ten weeks Bonus Ball from the National Lotto Draw on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May until 15<sup>th</sup> July. The weekly winner will receive £25. Good Luck to all who participate.



### Red Missio Boxes

Thank you to all who have red Mission boxes! If you don't have one, but would like a Red Box, please contact Elizabeth Dixon. Our missionary community in our parishes is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. Visit [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) to find out more about how your support changes lives for the better.

### 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.

### A Day for Catechists

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023, from 10am - 3pm. Refreshments are included, please bring a packed lunch. St Robert of Newminster Catholic School, Washington, NE38 8AF. Individuals and parish groups welcome. To book your place(s), visit <http://bit.ly/DHND0C23>

### Supporting local Food Banks and Refugees

We have boxes at the back of our Churches to help support the work of local Food banks. *At St Robert's Church these boxes are now emptied on a regular basis and food stored elsewhere.* 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.



### Clothes needed

A drop-in centre in Ashington has an urgent need for clothes for the asylum seekers who come along, especially men's clothes. Do you have any clothes in wearable condition that you no longer use? They would be much appreciated. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE IN CHURCH. Clothes can be left with Maura Illingworth (☎ 01670 516452 or Eileen or Gerry Harber (☎ 01670 517829). If you're not sure who they are please ask!

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Jean (Sheila) Craig 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass:</b> Roger Adamson 12.30pm Baptism: Izabela Lepkowska	
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b> <i>St Joseph The Worker</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Arkell and McAlroy Families
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b> <i>St Athanasius</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Special Intention (AS)	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> <i>St Philip and St James</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> Peter Shepherd
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>The English Martyrs</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Pat Lewin	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</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> Claire Boulter
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> A Sick Person (C) 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone <b>11am Mass:</b> 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.



### Supporting Marys Meals in Yemen

Yemen has been trapped in a civil war for more than nine years and the cost of living crisis is having a devastating impact on already vulnerable families. Every day, Mary's Meals reach more than 4,500 hungry children in the Al Mansoor district of Aden. The nutritious school meals attract these little ones into the classroom, where they can gain an education and hope for a brighter future. Please donate today to help us keep our promise to the 2.4 million children receiving our school meals. Together, Marys Meals can give children hope for a future where they can achieve their dreams. It costs just £19.15 to feed a child in a place of education for a whole year. Go to their website if you are able to support them

[www.marysmeals.org](http://www.marysmeals.org)



### Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year runs from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May, beginning with a Service in St James' Church, Morpeth at 4pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Please come along to pray for all those in need throughout the world and for the success of Christian Aid Week in raising money to help them. We will be using 'delivery only' envelopes, so no knocking on doors to collect the envelopes. We only need people willing to deliver envelopes to a street or two, and people willing to allow their house to be used as a return address for those who wish to give to post their envelope through the letter-box. We need more volunteers, especially on the new estates. If you have not helped before, but can now, please put your name on the list at the back of church, indicating what you can do and provide a contact telephone number so we can discuss where you can work. Alternatively, ring Gerry Harber on ☎ 01670 517829 for more details. Thank you.

### St Robert's SVP

The next meeting will be on  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm.



### The Universe Catholic Newspaper

The new printed version of The Universe can be posted directly to print subscribers from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May. It will be identical to the digital version, the only difference will be that it's a paper copy – just like it was before the pandemic! Subscription Rates for Print copy ...

- 3 month subscription (13 weekly copies) - £42 (£3.20 per copy)
- 6 month subscription (26 weekly copies) - £75 (£2.88 per copy)
- Annual Subscription (52 weekly copies) - £140 (£2.69 per copy)
- Cover price for a single copy - £3.50

To subscribe to our print edition or for further information, please call Michelle Jones on 07436 617650 or email her at: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

### Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages. Do you need help in your Marriage? Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

