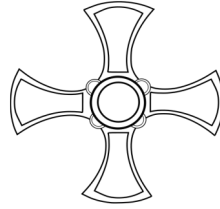


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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

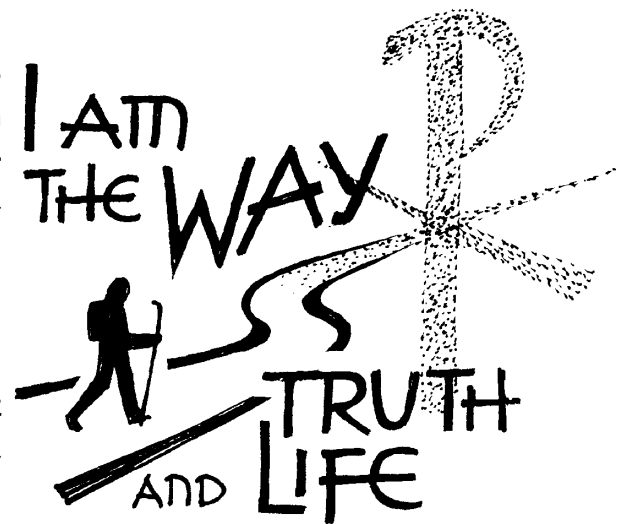
## Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

A public figure who was interviewed said that if he carried 'rune stones' around people would be interested to talk about them. If he meditated under a pyramidal dome in his dining room, practised an obscure form of Himalayan exercises, took regular colonic irrigation or sang American Indian chants under a dream-catcher whilst bathing himself in aroma-therapy oils, people would be equally tolerant. But if he were to tell them that he believed Jesus Christ was the Son of God and the saviour of the world, then they would run a mile and refuse to interview him about it.

Christianity has become the new taboo. Pop singers who make no secret of their Christian faith are rubbished as "squeaky-clean" and public figures whose faith motivates them are dismissed as "do-gooders". It's almost as if there is something dangerous about being a follower of Jesus. At the other end of the scale it's become politically correct to be tolerant of all beliefs, no matter how implausible they may appear. Of course, there's a good side to this. No one should be mocked for what they believe or persecuted for their faith. But acceptance of every set of teachings that claims to be a religion simply means that you don't have to deal with any of them. So it's not uncommon to hear people say

that since there's only one God all religions must be equal because all people are trying to approach the same God. Or alternatively, all religions are to be shunned because there has been an element of religion in many of the major wars throughout history. The problem is that once you stop believing in God, you don't start believing in nothing. You start believing in anything.

Today Jesus claims that there is only one way of attaining union with God and that is through him. I am the Way, the Truth and the Life: no one can come to the Father except through me. He's either telling the truth or he's a liar. The choice is yours.



*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:** 29<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup> April  
St Bede's: **£216.80** / St Robert's: **£486.03**

#### 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 Bede's / St Robert's Churches. If interested please let Fr Peter know who you are and we will 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]. Confirmation is open to anyone in Year 9 and above. All those who wish to be confirmed should try to be at Mass each week. Scan this QR code to complete the form for Confirmation; a paper copy is available if needed.

#### 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 in our Parish? 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 which can be returned to the Parish Office.



#### 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.



#### Little Sisters of the Poor Collection

Very many thanks for your donations last week to the Little Sisters of the Poor Collection Retiring Collection which raised **£204.00** at St Bede's Church and **£605.35** at St Robert's Church.

#### Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League will be meeting for their birthday lunch (61st) at 12:30pm on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May, at Morpeth Golf Club.

#### 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.

#### St Robert's SVP

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

#### 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. All we ask is for you to say one decade (1 Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's and 1 Glory Be) 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 - Stobsford Bridge - at 2pm, taking in all the other bridges - Telford, Chantry, Elliott, Oldgate and Skinner, ending at the Lowford Bridge on the Mitford Road, close to the site of Newminster Abbey, crossing all seven bridges in Morpeth during the walk. If taking part in this we ask you to sign up on the forms at the back of church now and collect your sponsor forms which are also at the back of church. Why not do this with friends or together as a family? Refreshments will be available in St Robert's Hall after the Walk.



### 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.*

### Feast of our Lady of Fatima

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, St Paul's Church, Cramlington are holding a special Day of Prayer from 1.30pm - 7.30pm, including Rosary for World Peace, Fatima Film and Talk, Investiture and Enrolment with the Brown Scapular, Holy Hour and Confessions, Procession and Mass. Everyone Welcome.



### Feast of The Ascension

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May is the Feast of The Ascension of the Lord. It is a Holyday of Obligation and Masses will be celebrated at the usual Holyday Mass times: 10am Mass at St Bede's Church; and 12.30pm and 7pm Mass at St Robert's Church.

### Preparing for Pentecost

There are two celebrations to prepare for the great Feast of Pentecost. One is local, for the Christian churches in Morpeth and one is for the Catholic partnership parishes and both are at the same time!

- The Churches of Morpeth will be praying together in preparation for the Feast of Pentecost. A service of Evening Prayer will be held every evening in a different church at 7pm from 18<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> May, (*poster of venues/times available soon*), ending on 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday with a "Praise Party" at Morpeth Methodist Church 6pm. St Roberts Church will host the prayers on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.** Everyone is welcome if you're free to attend.
- The Partnership Spirituality Group are holding a Service entitled "Preparing for Pentecost" on Thursday **25<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm**, at Our Lady & St Joseph's, New Hartley. Everyone is welcome to the Service and to refreshments that will be available afterwards.

### Sacrament of Baptism

Parents seeking Baptism for their child are asked to speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen. Meetings are to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> May at St Bede's and 6<sup>th</sup> July at St Robert's. We are very grateful for Parishioners who lead these meetings with parents and we look forward to welcoming parents with their children to Mass. Please bring your children to Mass. If children are brought to Church from an early age, it does get easier as time goes on, as they become more used to the surroundings!



### Becoming a Catholic?

Are you interesting in becoming a Catholic? There are a number of people coming to Mass who are not Catholic and who have expressed an interest to do so. Perhaps there are others who are not Catholic, yet come to Mass regularly. Please feel free to contact Fr Peter, if you wish, to have a chat about this and we can make some arrangements about how to proceed with a Journey in Faith group, leading to reception into full communion with the Church.

### 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.



### Diocesan Investigation

For the past few months Archbishop McMahon has been undertaking an investigation, on behalf of the Vatican Dicastery for Bishops in Rome, about the resignation of Bishop Robert Byrne. That investigation is now complete and an "Executive Summary" is now available on the diocesan website for people to read. This "Executive Summary" gives a description of what Archbishop McMahon has sent to the Vatican.

### Civic Evensong for the Coronation

There will be a Service of Civic Evensong 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.

### 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. 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 Thekkekeyil and Deacon Stephen Boulter.

### 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.

### 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 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. Thank you to all those who have agreed to help with the house to house collection. Please remember to put the labels on the envelopes before you deliver them

### The fascinating story of Father Robert Benson

The renowned historian, Professor Eamon Duffy, also a frequent broadcaster on radio and television, is visiting Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 3JX, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11am, to give an entertaining and informative lecture about a period and subject which will be new to most audiences. He will tell the fascinating story of Father Robert Benson, the most famous Catholic Priest in Edwardian England, and his extraordinary family. Fr Benson's father was Archbishop of Canterbury, while one brother wrote "Land of Hope and Glory" and the other wrote the Mapp and Lucia novels. Booking is not required, doors open at 10.30am and all are welcome.

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<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 2023</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Dcd Mbrs Tait & Murphey families
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Eric Parker and Manuel Corlado	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 10<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> Theresa McLaughlin & family
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Bobby Turnbull	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Friday 12<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> Sylvia Thompson
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Our Lady of Fatima</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> Ints Geoff Sutcliffe (90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday) 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> John, Mary and Siobhan Turner <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	



## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for May 2023

For church movements and groups: We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.



### Clothes and Bicycles needed

The drop-in centre at St Andrew's church in Ashington has an urgent need for clothes for the asylum seekers, especially men's clothes and shoes. Do you have any clothes in wearable condition that you no longer use? They would be much appreciated. They are also desperate for bicycles - adult's and children's, and children's trikes. If you can help with this appeal please ring Maura Illingworth (01670 516452) or Donald Marr (01670 505573). Please do not leave in Church. Thank you.

### Marriage Preparation

The following face-to-face Marriage Preparation Sessions to be held in our Diocesan parishes are available to book:

- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
  - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023: St Thomas Aquinas, Darlington, DLI 2PU.
  - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
- Bookings can be made on the MarriageCare website where venues, course content and costs are detailed: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk). Please contact Deacon Rob Wareing for further information: Deacon Rob Wareing, Diocesan Lead for Marriage and Family Life. Email: [rob.wareing@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:rob.wareing@diocesehn.org.uk) Mobile: 07841 530991

### Stella Maris

Please join Stella Maris (*formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea*) at Royal Northumberland Yacht Club, Blyth from 6.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> May to greet Russ Fairman's Round Britain Sailing Pilgrimage, celebrating 100+ years of Stella Maris' service. You will hear from Russ about the journey, local Stella Maris Port Chaplain Paul Atkinson about the charity's work locally, and local ship visiting volunteer Maire Cross. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate with Stella Maris and show your support for those who work tirelessly at sea. Russ' sailing pilgrimage is a round-Britain prayerful mission calling at over 50 ports and Holy sites in celebration of 100 years of Stella Maris' support and service to seafarers around the globe. At the reception, there will be drinks and food. To register your attendance, please call: 020 79011931 or email: [info@stellamarismail.org](mailto:info@stellamarismail.org)

### 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)

### 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)

### 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>