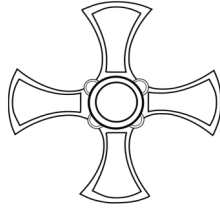


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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

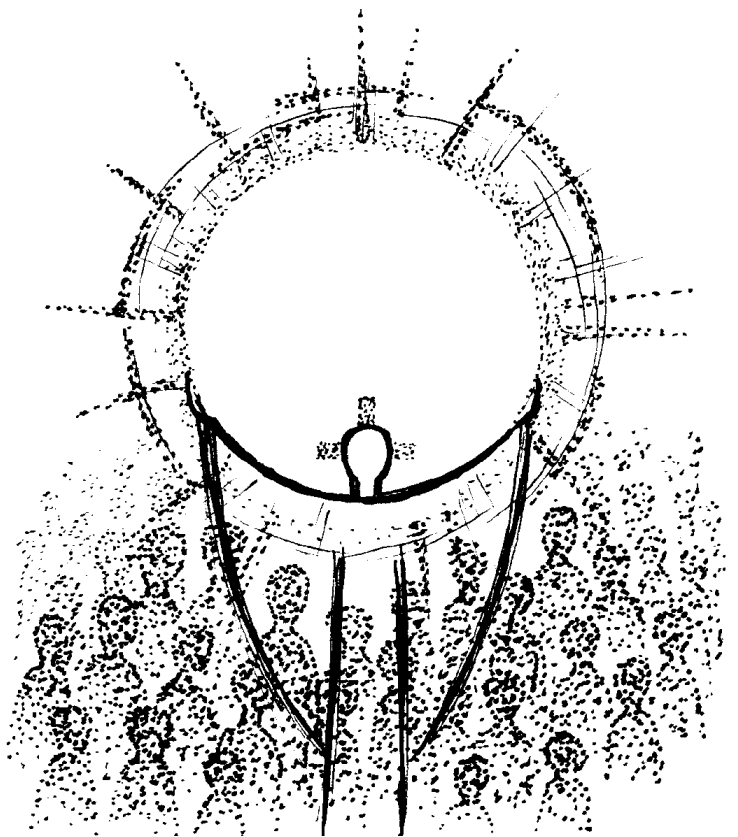
[www.strobertsmorpeth.com](http://www.strobertsmorpeth.com) | [www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk](http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk) | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

# Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

Jesus' 'farewell discourses' are a bit like a teacher's final lesson before an exam ..... packed with important advice. "If you love me you will keep my commandments." "Love one another as I have loved you." "The Spirit of Truth will abide with you when I am gone."

Love of course is key to all Jesus' last minute advice. There's lots we already know about love from our own relationships. If we love and care about each other we say where we are going and what time will be back home. If we love each other we don't keep secrets or have affairs. If we love each other we put our loved one's needs before our own. It's the same with God; we show God we love him by keeping his commandments. Commandments aren't there to create unnecessary discipline, they are there to keep us in love with God and with each other.

Jesus knew that once he was gone some of his commandments would become less clear. Two thousand years down the line there are many issues that have grey areas, such as euthanasia, and the sciences that govern nuclear energy or fertility. For instances such as these, Jesus left us an 'Advocate' a 'Spirit of Truth'. We are promised that the 'Spirit of Truth' will guide us through all of life's difficult decisions. Jesus left us with hope and help, now it's down to us.



*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:** 6<sup>th</sup> / 7<sup>th</sup> May  
St Bede's: **£194.85** / St Robert's: **£445.70**

### 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.

### 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.



### Feast of The Ascension



Ascension

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May is the Feast of **The Ascension of the Lord**. It is a Holyday of Obligation. Holy Days of Obligation are days within the Church's liturgical year that are feast days and therefore mean that Catholics must attend Mass on those days. 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.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> June (Bedlington) and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June (Morpeth) and Masses will be celebrated on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June (Morpeth) and Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June (Bedlington).



### 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.

### St Robert's SVP

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

### 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.



### St Robert's Parish Finance Committee

St Robert's Finance Committee will meet at 6pm on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### 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 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 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 22<sup>nd</sup> May 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. The next meeting is to be held on 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, they become used to the surroundings and it does get easier as time goes on!



### 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.



### Extraordinary Ministers Day of Reflection

The Liturgical Formation Team will be holding a Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](https://bit.ly/LiturgyCoursesAndEvents). Booking Deadline: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023



### Holy Hour for Ministers of Holy Communion

There will be a Holy Hour for Ministers of Holy Communion on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> June, Feast of Corpus Christi



### 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.



### The Three Cs Group

The 3C's will have their next gathering in St Robert's Church Hall on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May from 2pm until 4pm. Why not come along and give it a try. We have a tea and coffee, chance for a chat with each other and some time for Conversation with God; as well as light refreshments, a game of Bingo and a few songs.

### Laudato Si Week

The Diocesan Environmental Group invite you to a series of events marking Laudato Si' week Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2023. There will be Mass on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 10.00am. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate creation and to reflect on how to protect it. Throughout the week there will also be screenings of the film, 'The Letter', which is a powerful film produced by the team that made the Oscar-winning film My Octopus Teacher. It brings the message of Pope Francis's 'Laudato Si' to life through the stories of the people representing the voices of the poor, the youth, indigenous peoples and the natural world. This is a film that everyone should see and talk about in their families and communities, definitely not to be missed!



- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May: at Cardinal Hume Catholic School, Old Durham Road, Gateshead NE9 6RZ with doors opening at 6.30pm and film showing at 7.00pm.
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May: at St Wilfrid's, Waterloo Road, Blyth NE24 1EA at 7.00pm.
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May: at Carmel College, The Headlands, Darlington DL3 8RW with doors opening at 6.30pm and film showing at 7.00pm.
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May: at St Cuthbert's Church, Albion Road West, North Shields NE29 0JB at 7.00pm.

### "The Letter" at St Bede's Church

To mark Laudato Si week, we will show the film "The Letter" on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May at St Bede's Church at 7pm. All welcome. Information on the film is given above.



### Bonus Ball

The Bonus Ball starts this weekend with the Bonus Ball taken from the National Lotto Draw on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you to everyone that is participating, all the numbers have been sold. so we will have two lucky winners each week until Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. Good luck everyone.



### Red Missio Boxes

Missio have informed us that **£1,456.93** raised at St Bede's during 2022. 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](https://missio.org.uk) to find out more about how your support changes lives for the better.



### Marriage Preparation

The following face-to-face Marriage Preparation Sessions to be held in our Diocesan parishes and 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, DL1 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](https://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

### 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.

# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</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 2023</b> <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> John, Mary and Siobhan Turner <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Dcd of the Leadbitter Families
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Leo Horrrax	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 17<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> The Sick of the Parish
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Ascension Thursday</b> <i>Holyday of Obligation</i>	<b>12.30pm Mass:</b> Alice Waugh <b>7.00pm Mass:</b> People of the Parish	<b>10am Mass:</b> People of the Parish 12noon Funeral Service: Thomas Doyle
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter / St Dunstan</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> Dcd of Skeen & Shopland Families
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b> <i>Weekday of Easter / St Bernadine</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> For Good Health & Fruit of the Womb 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> John & Catherine McGinn
<b>Sunday 21<sup>th</sup> May</b> <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Helen Cone <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.



### 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. To register your attendance, please call: 020 79011931 or email: info@stellamarismail.org

### 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>

### 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@lspLondon.co.uk](mailto:lee.marie@lspLondon.co.uk)

### 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.

### Lecture Postponed

The public lecture by Professor Eamon Duffy at the Holy Name Church, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne due to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> May has had to be postponed due to the death of his wife, Jenny. He will give the lecture later in the year.

### 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.

### 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 TODAY, 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

### 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.

### Diocesan Investigation

For the past few months Archbishop McMahon has been undertaking an investigation, on behalf of the Vatican Dicastery for Bishops in Rome., Following over 2,000 submissions from around the diocese, that investigation is now complete and an "Executive Summary" is now available on the diocesan website for people to read.