



**St Bede Parish, Bedlington
and
St Robert of Newminster Parish, Morpeth**



Parishes of the St Benet Biscop Partnership, Northumberland, in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott

St Robert's Presbytery, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF

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Deacon Stephen Boulter: ✉ stephen.boulter@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mary Underwood: Normal Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday at St Robert's, 9.30am—3.30pm | Wednesday at St Bede's, 9am – 5pm

www.strobetsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.org.uk | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

28th Sunday Year A – Sunday 11th October 2026

Do we fondly imagine that people ought to love us just the way we are? We are told often enough that God loves us warts and all. But do we carry this belief through life with not much thought of betterment?

In today's parable a king invites guests to his son's wedding. When the guests refuse to turn up, the king extends the invitation to a different set of guests, both good and bad. The guests fill the wedding hall, but as they do so, the king notices one man not wearing a wedding robe and he has him bound hand and foot and thrown out into the darkness! The consequences for not wearing the right outfit seem overly harsh as far as this poor guest is concerned, but of course the parable has not really very much to do with wedding receptions and even less to do with wearing the right tie. The overriding theme in this story is to do with standards.

Jesus explains that the Kingdom of God is open to all but that doesn't mean that anyone and everyone can stroll into heaven. Just as guests make an effort to be correctly dressed for a wedding, so too must we put in the preparation and effort to be accepted into God's Kingdom.

The guest who was thrown out of the wedding feast for his cavalier 'accept me just the way I am' attitude presents a warning for us all. Too often we go about our daily routines not feeling any need to live life better. Far too often we look on our Christianity as making choices between good and evil, and we are confident that we rarely choose evil. But Jesus is asking more of us than simply choosing between right and wrong, he is asking us to choose between good and an even greater good. What we imagine is our 'best' very rarely is.

Just as the guest in today's parable did little more than turn up to the wedding, so we live life going through the motions but not much more. Accepting God's invitation to join him is only the first step, it's how we live out that acceptance that really matters.



Masses, Intentions and Services this Week

	St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth	St Bede, Bedlington
Saturday 10th October Weekday	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: 10.30am Adoration and Confessions	12.30pm Baptism: George Walter Strachan 5pm The Rosary 5pm – 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 11th October 28th Sunday of the Year	9am Mass: Betty & Arthur Thompson 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 12th October St Wilfrid		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Special Intentions of Alma Craik
Tuesday 13th October St Edward the Confessor	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Ken Wilson	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 14th October Weekday	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Pat Tait
Thursday 15th October St Teresa of Avila	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Sylvia Thompson	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 16th October St Margaret Mary Alacoque	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Holy Souls
Saturday 17th October St Ignatius of Antioch	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: In Thanksgiving 60 th Anniv (A&JMcA) 10.30am Adoration and Confessions 12.30pm Convalidation Service	5pm The Rosary 5pm – 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 18th October 29th Sunday of the Year World Mission Sunday	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Jack and Sheila Brown	

The Holy Father Pope Leo's Intentions for October 2026

For mental health ministry: Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.



We are asked to pray for: Students and Teachers; the Spread of the Gospel; the Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families. 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 and for all who are facing challenging situations. We pray for those who have died recently including **Father John Coyle** (retired, aged 93) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral on Friday 23rd October; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Sunday Offertory Collections: 26th / 27th September

St Bede's Church: **£191.70**; St Robert of Newminster Church: **£467.04. Thank You!**

Standing Orders for September

September's Standing Orders for St Bede's was £1,524.33 and £3,887.00 at St Robert of Newminster. Thank You!

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Thank you to all who contributed to the CAFOD Family Fast Day Collections at the beginning of October. We collected **£683.60** at St Bede's Church and **£417.50** at St Robert of Newminster Church. Thank You to all who donated. If there are any outstanding envelopes lying around and not handed in, please return as soon as possible so that we can send off your donations



Gift Aid Donations

Do you give a regular Donation to your Parish? Do you pay tax? If 'yes', you could 'Gift Aid' your donation and at no extra cost to you, the parish could receive an extra 25% from the HMRC from the Gift Aid Scheme. Just ask for a form and we will help you to set this up if you wish to do this. A link to set this up is also on the website www.dioceseh.org.uk/donate-and-gift-aid/

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Card Donations or Mobile Donations

We have a card reader at St Robert's Church that enables you to make a donation simply with the tap of your card or your mobile phone. It's at the back of church near the west door. Simple to use – follow instructions on the machine - but ask for help if needed.

Clergy Training Fund

There will be a Retiring Collection for the Clergy Training Fund on Sunday 25th October. The Fund remains open until 15th November.



New to the Parish: If you are new to the Parish, then we welcome you to St Bede's or to St Robert's. It would be very helpful if you could scan this QR Code and complete the information requested.

LiveSimply - Replanting St Robert's Crocuses

Thank you to those who donated to the appeal to raise money for the CAFOD World Gift fund by planting crocuses and to those who helped with the planting. We raised an amazing **£165** over the two weeks. Such a happy and friendly experience, let's hope they grow next spring.

LiveSimply Bitesize

Provide household items for rehoused homeless people

St Robert's Christmas Piety

Bernadette Rich will set up her Christmas Piety Stall at Robert's Church Hall after both 9am and 11am Masses on 11th October, 8th November and 29th November. If you are looking for Christmas Cards, Gifts, Advent Calendars, 2027 Diaries, then come along next Sunday to the Hall for a Coffee and have a browse.

Vigil Refreshments for Aid to the Church in Need

Donations from the Tea and Coffee at St Bede's on a Saturday evening over the last four months have amounted to **£594.00** and have been donated to Aid to the Church in Need. Many Thanks to all who have donated. Click this link to find out how ACN uses your donations to support Catholics and Christians overseas www.acnuk.org



Magnifica Humanitas

Is anyone interested in coming together to discuss Pope Leo XIV's Encyclical **Magnifica Humanitas** on Artificial Intelligence and the Dignity of the Human Person? As well as the original Document, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has also produced worksheets and guidelines to aid discussion. If interested in coming together, please let Fr Peter know. It may be a Monday or a Wednesday evening! You will need a copy of the Papal Encyclical or access to it.

St Robert's Bonus Ball

Week 1 winners of St Robert's Bonus Ball were Nancy Simpson and Elaina Hunt with number 33. Congratulations to them and good luck to everyone in the draw for Week 2.

Journey in Faith 2026/7

The 'Journey in Faith' meets next on **Thursday 15th October** at 7pm. This week's meeting will be looking at Sacred Scripture, Divine Revelation, Dei Verbum, and Salvation History, (*all in 1½ hours!!*) Please note that all who wish to be received into the Church, those adults seeking Confirmation or to be Baptised, should be attending Mass in person. Please pray for those taking part, because this is such a life changing event in people's lives.

Annual Mass Count

The Annual Mass Count is taken on the last two Sundays of September and the first two Sundays of October at all Catholic Churches in England and Wales. So far, for three weeks, our average is 112 at St Bede's Church and 272 at St Robert's Church. We have one more week to go!

First Holy Communion Preparation

Please keep all the children and their families preparing for First Confession and Holy Communion in your prayers please.

St Robert's 3C's

The next meeting of the 3C's will be on Monday 12th October in St Robert's Church Hall from 2pm onwards. Come along for Conversation with God, a chat with friends and a cup of tea or coffee and a quick game of friendly bingo.

World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday will be marked on 18th October. It will be a Day of Prayer for the Spread of the Gospel throughout the world and remind us to pray for "the missions" around the world and those who dedicate their lives as missionaries travelling the world to take the gospel to others. Envelopes will be available next Sunday (11th October) to be returned on 18th October for the Mission Collection.



St Bede's Mass for the Sick

The annual Mass for the sick and housebound of the parish will be celebrated on Friday 23rd October at 1pm, followed by light refreshments. The anointing of the Sick will be an important part of the Mass. All parishioners are welcome to come along. Those who are unwell or diagnosed with an illness will be invited to be anointed. Lifts to Church may be possible; if required please inform a member of the SVP.



Rosary Chain

Please pray the Rosary throughout the days of October. Pray for World Peace, and for peace in our families.

St Robert's Mass for the Sick

Mass for the Sick and Housebound will be held on Saturday 7th November at 12 noon. Refreshments will be available in the church hall afterwards. Should anyone need a lift to and from Mass please contact Paula Brown SVP 07882 591 322

St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP conference will be held in the upper room of the church hall on Wednesday 21 October at 5 pm. New members are very welcome to come along. Thank you to everyone who popped into the church hall after both Masses last Sunday to celebrate St Vincent de Paul's Feast Day..

Baptism Preparation

Any Parents wishing to have a child baptised are asked to speak to Deacon Stephen or Fr Peter to book onto this course as soon as they are able to. One parent **MUST** be a Baptised Catholic, and we do ask both parents to make every effort to turn up to this meeting. Please note that a date for Baptism will not be given until the Baptism meeting has been attended. **The next course at St Robert's, Morpeth will be on Thursday November 12th at 7pm.**

Advance Notice

On the First Sunday of Advent, Sunday 29th November, there will be a period of Adoration for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from the eight St Benet Biscop Partnership Parishes, from 3pm – 4pm, at St Bede's Church, Bedlington. We hope Ministers will be able to come along for this prayer.

Refugees and Foodbank Supplies

Many thanks to everyone who continues to donate to either the Local Foodbanks or the Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Please continue your donations which are greatly appreciated

Marriage Preparation Day

The next Diocesan Marriage Preparation Day is to be held at St Robert's Church on Saturday 6th March 2027. Those getting married in 2027 are encouraged to book the date now via the Marriage Care website, otherwise your options may only be online or elsewhere in the diocese.

Marriage Preparation Leaders

Could you be a leader for Marriage Preparation? Marriage Care are always looking for new couples to lead their preparation courses. Training is provided. Speak to Fr Peter for more information.

New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

A course for new extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is to be held soon. The course involves two evenings and one Saturday of training and participants must attend all sessions to be commissioned in this ministry. This will be held at St Mary's Church, Dockendale Lane, Whickham, NE16 4EN, on Tuesday 3rd November 7pm-9pm; Tuesday 10th November 7pm-9pm; Saturday 14th November 10:30am-3pm. Cost of £20 per person will be covered by the Parish. There is a Booking Deadline of Friday 23rd October. Anyone who feels they can commit to this ministry at Mass and by offering to be available for the sick and housebound, should contact Fr Peter as soon as possible if you can take on this role.

Partnership Children's Liturgy Day

The Partnership Council is working on organising a morning Conference to bring all Children's Liturgy catechists, leaders and companions together for a gathering from our eight partnership parishes, to meet one another, share good practice and experience, and a reflection on the work that is done to help our children understand our scripture readings better. We will let you know when a date is fixed.

St Bede's Finance and General Purposes Committee-Monday 19th October at 6pm.

St Bede's Autumn Fayre

St Bede's Autumn Fayre will be held on Saturday 14th November from 11am until 3pm. The fayre relies upon the wonderful generosity of parishioners. Organisers are looking for donations: books and bric- a-brac of good quality; prizes for a tombola stall; prizes for the raffle; cakes and pastries; and bottles for our bottle tombola stall. We will be serving soup and hot sandwiches and invite you to join in for a quick lunch. Our piety stall will be selling Christmas cards, votive candles, rosary beads, etc. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If anyone wishes to help out on the day, please see Christine Priest or call her on 07929 962 813.



Preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Catechists Needed: Next year after Easter we will be preparing our young people, (Yr 9 and above) for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We need adults, from our local parishes, to help with the delivery of the catechesis. If you have been involved previously and are willing again, or you have never done this before and are interested, or a young adult willing to be involved with this, please contact Fr Peter so that we can begin to make preparations and have a preliminary meeting, and sort out DBS paperwork for those who need it.

Diocesan Ministries Mass

The Diocesan Ministries Mass, the Mass in which those preparing to be ordained Deacons receive the various ministries as they progress, will be celebrated at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Wednesday 28th October at 7pm. You are welcome to come along to this Mass and support those receiving Ministries, of which there are six, including Mr Joe Gallagher from St Bede's Parish who will receive the Ministry of Lector from Bishop Stephen.



Flame 2027

Flame 2027 takes place on Saturday 6th March. The theme is 'TAKE COURAGE'. It is open to anyone from school year 9 to University/young adult age. Under 18s must be part of an organised group. Please talk with your school chaplain, catechist or parish priest if you would like to come along. Two years ago, almost 900 young people from our Diocese travelled to Wembley Arena for this national Catholic youth gathering. Once again YMT is hoping to take 700 young people, up to 1,000 with accompanying adults. COST: £55 per person (includes return rail travel, Wembley ticket and London travel card). The cost has been generously subsidised by Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. For further information contact Mary Madziva mmadziva@ymt.org

New Information Board

St Robert's has a new information Board which now adorns the front railings on Oldgate, informing readers on the important features of our parish site, church, house and school, with a QR Code link to our website. All created with the help of Morpeth Greater Development Trust, Northumberland County Council, and King Edward VI School.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

Places are still available for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi in October 2027. More information can be found on the Diocesan website: diocesehn.org.uk

SVP National Raffle

Results of the National SVP Raffle are now on the Church noticeboard. Thanks for your support but sadly, no local winners!

Refugees and Asylum Seekers Drop-in Project

Very many thanks to those who have left kitchen and household goods for this project. Kitchen and electrical goods are very welcome, as are men's shoes, winter clothes and we have a special request for a TV. Thank you.

Email Newsletter

Each week we email the newsletter to over 60 people. Would like to receive the Newsletter by email as well? Send in your email address and we'll add you to the mailing list.

Remembrance Mass – Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

A Remembrance Mass has been organised by the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage for Friday 20th November 7.00pm at Our Blessed Lady Immaculate, Washington. This is open to everyone, not just those who have been to Lourdes. There are special candles that can be purchased to be burned at the Mass in memory of loved ones. These are £3.00 each and available by contacting the Lourdes office – lourdes@diocesehn.org.uk

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Daily Mass

Have you got time to come along to Adoration on a morning before Mass? Not everyone can attend but there are many in our parishes who do have some free time. God uses us to do great things if we give him the opportunity to do so. And if you can, stay on for Mass and experience the love that Jesus has for us by nourishing and feeding us with his body and blood. It's not just for the elderly and retired of the Parish!!



Italian Medical Charity

The "Italian Medical Charity" has funds from the sale of The Italian Hospital in London - for those of Italian origin who need funds for medical treatment that the NHS has difficulty in providing or for their carers. If you are Italian or of Italian descent, this may be of some help to you. All you have to do is visit their website at www.italianmedicalcharity.co.uk or write to them at IMC, Kings Lodge, Kingsway, NI2 0EW. For independent verification of their charitable status, please visit the Charity Commission website and search either using Italian Medical Charity or the Charity's number 218259.

Retreat: Be Still and know that I am God

Step away from the noise and rediscover the stillness in which we become attentive to God in a retreat led by Fr Roger Dawson SJ, Liz Lord and Steve Noone, this residential retreat explores mindfulness, psychology and the Christian spiritual life. The weekend, from 20th – 23rd November 2026, includes talks, contemplative prayer, Mass, Adoration and time to walk, rest and reflect in the peaceful surroundings of the Stonyhurst estate in Lancashire. Find out more and book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god/>

The Gift of Confession

Have you been thinking about going to Confession? Whether it has been a few weeks or many years, God's mercy is waiting for you with a loving and open heart. Confession is not about looking back with regret but moving forward with peace. Through this beautiful sacrament, we experience God's forgiveness, healing, and the joy of a fresh start. Everyone is warmly welcome. Come and discover again the comfort of God's loving mercy. "Do not be afraid." (Matthew 14:27)



Prisoners' Sunday 11th October

Prisoners' Sunday is an opportunity to consider how we, as individuals, as a Church, and as communities, are serving our brothers and sisters affected by imprisonment. Our prisons are in crisis. There are record numbers of people behind bars. Inspectors regularly report instances of vermin, violence, self-harm and people languishing in cells with nothing to do. At the same time, too many people are released with no home, no job, no family and no hope. PACT has been helping people in need for more than 125 years. You can support PACT online at www.prisonadvice.org.uk/faith/events/prisoners-sunday/