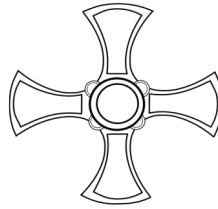


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 513 410 | ✉ strobertainewminster.morpeth@diocesehn.org.uk | ✉ peter.stott@diocesehn.org.uk

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

☎ 01670 823 258 | ✉ stbede.bedlington@diocesehn.org.uk

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

Parish Secretary: Mary Carter

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

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

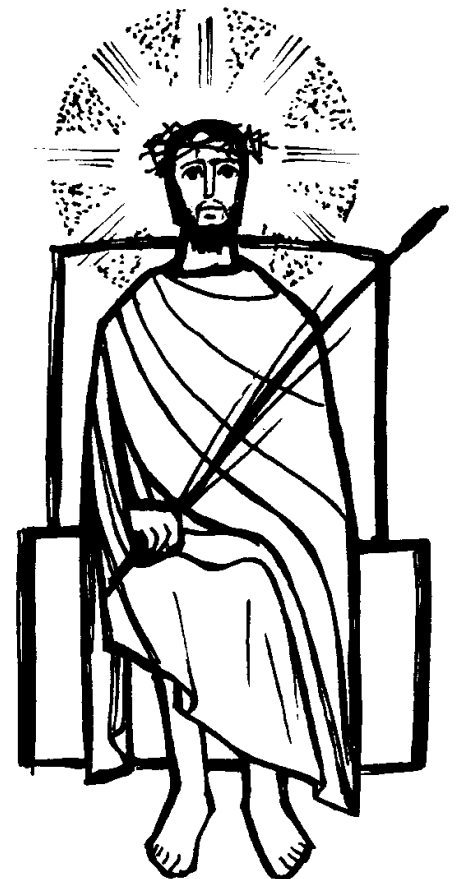
Solemnity of Christ The King – Sunday 24th November 2024

We tune in to the news to elicit some kind of truth, but we suspect what we are viewing is 'fake news'. A television interviewer tries to elicit the truth from a politician. We recognise of old the politician's strategies for avoiding the interviewer's questions. We are called to do jury service and determine to get to the bottom of the case, but suddenly everyone's version of the same truth is slightly different. We pick up on a charged atmosphere at home, but when we quiz our children or spouse, we are met with evasion and equivocation.

The opposite of truth is not always a lie. Truth can be avoided, twisted, disguised, or simply not recognised. One thing is for sure though; we all have some kind of sixth sense for knowing when we are not getting the truth. That's why it's so refreshing and so powerful when somebody gets up and speaks a simple truth from the heart. The truth makes us sit up and listen. Perhaps this is what Jesus meant when he told Pilate, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Standing in front of Pilate, Jesus doesn't back down or compromise the truth because the truth is too important. The trouble with earthly kingdoms is that the truth is not always of paramount importance. In earthly kingdoms the truth gets in the way of our personal agendas. In our quest for territory, power, resources and a comfortable life style, the truth takes second place. We might think that we are truthful people and that we never tell lies, but it is all too easy to live a lie without admitting it even to ourselves.

Pilate was not able to understand the kingdom Jesus alluded to, and he was not able to see Jesus as King. Pilate failed to recognise the truth. Today's challenge is to recognise truth in all of life's circumstance, to stand up for the truth in all of life's difficulties, and to live by the truth to the best of our ability.



Please take this Newsletter home with you, so that you know what's happening in your parish this week



We are invited to pray for the following intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; The Fruits of Human of Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the world; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People. 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.

Offertory Collections: 16th / 17th November
St Bede's Church: **£203.00** / St Robert's Church: **£466.45**

Youth Sunday Retiring Collection

Today, Sunday 24th November, there will be a Retiring Collection for the Catholic Youth Services (YMT) in the Diocese.

Youth Ministry Team Letter

Today, we celebrate Youth Sunday, The Feast of Christ the King and the vital role young people play in our Church. Bishop Stephen has written a letter which highlights the inspiring contributions of our youth and the dedication of the Youth Ministry Trust (YMT) and copies of this are available at the back of Church. Please see the poster at the back of the church, showcasing the ways youth ministry has flourished this year, from the return of The Source gathering to successful summer festivals and the JPll and Faith in Action Awards. Your support is essential; a special collection will be taken today. Gift Aid envelopes are available for those who wish to contribute, they can be returned at a later date. Thank you.

Clergy Training Fund

The Clergy Training Fund closes today. This Fund is used for the training of Priests and Deacons in the Diocese and for the ongoing formation of our priests. If you wish to make a donation, please place envelopes in the Offertory Collection or drop off at Presbytery today.

Tea and Coffee After Mass

Tea and Coffee is available on a Saturday evening after Mass at St Bede's Church and after the 9am Sunday Mass in St Robert's Church Hall.



Newsletter Via Email



We have 55 people receiving this Newsletter via email each week. If you too wish to receive the Newsletter via email, please send an email to the Parish Email address and we will add you to the mailing list

Journey in Faith Group

The Journey in Faith group meets on Thursday 28th November at 7pm in St Robert's Presbytery. This week we will be looking at "Who Shepherds the Church" and "The Church as Community".



Baptism

To get your child Baptised, one parent must be a Catholic and you should be living in the parish. If you do not live within our parish you will be asked to speak to your own parish priest. **The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held in January in Morpeth.** We ask parents to contact Fr Peter at St Robert's or Deacon Stephen at St Bede's so we can arrange to meet and record parent/baby/godparent details BEFORE the meeting. Please do not just turn up for the meeting, without speaking to us beforehand. Many thanks to our Baptism catechists who have led the Baptism meetings throughout this year, We couldn't do it without your assistance, so many thanks.

Weekday Adoration and Mass

Please remember that we have Adoration in both St Bede's and St Robert's Churches most days, followed by Mass or a Service of Word and Communion. Are you free to come along? Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament gives us some quality quiet time in the presence of Our Lord which we all need in our lives. The Mass is the source and the summit of everything we do. Please try and come along. The benefits will be worth it.

New Lectionary

The English Standard Version of the Bible is the new translation for our lectionaries and we will begin using it at Masses next weekend. As suspected, it is slightly different to the version we have used for the last 50+ years from the Jerusalem Bible. The new texts have to be used from First Sunday of Advent. Our Missalettes will automatically change to the new version of the texts. Sunday Missals from "Hodder and Stoughton" can be bought online or ordered from Pauline Books and Media at St Mary's Cathedral, but full weekday Missals will not be available until at least April next year. *All readers at each Mass are asked to check the text on the Lectern before Mass begins, and to read through the scripture passages before Mass begins so they understand the new language and the layout of the new format.*



First Confession Preparation and Celebration

The children's catechesis will continue in the first week of December as planned. At St Bede's Church this will be on Tuesday 3rd December at St Bede's at 3.30pm and at St Robert's Church on Thursday 5th December at 3.30pm.

Please note: There is to be a change to First Confession at St Bede's Church, as there are only three children from two families, so it will be celebrated at the end of their session on 3rd December, instead of 11th December at 6pm; at St Robert's, First Confession will be celebrated, as advertised, on Thursday 12th December at 6pm.



Mary's Meals: Christmas Trees of Hope

If you make a donation to Mary's Meals Christmas Trees of Hope, and pay for a decoration on their online tree, your donation will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.1million, meaning that Mary's Meals can reach even more hungry children with life-changing school meals. Their website with all details in www.marysmeals.org.uk

St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be held on Wednesday 27th November at 7.30pm in the Upper Meeting Room of the Church Hall. Anyone who may be interested in joining the SVP is welcome to attend. This week the SVP are particularly looking for: suitcases, toys, duvets, bedding, pillows and household goods such as cushions, table lamps, pans and utensils. Thank you for your continued support for these appeals. If there is anyone who needs or would like a visit or help from the SVP please let us know by phoning Gerry or Eileen on 517829.

World Gifts Catalogue

The Annual World Gifts Catalogue from CAFOD is now available. World Gifts are CAFOD's range of life-changing virtual gifts. World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families and communities living in poverty. See <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>



- Browse and choose your gifts, add them to your basket and check out.
- Receive a beautifully illustrated card of your chosen gift, together with a presentation gift envelope, which explains how your gift can help people fighting poverty. You can also choose one of our gorgeous ecards or to print at home to receive your gift immediately! And you can now send a personalized card directly to your loved one, by choosing "post direct" and typing in your message.
- Personalize your posted card and give it to your friend or loved one.

Choir Practices



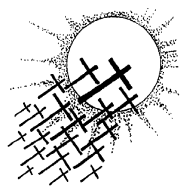
Our Choir assists the singing for our 11am Mass each Sunday and on special occasions, such as Christmas. The Choir rehearses every Wednesday evening at 7.15pm in Church. If you think you could join them, you would be most welcome both to the practices and to join them upstairs on a Sunday morning for our 11am Mass.

Repairs to Kitchen at St Robert's

The Diocesan Insurers have approved repairs to the Kitchen in St Robert's Church Hall following the flood earlier in the year. This will begin on Monday 2nd December.

Service of Remembrance and Consolation

There will be a Partnership Service of Remembrance and Consolation on Friday 29th November at 7pm in St Robert's Church. This will be an opportunity for people throughout the St Benet Biscop Partnership to come together to remember those who have died. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Hall.



St Bede's Finance Committee

The next Meeting of St Bede's Finance Committee will be held on Monday 2nd December at 6pm.

Assisted Dying Debate

The debate in Parliament of MP Kim Leadbeater's "Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill", will be held on 29th November. There is still time for you to contact your MP to ask him to oppose this Bill—if Bedlington your MP is Ian Lavery and of Morpeth your MP David Smith. As a Catholic Church, we support and promote life from its natural beginning to its natural end and the Bill to be debated in Parliament does not support that end of life ethic. For some it could only be the gateway to many more people ending their life early. Postcards are available in Church today for you to use to send to Parliament, encouraging you to oppose the proposed assisted dying legislation. **Please remember to use a stamp with the correct postage!**

Diocesan Vision Meeting

The Next 'Diocesan Vision' meeting will be held on Monday 9th December at 7pm to discuss "Commitment 3: Forming and developing people for mission" in St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth. All Welcome.

St Robert's Bonus Ball

Winners of Week 7 were Vera Soulsby and Anne Bliss with number 41; congratulations to them and Good Luck to everyone for week 8.

St Robert's 3C's Group

The 3C's will be meeting on Monday 25th November from 2pm until 3:30pm in St Robert's Church Hall. Please come along and join the group for Coffee and Tea, Chat with one another and some Conversation with God and of course a little bit of a sing-along, game of Bingo and may be a quiz.

Catholic Women's League

The next meeting of the Catholic Women's League will be on Thursday 28th November at 10:30am in St Robert's Church Hall, exploring Christmas Crafts with Margaret Scott.

Rosary Appeal

Do you have any spare rosaries which you do not need, or perhaps some from a deceased relative? Through the Catenian Association these can be sent to the indigenous people of Australia or to missions in Africa where they will be greatly appreciated. Even broken rosaries can be repaired as long as they are complete. Please put them in the box on the table in St Robert's Church porch. The Association also provides rosaries to people in prisons but these have to be a special sort which need to be purchased - donations of money for those rosaries can be sent through Eileen or Gerry Harber, ☎ (01670) 517829. Thank you!



Diocesan "Volunteer Census"

Thank You to everyone who completed the Volunteer Census form, your help was greatly appreciated. If you haven't done this yet and need assistance in any way please speak to Fr Peter. Reminder—any type of volunteer, doing any form of voluntary work within the parish, in the school, anywhere throughout the diocese, is asked to complete this census. Contact Fr Peter for a Census form or link.

St Robert's Parish Pastoral Council Vacancies

I would like to try and fill some gaps on the Parish Pastoral Council. We have a section called "Communications" but no representative, so I'm asking if someone would be willing to take on this role to report on how and how well we currently communicate as a parish and how that can be added to or improved in the future; we also need someone to represent "Social Activities". We do not have a Social Committee, so would appreciate someone who could take this challenge on and who could also possibly gather a few parishioners to form a new Social Committee to help coordinate social events in the parish. Also, if anyone from the School would like to join the Parish Council that would be a great addition to the Council. If anyone wants to chat about this please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible. The next meeting is not until January so there are a few weeks to think about what is being asked for.

Christmas Cards and Gifts Stall

There will be a Christmas Piety Stall at St Bede's Church on Saturday 1st December at the Vigil Mass; and there will also be another Stall in St Robert's Church Hall on Sunday December 1st, after both 9am and 11am Masses, with a selection of Advent and Christmas Cards, Gifts, Calendars etc..

Little Sisters of the Poor Christmas Concert

The Newcastle Male Chorus and Gibside Singers will be performing a Christmas Concert in the Chapel at St Joseph's Home (Little Sisters of the Poor) on Saturday 7th December 2024 at 7.00pm. The concert is in aid of the work of the Little Sisters at St Joseph's Home. Tickets are £8 (interval drink included), available from St Joseph's Home – ☎ 0191 273 1279.

The Jubilee Year and Opening of Holy Doors

The Holy Father has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year with the motto and theme "Pilgrims of Hope." The Holy Father has decreed that the Holy Doors are opened on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Stephen has nominated a Holy Door at The Cathedral in Newcastle and a Holy Door at St Joseph's, Hartlepool. The Bishop is looking for volunteer helpers in both the Cathedral and St Joseph's, Hartlepool, throughout the whole Jubilee Year, to provide a ministry of welcome and presence. Fr Peter has a full list of days when people are needed and contact details if anyone wishes to volunteer at either The Cathedral or in Hartlepool.



Accidents in Church or on Parish Property

If any accidents take place in Church, or the Hall, or anywhere on Parish Property, eg Car Park, it is important that these accidents are recorded. We have special Accident Recording Forms in the Parish Office, in the Parish Welfare Manual. Please contact Fr Peter, Deacon Stephen, Mary Carter or Matt Price if you think you need to report an accident.

New to The Parish?

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



NEPACS

NEPACS is a charity that supports care systems in the north east of England. They provide a befriending service to children and young people in care and are looking to recruit Volunteer Independent Visitors in this part of Northumberland. This role includes visiting a child or young person at least once a month, to befriend and offer support and to create wonderful experiences for a child by visiting local interests. Please visit their website - www.nepacs.co.uk - or email volunteering@nepacs.co.uk for further information.

New Hall Lighting

New LED Lighting to the Church Hall at St Bede's is now complete. The new lights have made a huge difference to the Hall. We hope soon to be able to have the wooden floor stripped and repolished.

Masses, Intentions and Services This Week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 23rd November <i>St Edmund of Abingdon</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Betty and Arthur Thompson 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions	5pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 24th November Our Lord Jesus Christ the King	9am Mass: Jim M'Kee 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 25th November <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Moira Maley
Tuesday 26th November <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Eddie Mullin	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 27th November <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Deceased members of Goonan family
Thursday 28th November <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Amanda Shanahan Horgan	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 29th November <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion 7pm Service of Remembrance and Consolation	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Andrew Wright
Saturday 30th November <i>St Andrew</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Marilyn Baker 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions	5pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Brian Gregory
Sunday 1st December First Sunday of Advent	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for November 2024

For anyone who has lost a child: We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.



Donation for Foodbanks, Refugees and Asylum Seekers



The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project is asking for donations. Regular items needed are Toilet Rolls, Individual packet of biscuits, tinned tomatoes, tins of fish and Chickpeas. In addition, they also need Rice (standard size packet), Sugar (standard size packet), Cooking oil, Spices/dried herbs, Pasta, Tinned fruit, Table Salt Flour, Custard / Rice Pudding, Cooking Sauces e.g., pasta sauce, Porridge, cereals, condiments (ketchup/mayo/jam), Tea/Coffee, Washing-up liquid and surface & toilet cleaners. Also needed are the more personal items like Shampoo and / 2-in-1 Conditioner, Male & female deodorants, Toothbrushes, toothpaste, Sanitary pads and nappies. If you can help, please leave in the boxes that are in the entrances of St Bede's or St Robert's Church.

Foodbank Donations

Foodbanks in both Morpeth and Bedlington are appealing for a variety of foods for their clients who are in need. If you can help in any way bring items of food to church and place in the boxes in the Church porches.



Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Diocese are asking as many people as possible to send letters about this, so please send this out to as many of your contacts as you can think of. The more submissions the better. The link is here ... <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/listed-places-of-worship-grant-scheme/> THANK-YOU to all of you who circulated the link so that people could to write to their MP regarding the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The decision now rests with the Department for Culture Media and Sport, so we have updated the e-campaign to ask people to write again to their MP, to ask them in turn to write to Lisa Nandy. Please encourage everyone to send in a letter/email, even if they have already done so. We ask you all to write again, and ask your colleagues, parishioners and contacts to do so – it is vital that as many people as possible do this. We have broadened the scope of the letter to include churches of all denominations so please also forward to all your contacts. It is possible to edit the email before sending, to include specific information on your area/diocese/church should you wish to. The number of emails sent in currently rests at just below 1000 – let's see if we can double that.

Request for Permission to employ and Architect

Fr Peter and Michael Quincy recently met Andrew Gillingham of the Diocesan Property Department to discuss possibilities for a new entrance being built for St Robert's Church, which includes disabled access and toilet facilities and space for Children's Liturgy. As a result, both Fr Peter and Michael have been invited to attend the Diocesan Finance Committee on Thursday to speak about this.

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.

giftaid it

Gift Aid Scheme

The diocese runs the Gift Aid Scheme whereby they reclaim 25% of your donation. If you are a Tax Payer you can join this scheme. At no extra cost, just a signature on a form, you can help your parish. Please contact Peter Smith at St Robert's Church, or Mary our Parish Secretary, or Fr Peter. Please note that Gift Aid Forms have been updated, and so if setting up a new Gift Aid Donation, your form must be one of these new forms, available from the Parish Office.

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"