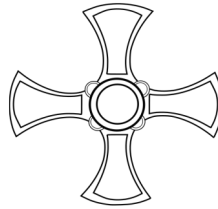


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 | ✉ strobertainewminster.morpeth@diocesehn.org.uk

✉ peter.stott@diocesehn.org.uk | ✉ peterjstott@aol.com

St Bede's Church and Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS

☎ 01670 823258 | ✉ stbede.bedlington@diocesehn.org.uk

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

Parish Secretary: Mary Carter

Office Hours | St Robert's, Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am—3.30pm | St Bede's, Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm

www.strobertainmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

Fifth Sunday of Easter - 28th April 2024

There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio brings terrible news of atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news and to feel powerless to do anything. We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.

We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principle. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to bring the whole country to a stand-still and sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome the final result.



Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning, we as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action. Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone, we branch out as a team.

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; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work. 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 **Irene McCabe** [East Sleekburn], whose Funeral Service will be celebrated at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Thursday 2nd May at 1.30pm; for **Mon-signor Philip Carroll** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 2nd May at St Mary's Cathedral at 12.05pm; **Deacon John Hawthorne** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart, North Gosforth on Tuesday 7th May at 10.30am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collection - 20th / 21st April 2024

St Bede's Church: **£163.50** / St Robert's Church: **£442.35**



Donate to your Parish Online

You are now able to make a donation to your parish via the Diocesan Website. Click onto <https://diocesahn.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.

Diocesan Gift Aid Scheme

giftaid it

Do you pay UK Tax and give regularly to our church collections? You could join the Gift Aid Scheme! We gain an extra 25% of your offering, at no extra cost to you. It is very simple and easy. If you feel you could be a part of the Gift Aid Scheme, please contact the Parish Office or Peter Smith (St Robert's) for further details.

Standing Orders or Payments by BACS

Many thanks to all who contribute to the weekly collections by Standing Order or by BACS. This is a very easy way to make a contribution towards parish funds. Our bank details for setting up a Standing Order or BACS payment are included below ...

Morpeth

Sort Code 40-34-18
Account Number 32010755
Name of Account "DHN Morpeth St Robert of Newminster"

~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~ ~~~~~

**Bedlington**

Sort Code 40-34-18  
Account Number 81163620  
Name of Account "DHN Bedlington St Bede"

**Extra Collection : Emergency Appeal for Sudan**

CAFOD have launched an emergency appeal for Sudan. How your donations can help in Sudan.

- Food: Millions of families who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and are now facing yet another urgent crisis – hunger. Donations now will help provide emergency food packages, as well as other essentials like medicine.
- Water: Water pipelines have been damaged, meaning that families are having to fetch water from unsafe locations. With your support, we can work to repair damage to pipelines and build new ones so that clean water can reach the communities who need it.
- Sanitation: We are providing emergency sanitation in several of Sudan's largest refugee camps. This is a desperate need especially for the sick, the elderly, those with young children.

**We will take a collection at all Masses on 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> May - NEXT WEEKEND.** CAFOD's local partners are already responding. But they need urgent support to drastically increase their emergency response.



**Sick and Retired Priests Collection**

Very many thanks to all who have contributed to the sick and Retired Priests Collection throughout April. Amount raised so far is **£236.24** at St Bede's Church and **£479.30** at St Robert's Church. We are also very grateful to Benjamin at 'Signature Farm Meats' at Blyth for a Donation to this Fund.

**Collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor**

Very many thanks to all who contributed to last week's Retiring Collection for the Little Sister which raised **£243.01** at St Bede's Church and **£611.83** at St Robert's Church.

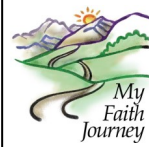


**Reflections on The Our Father**

We will be meeting on a Wednesday to discuss Pope Francis' book on The Our Father. The first meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm in the Presbytery. Don't forget to bring your book with you. If you are intending on being present please let Fr Peter know.



**Journey in Faith 2024 / 25**



Some people are already asking about the next Journey in Faith programme with a view to becoming Catholic. This will begin at the end of September and run through until after Easter next year. Those who are enquiring, and those who are interested, or even not too sure, are asked to contact Fr Peter to organise an opportunity to meet with him, to discuss your own situation. It also gives him a chance to take your details ready for September's Journey in Faith Course.

**Newsletter via Email**

If you would like to receive a copy of the Parish Newsletter via Email, please contact us and we will put you on the mailing list. Send us an email, to the email address on the front of the Newsletter. Alternatively, the Newsletter is available each week on the Parish Website. Have a look at our website to check it out.



**CWL Coffee Morning**



The CWL are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30am until 12noon in aid of the Little Sisters of the Poor (St. Joseph Home Newcastle). There will be Refreshments, Raffle and a Bring and Buy Stall. Contributions for the Bring and Buy will be very much appreciate. Thank you.

**Come to Adoration and Holy Communion**

Do you have some free time on a morning? Are you on holiday? Are you retired? Why not make that extra effort to come to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass or the Service of Holy Communion during the week and experience the benefits we receive by doing so. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament gives us some quiet time for prayer and peacefulness, and in receiving Jesus in Holy Communion the Lord Jesus feeds us with his body and blood. What a wonderful opportunity lies before us every day, every week!



**Bringing your Children to Mass**

It is wonderful to see the young families of our parishes come to Mass together. Some families stay away because they have some young children who may be quite noisy. A church without the noise of babies is an imperfect Church. We need families with children at Mass, because they, because you, are the future of our parish communities. Please do not stay away, but come and bring your children with you, even if they are young and a bit noisy.



**New Altar Servers**

We are always looking to welcome new Altar Servers onto our small teams of servers. If there is anyone at St Bede's Church or at the 9am or 11am at St Robert's Church, willing to serve at our Masses, please speak to Fr Peter.



**New Readers**

We are always happy to welcome new readers onto the Readers Rota. If anyone is willing to join the readers rota for Mass, at either St Bede's on a Saturday evening, or at the 9am or 11am Mass on a Sunday morning, please speak to Fr Peter.



**Volunteer Forms**

Please remember that it is now diocesan policy that all volunteers in the parish must complete a Volunteer Registration Form before they begin volunteering for a parish role, whatever that role may be. This form will ask for the names of two referees who will be contacted to support your offer of help in the parish. If you are volunteering, please make sure you have completed this form. Thank you to everyone who volunteers in whatever role in our parishes. It is greatly appreciated.

**Safeguarding and Health and Safety Items**

We have received notification from Bishop Stephen that Safeguarding and Health and Safety items should be Standing items for all Parish, Partnership, Deanery, Vicariate and Diocesan meetings.

### First Holy Communion Preparation

Our First Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated in the middle of May. We have some preparation meetings planned before then and one after the Mass. All dates are given below for both parishes. We hope also that families will be attending Sunday Mass in the coming weeks, leading up to these special celebrations.



St Bede's Church

- **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May** at 3.30pm at St Bede's Church
- **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May** at 10am First Holy Communion Mass at St Bede's Church
- **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** at 3pm at St Bede's Church

St Robert's Church

- **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May** at 3.30pm at St Robert's Church Hall
- **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May** at 10am First Holy Communion Mass at St Robert's Church
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June** at 3.30pm at St Robert's Church Hall

### Narthex Working Party

The next Meeting of the Narthex Working Party will be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in the Presbytery.

### Holyday of Obligation

The Feast of Ascension of the Lord into Heaven (Ascension Thursday) will be celebrated on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May. Masses will be celebrated at 10am at St Bede's Church and at 12.30pm and 7pm at St Robert's Church.

### Sacrament of Baptism - Preparation Meeting

Any Parents hoping to have their child baptised at St Bede's Church or St Robert's Church are asked to speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen, in person, to arrange this. **This is the preferred way for organising Baptisms.** Emails about this may not get answered. One parent must be a Baptised Catholic, and one godparent should be a practising catholic. Please get in touch with us to make an appointment so that we can also book you onto the next Baptism Meeting, which will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> May at St Bede's Church, Bedlington or 11<sup>th</sup> July at St Robert's Church, Morpeth.



### New to The Parish?



Are you new to our Parish? Or have you moved house? Please 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 will then receive your contact details and put you on our parish register.

### St Robert's Bonus Ball

Thank you for the support that the ladies from the CWL received last Sunday for the Bonus Ball. The ladies will be on hand this weekend for anyone still wishing to purchase a number. Each number costs £10 which covers the 10 weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> May until 6<sup>th</sup> July, and the prize money each week will be £25 for the number of the Bonus Ball taken from the Saturday evening draw of the National Lotto.

### Holy Communion Cards & Gifts

There is a selection of cards and small gifts available at St Bede's Church on a Saturday evening and there will be an opportunity to buy at a special sale at St Robert's Church Hall TODAY [Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April] between the 9am and 11am Masses.

### Partnership Service for Our Lady in May

You are invited to a partnership Service to pray for peace, through the intercession of Our Blessed Virgin Mary, at St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. Let us come together to pray the Rosary and sing hymns to our lady Followed by light refreshments in the church hall. Everyone welcome



### Message of Thanks from Missio

Thank you to the parishioners of St Robert of Newminster Parish for the wonderful contribution of **£2,481.00** in 2023 through the Red Boxes and individuals giving directly. It really is remarkable considering the difficult and challenging times. A special thank you to all the collectors that collect the money from the Red Boxes twice a year. If by chance you have a Red Box at home, and it has not been emptied this year, would you please bring it to church on any Sunday and give it to Anne Beattie at 9am Mass or Elizabeth Dixon at 11am Mass, or contact Elizabeth Dixon 01670 516584.



### Marys Meals Emergency Appeal

Mary's Meals is responding to a terrible emergency in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, where a combination of drought, displacement, and brutal conflict has left huge areas of the country in crisis. The Tigray region, where Mary's Meals works, is one of the worst affected. Having lived through the atrocities of the Tigray war, millions of Ethiopians are now facing emergency levels of food insecurity and hunger. The war has undone years of progress in Tigray's education system. For now, there is an urgent dual priority – ensuring that children in Tigray have food and boosting their chances of engaging with education again. If you can support please visit their website and make an online donation. We still have collection boxes available if anyone would like one for their home or place of work.

### St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's St Vincent de Paul Conference will be on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Upper Meeting room of the Church Hall. Prospective new members are welcome - why not come along and find out more? This week the SVP are looking for the following for Asylum Seekers/Refugees: Nappies (sizes 2 to 6), baby wipes, carpets, curtain rails and kitchen utensils.

### Donation for Foodbanks and Refugees

If you can help with donations, they can be left in the boxes in Church. The items most needed on a regular basis for the Refugee Service are On their list of most needed donations are toilet rolls, individual packets of biscuits, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, chick peas. Also required are pasta, tinned fruit, sugar (standard size packet), spices/dried herbs, table salt, tinned vegetables, rice (standard size packet), cooking oil. Also needed are toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hygiene and cleaning products. All of the above will also be welcomed by the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank and the Bedlington Foodbank.

### Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year runs from 12<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May. As in recent years we will be using "delivery only" envelopes - i.e. we do not call back to collect them but ask people to post them through someone's door if they wish to give. Those who have volunteered to deliver in the last couple of years will be asked if they can do so again this year but we can always do with more volunteers so please contact Gerry Harber (tel. 517829) if you would be willing to do this. Also if you would be willing for your address to be used for return of envelopes. Thank you.

### Gerry Harber's Sponsored Walk

In May Gerry Harber will be taking part in The Great Outdoors Challenge. His route is from Portavadie on Loch Fyne to Johnshaven (north of Montrose), a planned distance of 224 miles. He is seeking sponsorship for Christian Aid since the walk coincides with Christian Aid week. You can sponsor him on-line at his JustGiving page: "Gerry Harber's TGO Challenge 2024 for Christian Aid". Thank you.

### Public Lecture at Holy Name Jesmond

Professor Eamon Duffy will be at The Church of the Holy Name, North Jesmond Avenue, Newcastle NE2 3JX on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am to give his lecture 'Celebrity Priest: Robert Hugh Monsignor Benson and the End of the World'. Professor Duffy will discuss Fr Benson's life and work, and that of his father who was Archbishop of Canterbury. One of Fr Benson's brothers wrote "Land of Hope and Glory", while the other wrote the Mapp and Lucia novels. All are welcome for this non-ticketed event.

### Significance Festival Weekend

All are welcome to the Emmaus Village for the Significance Festival on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June from 10.00am. The day will offer a fayre of stalls and activities, sessions for children and young people, guest speakers and live music. Mass celebrated by Bishop Stephen Wright will take place at 3.15pm, followed by a Barbecue and Ceilidh in the evening. Entry is free with charges for accommodation and camping (self-catered) on Friday and Saturday nights. BBQ tickets will cost £10. All proceeds and any donations will support Significance, the charity founded by Fr Dermott Donnelly. To book email Nicole at [nsalkeld@ymt.org](mailto:nsalkeld@ymt.org) or Tel. 01207 592244.

### First Aid Training

Is anyone interested in doing First Aid Training / Refresher Training at St Bede's Church Hall. The last training was three years and now needs to be retaken. The Date and Price to be confirmed depending on numbers. Please contact Pat Gales if interested, Mobile No 07724 659446

# Masses, Intentions and Services This Week

|                                                                      | St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth                                                                                                       | St Bede's Church, Bedlington                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>Weekday of Easter</i>    | 9.40am The Rosary<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Paul McCole & Fr Lawrence Jones<br>10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions                              | 5pm—5.20pm Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish                                               |
| <b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> | <b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish<br><b>11am Mass:</b> Mr SEI Cole                                                                        |                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>St Catherine of Siena</i>  |                                                                                                                                               | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Intentions of Conor Morgan                              |
| <b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April</b><br><i>St Pius V</i>             | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Roger Adamson                                                                  | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion                                        |
| <b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b><br><i>St Joseph The Worker</i>   | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion                                                               | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Holy Souls                                              |
| <b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b><br><i>St Athanasius</i>           | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Peter Shepherd                                                                 | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion<br>1.30pm Funeral Service Irene McCabe |
| <b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b><br><i>SS Philip and James</i>       | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion                                                               | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Intentions of Sick Priests                              |
| <b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><i>The English Martyrs</i>     | 9.40am The Rosary<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Special Intention (JS)<br>10.30am – 11am Adoration and Confessions<br>12.30pm Baptism: Arabella Hughes | 5pm—5.20pm Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish                                               |
| <b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b><br><b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>    | <b>9am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone<br><b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish<br>12.30pm Baptism: Jesse Glenn Reardon                     |                                                                                                                        |

## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for April 2024

For the role of women: We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



### St Robert's 3C's

The 3Cs will be meeting in St Robert's Church Hall on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April from 2pm until 4pm. Why not come along and join in for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee, a short prayer service, some singing, and even a game of Bingo. Everyone welcome.

### St Robert's Bonus Ball

There are only 12 Numbers left for the bonus Ball. If you would like to take part then please see Elizabeth Dixon or ring on ☎ 516584 to secure a number. Each number costs £10, which covers the 10 weeks from 4<sup>th</sup> May until 6<sup>th</sup> July and the prize money each week, will be £25 for the number of the Bonus Ball taken from the Saturday evening draw of the National Lotto. Good luck.

### May Rosary Chain

May is the month of Mary when we traditionally promote devotion to Our Blessed Lady throughout the whole month. We would like to encourage you all to pray the Rosary for World Peace during May. There is a list at the back of St Robert's church for anyone wishing to join in the May Rosary Chain for Peace. All you have to do is sign-up and say just one decade of the Rosary each day throughout the month of May. When all the Decades of each mystery — Joyful, Glorious Sorrowful, Luminous — are taken, a complete Rosary will be said every day for peace in our world. We only need 20 people to take part. Thank you.



### 7 Bridges Sponsored Walk

We would like to invite you to take part in the 7 Bridges Sponsored Walk which will take place in Morpeth on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, starting at the Low Stanners, crossing all seven bridges and ending at St Robert's with refreshments. Please note the date in your diary. More information and sponsor forms will be available later.

### Parish Mass for the Sick - advance notice

St Robert's Mass for the Sick will be held on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, at 12 noon, followed by refreshments in the Hall. All are welcome. If you would like to help making or serving refreshments, please contact Richard Copeland, via 07579 805949, or rcope1264@gmail.com

### Survivors Mass

A 'Survivors Mass' is being held at St Mary's Cathedral on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 12.05pm, which is the day nominated by Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales as the National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse.

### Fire Risk Assessment (FRA)

Following consultation with the Diocesan Health and Safety Committee and the Diocesan Consultors, the Board of Trustees gave approval to bring in an external consultant to complete a new Fire Risk Assessment for each parish site. The Board's decision is to work with "Incendia" over the next 12-15 months to renew each FRA at the cost of £300 per parish site. "Incendia" will contact each parish and agree a day to come out and meet either the parish priest, or a parish representative and inspect the site. An updated FRA will then be created and supplied with a prioritized action plan.

### Informing your Car Insurance Company

The Diocesan Health and Safety Officer writes, "If a driving related task is being completed by a volunteer on behalf of a parish or the wider Diocese, it is highly recommended that the volunteer informs their car insurance provider of their voluntary role" ... "If your role is purely voluntary and not formally arranged by the parish or Diocese, the need to inform your insurance would not apply". If you are unsure about this, please speak to Fr Peter

### Christian Aid Toy Sale and Coffee Morning - Thanks

The amount raised at last week's Toy Sale and Coffee Morning at St George's church was over £725 - a terrific result. Very many thanks to all who supported it.

### Corpus Christi Procession

On Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, Ushaw will be hosting a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Bishop Stephen Wright, and starting at 3pm in St Cuthbert's Chapel. Weather permitting, the procession will go through Ushaw's gardens, returning to the Chapel for Benediction. Teas and coffees will be available after the service. You do not need a ticket for this event, but please sign up at <https://ushaw.org/whats-on-at-ushaw/> to help Ushaw to estimate numbers.