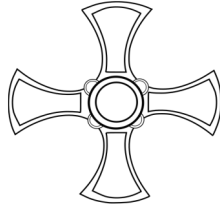


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 21st May 2023 - 7th Sunday of Easter

What is on your mind today? Perhaps you have to get the car through its MOT. Perhaps you have to do the shopping with not enough money in your purse. Perhaps you have to get some work done with not enough hours in your day. Perhaps you have to visit a family member who is ill, or help your child fix a failed friendship at school. There is so much to do. Continuing Jesus' mission on earth problem doesn't figure much in the pages of our diaries.

Today we are privy to Jesus' prayer made on our behalf at the close of his ministry on earth. In this prayer, we are reminded that Jesus had finished the work that he had come to do. Jesus had made God's name known, so that all could share in eternal life. However, for this to happen, we have to carry the baton and keep Jesus' teaching alive in a world bursting with conflicting values.

The first disciples continued Jesus' mission without planes, trains, without a postal service, without TV or radio and without the internet. Yet thanks to these early disciples we are all very familiar with the promise of eternal life, even though these words were spoken over two thousand years ago. It doesn't matter how busy we are, life is so much easier for us than it was for those early disciples. We really don't have much excuse. We have been entrusted with an important job, yet for most of us, it is something we don't think about nearly enough. We are told not to let the world tie us down, but that's most definitely easier said than done. In truth we are very much of this world.

On this Sunday we celebrate World Communication Day, and it feels a timely opportunity to consider the task we have been set. We have all the benefits of a twenty first century world at our fingertips, now we just need to capture some of the passion that drove those early disciples.

We all know at least one person who sets a shining example. Perhaps it's here that we will find our motivation. Perhaps the people we most admire provide us with a model of who we ourselves would like to be. With a good example to emulate and our twenty first century means to spread God's love, change is not beyond any of us.

'Eternal Life is this: to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent....'



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, including **Margaret Armstrong** (Choppington) whose Funeral Service is to be held at St Robert of Newminster Church on Thursday 1st June; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections: 13th / 14th May
St Bede's: £ St Robert's: **£429.86**

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 / 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.



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 donate? Do you still donate 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 can 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.



Seven Bridges Sponsored Walk

St Robert's Parish "Seven Bridges Sponsored Walk" will take place on 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.

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 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 18th to 27th May, (poster of venues/times available soon), ending on 28th Sunday with a "Praise Party" at Morpeth Methodist Church 6pm. St Roberts Church will host the prayers on **Monday 22nd May at 7pm** and **Thursday 25th 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 25th 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. 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.

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.



Marriage Preparation

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

- Saturday 27th May 2023: St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
- Saturday 3rd June 2023: St Thomas Aquinas, Darlington, DL1 2PU.
- Saturday 23rd 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. Please contact Deacon Rob Wareing for further information: Deacon Rob Wareing, Diocesan Lead for Marriage and Family Life. Email: rob.wareing@diocesehn.org.uk Mobile: 07841 530991

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.

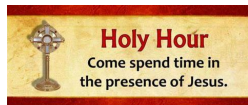
Extraordinary Ministers Day of Reflection

The Liturgical Formation Team will be holding a Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday 3rd June 2023, 10.30am-3.00pm - arrivals, registration and refreshments from 10.00am. The venue for this event will be St Michael's, Durham Road, Houghton-le-Spring, DH5 8NF and will cost £10 per person. Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. To book your place or for more information visit bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents. Booking Deadline: Tuesday 23rd May 2023



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.



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>

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.



New to The Parish

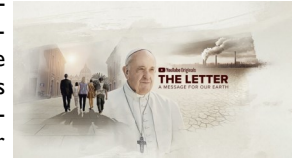
Are you new to our Parish? Have you let us know you are here in our Parish? You can scan this QR code with your mobile or tablet and complete an online form; or type this link into your search engine https://form.jotform.com/Fr_Peter/new-parishioner--updated-info and complete the form. We also have a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



Laudato Si Week: "The Letter"



To mark Laudato Si week, we will show the film "The Letter" on Wednesday 24th May at St Bede's Church at 7pm. The Letter is a powerful documentary released on October 4th 2022 – the feast of St Francis of Assisi – exploring more about the principles of 'Laudato Si' and the escalating impact of climate change on communities around the world. The film follows the stories of a number of inspiring individuals from around the world, including a climate refugee, the courageous leader of an indigenous community who was captured and tortured for his protection of his people and the land, a Vatican preacher, a young female activist, marine biologists, and the president of the 'Laudato Si' Movement. Together, they travel to The Vatican for eye-opening discussions about the destructive impact of climate change and the universal call for action. The exclusive dialogue with the Pope, included in the film, offers a revealing insight into the personal history of Pope Francis and stories never seen since he became the Bishop of Rome. All welcome.



St Bede's SVP

St Bede's SVP is able to help anyone, individual or family, who needs some help and support at this time. If you know anyone who is in need, and could do with a little help, please let John McGinn or David Ward know. Please note that it is important that the party concerned should give their consent if someone is doing this on their behalf.



Catholic Women's League

The meeting on Thursday 25th May, will be held at The Point (beside St Bartholomew's Church) at Newbiggin by the Sea at 12 noon. We will say the Rosary there. Following the Rosary, members will be free to explore, have a meal or return home. Please make your own way to and from Newbiggin.

Tyneside Newman Association

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to come and hear: Chris Maunder speak on Our Lady of the Nations - Apparitions of Mary in 21st Century Catholic Europe at St Cuthbert's Church Hall, North Shields, on Wednesday 31st May, at 7.30pm. Chris Maunder 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. The title of his talk is that of his book (2016, Oxford University Press). 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, a 15th-century rock chapel in Knaresborough.

Bonus Ball

The winners of the Bonus Ball week 1 are Mary Laux and Julie McMorroo winning £25 each with number 28. Congratulations.

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.



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.

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.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 20th May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: John & Catherine McGinn
Sunday 21st May 2023 Seventh Sunday of Easter	9am Mass: Helen Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 22nd May <i>Weekday of Easter / St Rita of Cascia</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass:
Tuesday 23rd May <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Ellen Gray	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 24th May <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: Cecil Cochrane
Thursday 25th May <i>St Bede</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Joseph McCole	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 26th May <i>St Philip Neri</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass:
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 Pentecost Sunday	9am Mass: Evelyn Givens 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.



St Robert's SVP

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

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@splondon.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.



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.



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 Moira Quinn at St Bede's Church or Elizabeth Dixon at St Robert's Church. Visit 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.

World Communications Day Collection

There will be a Retiring Collection this weekend for World Communications Day. (*Apologies to all who were at the Vigil Mass last week, when the collection was taken a week early!*) The theme of this year's World Communications Day comes from Ephesians 4:15, Speaking with the heart. "The truth in love". The call to speak with the heart, radically challenges the times in which we are living, which are so inclined towards indifference and indignation, at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth. (*Pope Francis*) The Pope hails the example of the great Doctor of the Church, St Francis de Sales, and his commitment to patient, heartfelt dialogue with everyone – even those who opposed him. A gifted theologian, his phrase "Heart speaks to heart" inspired many, none more so than the recently canonised Saint John Henry Newman who, on being made a Cardinal in 1879 by Pope Leo XIII, chose as his cardinalatial motto, "Cor ad cor loquitur" or "Heart speaks to heart". Catholics in England and Wales will remember with affection that 'Heart speaks unto heart' was also the motto for Pope Benedict XVI's historic visit to the UK in 2010.

Lay Training Fund

There will be a Retiring Collection next weekend 27th/28th May for the Lay Training Fund.