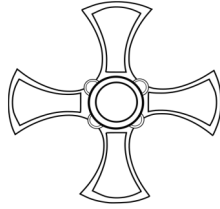


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 4th June 2023 - Trinity Sunday

We only have to switch the TV on to know there is plenty of evil in the world, but in today's Gospel John reminds us that if we know and believe in God we can stand up to that evil and that we will never be condemned. If we believe in God we will be saved. But how do we even begin to know God? Do we think of a God who created the world billions of years ago but has been pretty quiet since? Do we think of God who sent his Son to save us, but only know it because the story sits in a bible up on the bookshelf? Or do we think of a God who made us, a God who sent his Son to teach us, and a God who sent his Spirit to guide us through each day of our lives and through each generation that walks the earth?

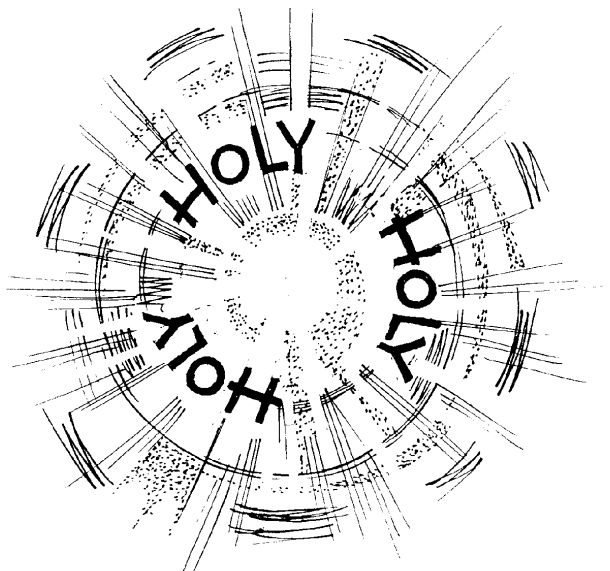
The Trinity might be a bit of a theological mystery to us, but that doesn't mean to say that we are not able to understand anything of God. We understand God in three ways; as Father and creator, as Son and redeemer, and as God's Spirit left to guide and strengthen us.

God the Father is all around us. God's miracles are in front of our eyes when we wake up in the morning and in the night skies before we go to sleep. We live on the only planet able to support life in our universe. God's miracles are there for all to see in our breath-taking landscapes, in our oceans teeming with life and in mankind itself. How often do we stop to praise God's creation or appreciate the miracles that surround us?

God the Son came to teach us with stories and signs. He came to reveal God's plan for us. God the Son came to show us the way to God the Father. God's Son came to us in a great manifestation of God's love. "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."

The Spirit of God is the part of God left to guide us and lead us. The Holy Spirit is something we can completely forget about ... or something we can call on every day, in every choice and in every decision we make.

Believing in God means that we are never condemned. Belief begins with knowing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in every part of our lives.



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 and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Collections: 27th / 28th May
St Bede's Church: **£215.50** / St Robert's Church: **£587.12**

Lay Training Fund

Many thanks for your donations last weekend for the Lay Training Fund which came to **£103.00** at St Bede's Church and **£260.30** at St Robert's Church.

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.

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.*



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. So 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 throughout our parish.

Seven Bridges Sponsored Walk

St Robert's Parish "Seven Bridges Sponsored Walk" will take place TODAY (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. Refreshments will be available in St Robert's Hall after the Walk.

First Holy Communion Cards and Gifts

There will be a stall in St Robert's Church Hall TODAY (Sunday 4th June, after both Masses 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). **First Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated at 10am on Saturday 17th June at St Robert's Church and at 10am on Saturday 24th June at St Bede's Church.**



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.

Eucharistic Ministers Renewal of Commitment

Next Sunday, 11th June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Jesus, is the day on which all our Ministers of Holy Communion renew their commitment publicly to their Ministry, whether they help with the distribution of Holy Communion in Church or whether they take holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound. *[Please come forward to the front of Church, after the Sign of Peace, during the "Lamb of God"].*

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 be asked to 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

St Robert's Bonus Ball

Congratulations to the winners of Week 3 of the Bonus Ball - Coring Cudd and Eddie Nixon, No 54. Congratulations.



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.

Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday 8th June, at 10.30am, in St Robert's Church Hall. This will be an Armchair Keep Fit exercise session.

Morpeth Fair Day

Morpeth Fair Day is being held on Sunday 11th June. Please note that Newgate Street, Bridge Street, New Market and Oldgate will all be closed to traffic with no access to the Car Park on New Market which will be closed. Vehicular access will still be available for our 9am and 11am Masses, but you will only be able access Oldgate in your car, by coming through the Kirkhill estate, (or via the Sun Inn and High Church) and then down the Curley Kews. There will be a barrier to stop normal vehicular access, but you will be guided along in your car by a steward. A procession of Vintage Cars along Bridge Street and Oldgate will mean that your exit after the 11am Mass will probably be delayed, as stewards will probably block the road.

School Masses at St Bede's Church

St Bede's School have been to Mass every Wednesday morning during the school year. This week we will welcome Year 5 to Mass.

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.

New to The Parish

Are you new to our Parish? Have you let us know you are 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.



Stella Maris Pilgrimage to Holy Island

Stella Maris is holding a Day of Prayer & Pilgrimage on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne on Saturday 24th June 2023, led by the Rt Rev Paul Mason, Stella Maris Bishop Promoter for England & Wales. The Pilgrimage starts at 12noon. All are invited. For further information contact Regional Port Chaplains Paul Atkinson (☎ 07906 212426) or Deacon Peter Barrigan (☎ 07713 924504).

CAFOD 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.

Marys Meals

Remember to visit 'Marys Meals' website which contains details of how they support children and school meals in so many places around the world, and of their fundraising activities which makes their work possible. <https://www.marysmeals.org/>

St Roberts SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be held on Wednesday 14th June.

Clothes and Bicycles needed

The drop-in centre at St Andrew's Church in Ashington has an urgent need for clothes for 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.

Donations of Food for others

**DONATE
FOOD
HERE**



We have donations boxes / bins available in our churches to collect food for both refugees and for our local foodbanks. At St Robert's Church, there has, not surprisingly, been a reduction in donations of food for refugees and for the food bank, since it became apparent that some was being stolen. The boxes are regularly emptied now and the food is stored elsewhere before being passed on to those who need it. Please try and support those who need it most. Please drop off any donations you can when you come to Mass and the boxes will be emptied after Mass.

SVP Membership Support Officer (MSO)

The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to recruit an MSO for the Tyne Central Council which covers the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. This is a part time salaried role (22½ hours per week – 3 days equivalent) working as part of the SVP Membership Team to support the Central Council in member recruitment and development and provide general support for members. The role is home based but requires the ability to travel around the Diocese to make recruitment appeals, work with existing groups, attend meetings and meet with interested parties where appropriate. Having your own transport is essential. Travel expenses are paid. For further information and details how to apply contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership at lancep@svp.org.uk Closing date for applications is Sunday 25th June 2023.

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.

Safeguarding Information

We were informed this week of some new information from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office, concerning volunteers within our parishes, but this applies particularly to new volunteers.

"All new volunteers to the parish must complete a volunteer registration form and provide references that the parish will take up. This is to ensure safer recruitment. If they are new to the parish, it is mandatory that references are taken up otherwise we are not applying the diocesan policy. The references provide character references to ensure they are suitable to volunteer for the church. This, is no different to many other voluntary organisations. If there was any question regarding their appointment as a volunteer (whatever the role) at a later date, we have done everything we can possibly do, to ensure that they are suitable to volunteer. This should be done by all parishes within our diocese."

So if you wish to be a volunteer, for example as a Church Cleaner or a Reader at Church, make Tea or Coffee on a Sunday, or be a Minister of Holy Communion, everyone who now volunteers for these roles must contact the Parish Office first so that we can pass on the necessary paperwork that needs to be completed. This is so different from what we have done previously, but it is important for us to follow the correct path. If anyone has any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact Fr Peter or our Safeguarding Reps, - John Carr and Mary Beaton at St Robert's and Mary Carter at St Bede's.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 3rd June <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Charles and Elsie Macy 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Philip Walsh
Sunday 4th June 2023 The Most Holy Trinity	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 5th June <i>St Boniface</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: People of the Parish
Tuesday 6th June <i>Weekday / St Norbert</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Margaret Beadlien	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 7th June <i>St Robert of Newminster</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: John Carter
Thursday 8th June <i>Weekday / St William of York</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: No Intention	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 9th June <i>Weekday / St Columba / St Ephrem</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Intentions of the McCusker family
Saturday 10th June <i>Weekday / Our Lady</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Tom House 10.30am Adoration and Confessions (until 11am)	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 11th June The Body and Blood of Jesus Christ	9am Mass: Evelyn Givens 11am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for June 2023

For the abolition of torture: We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families



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.

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. (Closing date is 5th June)
- Vicariate for Faith and Mission, Newcastle: Administrator (maternity cover) full or part-time. (The closing date is 5th June)
- St Augustine, Darlington – Administrator, 26 hours a week.
- St Paul, Cramlington – Finance Assistant, 5 hours per week. (Closing date is 18th June)

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details of all the above vacancies.

Diocesan Icon of Christ the Eternal High Priest

The Icon of Christ the Eternal High Priest will visit our Partnership in July. The icon was commissioned and blessed in July 2019. It depicts Jesus wearing Priestly Vestments with St Cuthbert's Cross at the Centre of the Chasuble. The words "I am the Good Shepherd" are on the open book in his hand. The icon is touring the Partnerships of the Diocese to encourage each of us to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Consecrated Life and to discern our own calling from God. There will be a Mass for Vocations at St Aidan's Ashington. More details to follow in coming weeks.

Diocesan Vocations Evening - change of date

The next Vocations Discernment evening will be held on Tuesday 18th July at 6pm. The June meeting is cancelled. If anyone is interested in attending in July, please contact Fr Shaun Purdy on ☎ 01670 812 200 or vocationspromoter@diocesehn.org.uk by Saturday 15th July.

St John of God Homes for Ukraine

As we are in the second year of the war in Ukraine, the number of people fleeing the war and in need of shelter remains high amidst continued attacks on civilian infrastructure, leaving millions living in fear of shelling and destruction. Saint John of God Hospitaller Services (SJOG), in partnership with Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), are running a matching, training and support programme for UK-based sponsors and Ukrainian guests under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. SJOG Homes for Ukraine is an official provider of this government scheme, operating in the whole of the UK. SJOG believe that every person has the right to be supported in a way that does not degrade their dignity. CSAN was established by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to develop the Church's social action in these parts of the United Kingdom. We share in the mission of the Catholic Church.

Website: sjog-homesforukraine.uk | **E-mail:** homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk
Facebook page: [facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine](https://www.facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine)
YouTube: [youtube.com/@sjoghomesforukraine](https://www.youtube.com/@sjoghomesforukraine)

Prayer for Ukraine

Almighty and Great God, accept our gratitude for your boundless mercy towards us. Hear the supplication of our afflicted hearts for the land and people of Ukraine, as they confront foreign aggression and invasion. Open the eyes of those who have been overtaken by a spirit of deception and violence, that they be horrified by their works. Grant victory over the powers of evil that have arisen, and bless Ukraine with your gifts of liberty, peace, tranquillity and good fortune. We implore you, O Merciful God, look with grace upon those who courageously defend their land. Remember the mothers and fathers, the innocent children, widows and orphans, the disabled and helpless, those seeking shelter and refuge, who reach out to you and to their fellow human beings looking for mercy and compassion. Bless the hearts of those who have already shown great generosity and solidarity, and those who prepare to receive their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Ukraine's greatest time of need. Bring us together as your children, your creation, and instil in us your strength, wisdom and understanding. May you be praised and glorified, now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.