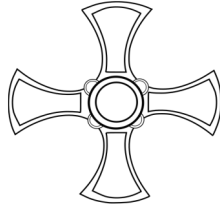


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 23rd April 2023 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Two disciples travel along the road to Emmaus talking about recent events in Jerusalem. They are feeling helpless and defeated in the wake of Jesus' crucifixion. Perhaps they were still strongly tied to the Jewish expectation of a Messiah, and had little understanding of Jesus' divinity. They simply saw Jesus' death as a crushing defeat. Perhaps our own stories aren't too different. We often feel defeated and helpless, unable to see what Jesus' death and resurrection could mean for us. Do we spend long periods of depression, unable to appreciate God's presence in our lives? One thing is for sure; it would be nothing short of a tragedy if we got to the end of life's paths without meeting Jesus, so how should we go about it?

Notice in today's gospel that Jesus opens the eyes of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus very gradually. The two travellers don't recognise Jesus straight away, but their hearts warm to him as he helps them to see recent events in the light of scripture. As he interprets what has happened, he gives them hope in the future and a clear vision of new opportunities. Then when the couple invite Jesus to stay, and he breaks bread with them, they come to realise who he really is. What a life changing moment that must have been!



This story is clearly not just for the benefit of the two travellers or even for the first disciples; this story is for the benefit of us all. We might think that we've been going to church long enough to have heard it all before, but there's always something new to learn. Today we are invited to meet Jesus in the Eucharist, and to re-find Jesus in the way we understand and interpret the scriptures. Take up the challenge.

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, **Edward 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 at 12.30pm; for **Andrew Bradley** [Choppington] whose Funeral Service will be held at Cowpen Crematorium on Thursday 27th April at 1pm; and for **John Marshall** [Morpeth] whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's Church on Friday 28th April at 1.45pm; **Father John Reid** (retired) who died on Friday; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections: 15th/16th April
St Bede's: **£178.10** / St Robert's: **£465.99**

"Serving those who have served us well"

Very many thanks to all who contributed to the **Diocesan Sick and Retired Priests' Collection** taken last weekend. We raised **£383.80** at St Bede's Church and **£534.24** at St Robert's Church. *This Collection remains 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. **A Gift Aid Donation form is available, and a Standing Order Form is also available if anyone wishes to give regularly to support this fund. 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

Retiring Collection - Little Sisters of the Poor



Next Weekend, [29th/30th April] there is a Retiring Collection for the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor at their Care Home for the Elderly at St Joseph's, in Newcastle.

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.

St Robert's Finance Committee

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

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 should be attending Mass regularly in one of our churches. When parents are attending Mass regularly you will be invited in to make arrangements for your Child's Baptism

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

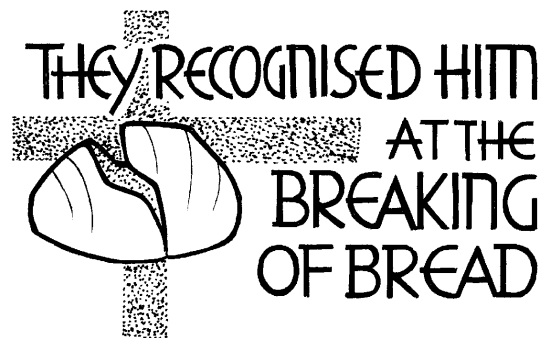
St Bede's SVP Recruitment Drive

There will be a brief recruitment appeal on behalf of St Bede's SVP Conference at the Vigil Mass TONIGHT [Saturday 22nd April]. There will be a follow-up meeting in St Bede's Hall on Wednesday 26th April at 7.30 pm for those who might like to find out more about the SVP. We hope to see you but even if you did not sign up after Mass, please feel free to come along - you will be most welcome. We have an urgent need for more members!



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, or alternatively, you can put £10, your name and telephone numbers into an envelope marked Bonus Ball and leave it at St Robert's Presbytery. This will cover the ten weeks Bonus Ball from the National Lotto Draw on Saturday 13th May until 15th July. The weekly winner will receive £25. Good Luck to all who participate.



Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday, 27th April, at 10.30am in St Robert's Church Hall. Would members please bring to this meeting any items they are donating for the tombola at our Coffee Morning on 29th April. Thank you.

CWL Coffee Morning

The Catholic Women's League are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th April, from 10.30am - 12noon in St Robert's Church Hall. There will be Refreshments, Cake Stall, Tombola and Raffle. Everyone very welcome.

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.



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 Yr 9 and above. All those who wish to be confirmed must be coming to church for Mass each week if they wish to proceed, 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.

Red Missio Boxes: Thank You!

In 2022, St Robert of Newminster raised **£2,968.00** through the Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you to all who have red boxes! If you don't have one, but would like a Red Box, please contact Elizabeth Dixon. Our missionary community at St Robert's is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries through prayer and financial assistance. Your support of projects such as the Fundong Mission station in Cameroon has enabled Fr Leon, a Mill Hill Missionary, to help children learn in a safe environment and instil values that empower them to turn away from conflict and towards faith in God. Visit missio.org.uk to find out more about how your support changes lives for the better.



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.

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.



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

There are vacancies for foundation governors on the Local Governing Committee of St Robert's First School. Foundation Governors, whose role is to oversee the Catholicity of the running of the school and who are appointed by the local Bishop, are expected to be practising Catholics. Notes from the Catholic Education Service to Parish Priests state, "If you are contacted to provide a reference, your role as referee is primarily to verify that the nominee is a practising Catholic and that they are suitable for appointment as a foundation governor in the diocese." As mentioned last week, Anne Dawes has stood down recently and Father Peter is no longer a Foundation Governor. Please speak to Fr Peter if this is something you feel you could do.



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>

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.



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
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	
Monday 24th April <i>St George</i>	1.15pm Funeral Service: Edward Wealleans <i>Followed by Cremation at Cowpen Crematorium, Blyth</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass:
Tuesday 25th April <i>St Mark</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Annice Bird	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 26th 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: Craik and Freel families
Thursday 27th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Paul McCole & Father Lawrence Jones	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 28th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion 1.45pm Funeral Service John "Scon" Marshall <i>Followed by Cremation at Northumberland Crematorium</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: In Thanksgiving
Saturday 29th April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Jean (Sheila) Craig 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 30th April 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Roger Adamson	



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. Doaa says: "The meals we receive help us to go back to school every day. We couldn't do this before Mary's Meals because we had very little food and money. "The food helps us think about things better and understand what the teacher says better. Thank you, Mary's Meals!" With a full stomach, Doaa has energy to learn – and the chance to fulfil her dream of seeing the world. 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, like Doaa, 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

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year runs from 14th to 20th May. It starts with a Service in St James' Church, Morpeth at 4pm on Sunday 14th 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.

Diocesan Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the two following vacancies: Deputy Director of Education (Leadership) and Deputy Director of Education (Inspection). Both roles are permanent and full-time, term-time. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact the diocesan office on ☎ 0191 243 3301.

The Universe Catholic Newspaper

The new printed version of The Universe can be posted directly to print subscribers from Friday 19th 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

Coronation Prom - 6th 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 6th 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

