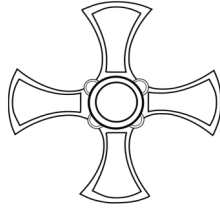


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 28th May 2023 - Pentecost Sunday

It is clear that we are not all born the same. We look at people who have achieved great things and imagine that they must have been born with a better brain or more talent. We look at people who do extraordinary things and imagine they must possess greater depths than we possess. These extraordinary people must have greater courage, greater determination or a clearer vision than we have. Is it just possible that we are not getting the full picture?

It is clear that we are not all born the same, and it is also clear, that as human beings, however hard we work we will always come up against our own limitations. As human beings there will always be times when we are hindered by fear, doubts and inadequacies. It's at times such as these that the Holy Spirit can step in and fire our humble human efforts. When we allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit, great things are going to happen. Faith in the Spirit can't help but move us in the right direction. People like Mother Teresa of Calcutta would never have put her success down solely to her own human endeavour. Any praise she might have received would have been sent straight back to God.

On this, the Church's birthday, we share a very exciting link with those very first disciples. We are each given gifts and talents which we must share to best advantage. At Pentecost we are given tremendous insight into God's plan. We were not all born the same but we are all given the same twenty four hours in a day. All we need to do to overcome our limitations is to ask the Holy Spirit to galvanise our human effort and involve us in Jesus' saving deeds.



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



During this Summertime we are asked to pray for A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who suffer persecution; Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers. 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 **Margaret Armstrong** (Choppington) whose Funeral Service is to be held at St Robert of Newminster Church on Thursday 1st June at 1.15pm; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections:

St Bede's Church: 13th May **£194.15** and 20th May **£173.00**
St Robert's Church: 14th May **£429.86** and 21st May **£377.34**

World Communications Day Collection

Many thanks to all who contributed to the collection for World Communications Day. You gave **£166.45** at St Bede's Church and **£222.64** at St Robert of Newminster Church. Thank You.

Lay Training Fund

There will be a Retiring Collection TODAY, 27th/28th May, for the Lay Training Fund that is used throughout the diocese for people who wish to apply for grants for training.

Sacrament of Confirmation

The St Benet Biscop Partnership Parishes are to hold joint preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which 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. **There will be a Meeting for Candidates and Parents on Friday 9th June at St Bede's Church, Bedlington at 6pm**, to explain what we're going to do. Preparation Meetings for those to be confirmed will be held on Friday evenings from 5pm - 7pm, at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on



Friday 16th June, Friday 23rd June, Friday 30th June,
Friday 7th July, Friday 14th July

Confirmation will then be arranged and celebrated in the candidates' own parish at a time that fits all families and parish priests. We are very grateful to parishioners from Ashington and Bedlington who have offered to help lead the preparation with the priests.

Consultation on a Card Reader for Donations

St Robert's Finance Committee recently discussed the possibility of installing a card reader for donations at St Robert's Church. The Diocese has done some research and is offering a scheme if we wish to be part of it. *Please note that we do not have to do this.* If however there was a lot of people who would make a donation to St Robert's via Debit / Credit Card using a card-reader machine, please email Fr Peter with your thoughts. Standing Order is still considered to be the best way to make a regular payment.

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.

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.*



Seven Bridges Sponsored Walk

St Robert's Parish "Seven Bridges Sponsored Walk" will take place on next Sunday 4th 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 Skinnery, 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.

Come to the Well

The next gathering of the Come to the Well group exploring different ways of praying is on Thursday 1st June from 7pm-8pm in the upstairs Meeting room at St Robert's. All Welcome.

First Holy Communion Cards and Gifts

There will be a stall in St Robert's Church Hall after both Masses next Sunday 4th June, with First Holy Communion cards and small gifts on sale. As the First Holy Communion Masses are being celebrated in June at St Robert's and St Bede's, this may be a good chance to get your cards.

First Holy Communion Preparation

Many thanks to our Catechists for their support of our young children and to all those who have helped prepare the children and to the staff in our schools who have also been involved. There is one more session left on Tuesday 6th June (Bedlington) and Thursday 8th June (Morpeth) and Masses will be celebrated on Saturday 17th June (Morpeth) and Saturday 24th June (Bedlington).



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.



Marriages for 2024

If anyone is considering getting married at St Bede's Church or St Robert's Church next year and have not yet spoken to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen, please let us know as soon as possible.

St Robert's SVP

The next Meeting of St Robert's SVP will be held on Wednesday 31st May.

Holy Hour for Ministers of Holy Communion

There will be a Holy Hour for Ministers of Holy Communion on Thursday 8th June at 7pm at St Bede's Church, for both St Bedes and St Robert's Parishes, an important time as Ministers will renew their Commitment at Mass on the weekend of 10th/11th June, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting at St Robert's will be held at **7pm on Wednesday 21st June** in the Upstairs Meeting Room. Following discussions at the previous meeting we are aiming to improve the way we find out about what is happening in the parish and ultimately how the parish council is able to receive feedback from what goes on in the parish and plan for the future. It's probably a bit different to what we've done before. We need people from the Parish to come along and to take on some responsibility of bringing people together. Some please come along to the meeting to find out about how these changes might affect what we do as a parish community. We have to be able to communicate together as a parish community and about what we do if we are to be effective in our role as evangelisers and catechists and to be an effective catholic presence in Morpeth and our parish.

Three C's Group

The next meeting will be held on Monday 29th May in St Robert's Church Hall from 2pm until 4pm. Why not come and join us for a Cuppa, Chat and Conversation with God, plus and sing-a-long and game of Bingo. All are welcome.

New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The diocesan Liturgy Office have organised a new Course for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in July. The Course will be held at St Joseph's, Mill Lane, Durham, DH1 2JG.

- Session 1: Tuesday 11th July, 7pm - 9pm
- Session 2: Tuesday 18th July, 7pm - 9pm
- Session 3: Saturday 22nd July, 10.30am - 3.30pm

Participants are asked to take their own packed lunch for the day event - tea and coffee will be provided. The Saturday session will end with a Mass of Commissioning at 3.00pm. To book, please contact Fr Peter

A Day for Catechists

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>

Corpus Christi Procession

Adoration, Procession and Solemn Benediction are to be held at St Mary's Church, Hexham, (NE46 2EB) from 3pm – 4:30pm on Sunday 11th June for the Feast of Corpus Christi, followed by Refreshments.

Morpeth Fair Day

Morpeth Fair Day is to be marked on Sunday 11th June. It seems that there will be access to St Robert's Church for the 11am Mass but only via the Kurly Kews. A procession of Vintage Cars will mean exit after the 11am Mass will be delayed.

School Masses at St Bede's Church

Throughout the last academic year, St Bede's School have been to Mass every Wednesday morning. This will continue after half-term with the following plan for the last half term of this school year...

Wednesday	07/06/23	Year 5
Wednesday	14/06/23	Year 4
Wednesday	21/06/23	Year 3
Saturday	24/06/23	First Holy Communion Mass
Wednesday	28/06/23	Year 2
Wednesday	05/07/23	Year 1
Wednesday	12/07/23	Year 6 and Reception
Wednesday	19/07/23	Whole School

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 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, if QR codes are too much to understand! which can be returned to the Parish Office.



Supporting Ukrainian Refugees

There are some Ukrainian refugee families coming in to the area who need all sorts of household equipment, but especially vacuum cleaners and TV receivers. If you have anything to spare please contact Eileen or Gerry Harber on ☎ 01670 517829. Thank you.

Holy Island Pilgrimage

CAFOD invite you to join them on their annual Pilgrimage to Holy Island, set to take place on Saturday 8th July in partnership with the Archbishop Romero Trust. Everyone is welcome to join them crossing the sands and celebrating Mass together. Please see poster for full details.

Sacrament of Baptism

Parents seeking Baptism for their child are asked to speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen. The next meeting is to be held on 6th 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, they become used to the surroundings, things become familiar and it does get easier as time goes on! We need to hear babies and children in our Church as they are the future of our parish communities.

St Robert's Bonus Ball

Week 2 winners were Ann Smith and Ann Owens with number 20. Congratulations.

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.



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.

Little Sisters of the Poor – Job Vacancy

Registered Nurses Required for the Little Sisters of the Poor who run a large residential care home for the elderly in Newcastle. This is a friendly, relaxed, well equipped Home with over 105 staff. Day shift - 37.5 Hours per week, Shifts are 8am-4pm, 1pm-9pm. Night shift 20 hours per week, 9pm-8am. Two References and an enhanced DBS check are required. For more information please contact Lee-Marie on ☎ 0191 273 1279 or email lee.marie@lslondon.co.uk

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.



Diocesan Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following roles:

- Department for Safeguarding, Newcastle – Senior Administrator and Administrator – both roles are permanent and full-time.
- Vicariate for Faith and Mission, Newcastle – Administrator (maternity cover) full or part-time.

The closing date for applications is 5th June. Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact the Diocesan Office on ☎ 0191 243 3301

Christian Aid Week

Thanks to all our helpers - envelope deliverers and return addresses - for taking part in Christian Aid Week. Please hang on to your bags until the end of the month to wait for envelopes to come in. Any queries ring Gerry Harber on ☎ 01670 517829.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 27th May <i>St Augustine of Canterbury</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Ian Gordon 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 28th May 2023 Pentecost Sunday	9am Mass: Evelyn Givens 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 29th May <i>Mary Mother of the Church</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Robert Skidmoore
Tuesday 30th May <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Ken and Eileen Percival	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 31st May <i>The Visitation of the BVM</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 1st June <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Alice Reed 1.15pm Funeral Service: Margaret Armstrong	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 2nd June <i>Weekday</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 3rd June <i>St Charles Lwanga and Companions</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: <i>No Intention</i> 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Philip Walsh
Sunday 4th June The Most Holy Trinity	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: 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.



Tyneside Newman Association

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you their next talk. Chris Maunder will speak on "Our Lady of the Nations" - Apparitions of Mary in 20th Century Catholic Europe at St Cuthbert's Church Hall, North Shields, on Wednesday 31st May, at 7.30pm. He is a retired Senior Lecturer and Visiting Fellow, Theology & Religious Studies, at York St John University, and a researcher and writer in the area of Marian Studies, a scholar of Catholic popular religion in professional life, he is also passionate about Marian shrines, visiting them across Europe and helping to maintain his local shrine in Knaresborough.

CAFOD Campaign: Fix the Food System

CAFOD's food campaign is urging the UK government to protect the right of farmers around the world to use their seeds. Seeds are life. They are the very foundation for farmers to produce the food that feeds us all. For generations, small-scale farmers have freely swapped and shared a wide variety of seeds to produce food and maintain biodiversity. More recently, farmers have also developed seeds that ensure crops are resilient to climate change. However, the freedom of farmers to choose what seeds they use is under threat as the World Bank supports new laws which push farmers towards using seeds sold by big agribusiness. These laws, which are being brought in with the support of global financial institutions such as the World Bank, overwhelmingly favour large agri-businesses. Instead of being able to choose their own seeds, small farmers must purchase commercial seeds – something that is good for big business profits but not so good for the farmers who grow the majority of the world's food. It's clear that our current global food system is in crisis, and at the heart of this crisis is a struggle over control of the world's seeds. Protecting the freedom of farmers to choose seeds is a right we must all stand up for if we are to tackle global hunger while responding to the cry of the earth and the poor. All across the Hexham & Newcastle Diocese, parishes are being asked to raise awareness of these issues. There is some publicity available if anyone wishes to take on this responsibility. Full information about this is available on <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/fix-the-food-system>

Making a difference with Mary's Meals

Throughout this month of May, global feeding charity Mary's Meals, are inviting people to join in their 'Pray In May' initiative, to pray that their work continues to flourish and grow, and to give thanks that more than 2.4 million children now have their lives transformed by receiving a daily meal in their place of education. A short video message from Mary's Meals founder, Magnus, and some prayer resources can be found on their website Pray in May. The charity are very grateful to all of you who continue to support their mission and would like to thank you for your wonderful generosity. Mary's Meals are also looking for people to become Mary's Meals local Parish Rep, who would support their work in our parishes. Do we have anyone already doing this? If you would like to find out more about their work, please contact fran.lawson@marysmeals.org or call ☎ 07593 447280

"The Letter"



Many thanks to those who supported our showing of 'The Letter' last week. It was a very challenging film, and it was a moving and emotional film that touched those present. If there is anything you feel you could do in response to the film, please don't be afraid to speak up. You could try to do something within the Parish or you might want to consider joining the

Diocesan Environment Group. You might want to consider raising awareness of the issues raised either within the parish or in the local

community. If you missed our showing of the film, you could it in the comfort of your own home on your tablet, computer or smart tv. It's available on YouTube, called "The Letter". Unless you watch the film you won't understand the urgency there is to do something to address the issues raised.

