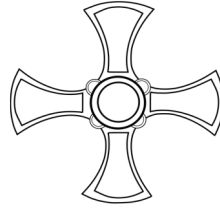


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

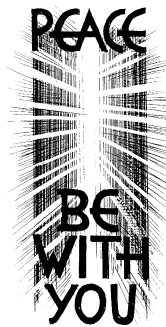
St Bede's Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS | ☎ 01670 823258 | ✉ bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk

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

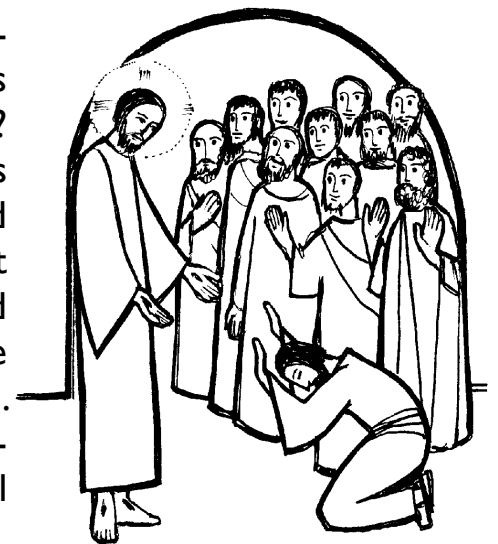
www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

Sunday 16th April 2023 - 2nd Sunday of Easter



We live in an age where everything has to be 'seen to be believed'. If we haven't heard it on Breakfast News or read it on the front page of 'The Independent', then it can't be true. For a scientist to act in faith rather than on proven fact, or for a detective to make an arrest without hard evidence would be deemed negligent. Faith is the domain of the non-scientific. Faith is reserved for when we follow our hearts and our instincts. The solely scientific see no validation for faith, and yet we are told that faith has the power to move mountains.

The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is interesting in that it addresses doubt in the first place. If Jesus wasn't expecting us to suffer doubts, why address the subject in the first place? We are brought up to think of faith as good and doubt as bad, but would God really want us to bury our doubts and fake our religious experience? For all of us who do not have the benefit of Thomas's first hand experience, the good news is that doubt and faith are opposite sides of the same coin. Honest doubt can ultimately lead to a stronger faith. Doubt leads to questions, and whereas questions don't always lead to answers, they almost always lead to spiritual growth.



Today we are encouraged to believe without seeing. No, we're not being asked to silence our doubts or to leave our brains at the church door! The reality of our faith boils down not to what we are able or not able to believe, but who we believe in. Can trusting Jesus give us faith enough to move mountains?

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: 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, including **Jim Thompson** [Bedlington] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Church on Wednesday 19th April at 10am; for **Eddie Wealleans** [Morpeth] whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's on Monday 24th April at 1.15pm; for **Lily Marlene Moore** [Ashington] which Fr Peter will celebrate at St Aidan's Church, Ashington on Wednesday 26th April; for **Andrew Bradley** [Choppington] whose Funeral Service will be held at Cowpen Crematorium on Thursday 27th April at 1pm; for **John Marshall** [Morpeth] whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's Church on Friday 28th April at 1.45pm; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections: 4th / 5th March,
St Bede's: **£329.00** / St Robert's: **£863.28**

"Serving those who have served us well"

The **Diocesan Sick and Retired Priests' Collection** will be taken THIS 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://diocesahn.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.

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.



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.



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.**



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.*

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.

Come to the Well

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

St Bede's SVP Recruitment Drive

There will be a brief recruitment appeal on behalf of St Bede's SVP Conference at the Vigil Mass on Saturday 22nd April, with a follow up meeting on Wednesday 26th April at 7.30pm in St Bede's Church Hall.



St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be held on Wednesday 3rd May.

Three Cs Social Group

The next 3C's meeting will be held on Monday 17th April in St Robert's Church Hall from 2pm until 4pm. Come along for a chat, conversation with God and a cup of tea/coffee. All welcome.

Bonus Ball

We are running another Bonus Ball at St Robert's in the coming weeks and we will begin selling numbers next weekend. Numbers will cost £10 for ten weeks draws. Profits to Parish Funds.



A couple of "Thank You" messages

Deacon Stephen and Sandra, would like to thank all parishioners for their best wishes, kindness and generosity on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 7th April. All greetings, cards, gifts and especially prayers were really appreciated. May God bless you all!

Jo Gorman, parishioner at St Bede's, who is currently recovering from major surgery in North Tyneside General Hospital, would like to thank friends and parishioners for their prayers and support which are sustaining her at this time and a source of great comfort.

Father Peter would like to express his **thanks to Anne Dawes** who has stood down recently as a Foundation Governor of our School and as the Parish Safeguarding representative. Both are massive roles in a parish community. As many will know Anne taught at St Robert's School between 1984-1988, before becoming a Headteacher in Amble and since 2010 Anne has been a Foundation Governor of our School, supporting particularly the Catholic Life of the School. We are extremely grateful for the experience as a Catholic teacher/Headteacher that Anne brought with her into the school as a Foundation Governor. As the Parish Safeguarding Representative, Anne took on a huge responsibility and we are all most grateful for the way in which Anne responded to her work in this role at St Robert's. We wish Anne many blessings for the future, but especially the blessings for renewed strength and health while undergoing treatment for current health issues. Thank You, Anne.

New Parish Safeguarding Representative

The parish is extremely grateful to John Carr who has accepted the role of Parish Safeguarding Representative to replace Anne Dawes. John attends 9am Mass so will be known to some people who attend that Mass. John has to undergo some diocesan safeguarding training necessary for all who take on these roles but we will introduce John to you all very soon. John will work with Mary Beaton to make sure that all our volunteers have their DBS checks in order, for parish ministry. Many thanks to John for accepting this parish role.

Social (and Fundraising) Committee

We would like to form a Social Committee at St Robert's Parish to plan and organise events for all of the community throughout the year. We are looking for committed people to join this committee who will not only plan but also organise a variety of events throughout the year for all the people of the parish. If you feel that could commit yourself to this throughout the year, please have a conversation with Fr Peter.

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.

Foundation Governors Needed for School:

please speak to Fr Peter if you feel able to commit to this role.

New Apostolic Nuncio

Pope Francis has appointed His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía as Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain. Commenting on the news, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, said: "I welcome the appointment of Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía as Papal Nuncio to Great Britain. On behalf of our Bishops' Conference, I assure him not only of our warm welcome but also of our full cooperation when he takes up these new responsibilities." Born in Madrid on 19th November 1955, Archbishop Maury Buendía studied philosophy and theology at the Conciliar Seminary of Madrid before being ordained a priest for the Archdiocese on 26th June 1980. He followed a two-year program of studies at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy in Rome, and entered the Holy See's diplomatic service in July 1987, serving in diplomatic missions in several countries such as Rwanda, Uganda, Morocco, Nicaragua, Egypt, Slovenia and Ireland. In 2004, he was called to the Section for Relations with States within the Secretariat of State of the Holy See. Four years later, in 2008, he was appointed titular Archbishop of Italica and Apostolic Nuncio to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Pope Francis appointed him Apostolic Nuncio to Romania on 5th December 2015, and to the Republic of Moldova on 25th January 2016. He was appointed the Apostolic Nuncio to the Court of St. James's on 13th April 2023

A 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 for Catechesis and affirming good practices, as well as providing new ideas and inspiration. Saturday 15th 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>

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.

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.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
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) 12.30pm Baptism Zachary W F Pretswell	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Pamela Wright
Sunday 16th April 2023 Second Sunday of Easter Feast of Divine Mercy	9am Mass: Christopher Everitt 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 17th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Brian Maguire
Tuesday 18th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Special Intentions (A&HS)	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 19th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	10am REQUIEM MASS: James Thompson
Thursday 20th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Stevie Matthews	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 21st April <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 10am Mass: Alan Nixon & Marie Davies
Saturday 22nd April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Intentions of David & Ace Oldroyd 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Joan Keddy
Sunday 23rd April 2023 Third Sunday of Easter	9am Mass: Sylvia and Jerome Thompson 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.



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.

Thefts from our Food boxes

There have been further thefts this last week from the food boxes at St Robert's Church. Fr Peter walked into Church on Monday lunchtime to face a man who was helping himself to the donations that had been received and placed in the boxes. Perhaps this man desperately needs the donations that he's taking? Is there a better way at St Robert's of having the boxes available for easy donation as well as protecting what has been donated?

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

St Bede's Finance Committee

The next Finance Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th April at 6.30pm

St Robert's Finance Committee

The next Finance Committee Meeting at St Robert's Church will be held on Wednesday 26th April at 6pm.

A CAFOD word of thanks

Thank you for your continued support and generosity this Lent, with special praise to those of you who took part in the Big Lent Walk – I hope you all had a wonderful Easter within your parish and family life. Shukla is a mum in Bangladesh who has been very worried about her children's nutrition. After joining a community project in Bangladesh, which is supported by CAFOD, Shukla has a productive garden and can grow food for her son. Shukla says, "worry has completely disappeared now." People support us in so many ways – giving in church, giving to us by direct debit, or leaving us a gift in their will. This generosity and compassion reaches hard-working mothers like Shukla. Thank you. To read Shukla's story, go to cafod.org.uk/GiftInWill

