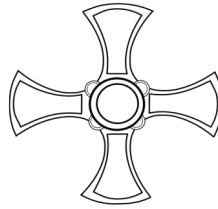


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

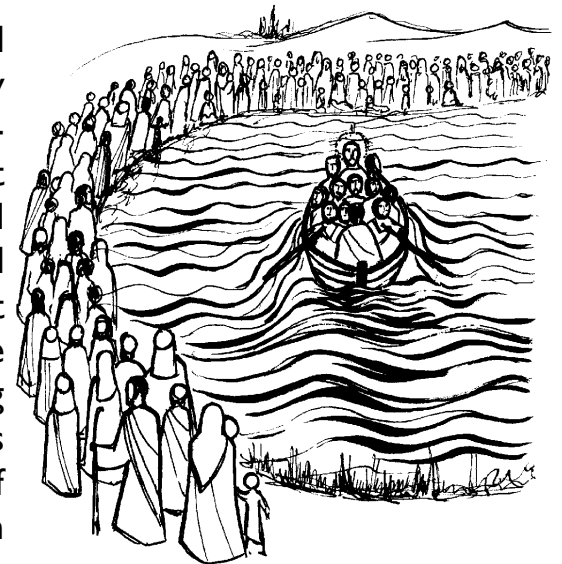
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday at St Robert's, 9.30am—3.30pm | Wednesday at St Bede's, 9am – 5.30pm

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

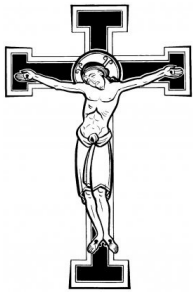
Sixteenth Sunday of the Year – Sunday 21st July 2024

The younger generation are very good at telling us to “take a chill pill...” and there’s nothing more infuriating. But funnily enough, “taking a chill pill” is something we’re extraordinarily bad at. We are surrounded by twenty first century devices to save us time, such as emails, microwaves and disposable nappies, yet somehow we don’t end up with hours of free time as a result. Quite the contrary, we work faster, travel faster, eat faster and take on more and more work. We feel that we need to fill every waking moment with an extra job. Yet sitting still for a moment in silence and solitude whilst the world rushes around us is very important.

Today Jesus understands that his disciples are exhausted by the demands of the crowds and suggests escaping by boat to find a quiet place to rest, recharge and presumably take stock. Unfortunately, the crowds worked out where Jesus was off to and beat him to it. Jesus stepped out of the boat to be greeted by the same crowds he had just left behind. If Jesus felt any exasperation he didn’t show it. Moved by compassion, because the people are like ‘sheep without a shepherd’ Jesus sets about putting their needs before his own. It might appear that Jesus was just about as bad at ‘taking a chill pill’ as the rest of us, but the story simply points to his level of compassion and discernment.



Taking time out to recharge and take stock is often more important than fitting in that extra job. Have you ever got to the end of a very busy day and wondered what you have actually achieved? How much worse to get to the end of one’s life and realise that we have achieved little of real importance. Take a chill pill. Remember to retreat from the world from time to time. Remember to regularly ask yourself those all-important life-enhancing questions.



During Summer 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; and 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, including **Frances Dodds** (Morpeth) whose Requiem Mass will be held at St Robert's Church on Monday 22nd July at 12noon, followed by

Burial at St Mary's Cemetery; for **Elaine Golding** (Bedlington) whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 29th July at 12noon at St Bede's Church, followed by Burial at Bedlington Cemetery; for Pat Fanning's sister Joan who has died; for **Sheila Smart** (Bedlington) who died on Tuesday; for **Father Cornelius O'Connor**, (retired, Little Sisters of the Poor, Newcastle), former Parish Priest of St Bede's, Bedlington, who has died; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections 13th / 14th July

St Bede's Church: £203.00/ St Robert's Church: £481.73

Sea Sunday

Very many thanks to all who contributed to the Retiring Collection last weekend for Stella Maris, the charity that supports our seafarers and fishers and provides Chaplaincy support at ports around the UK and beyond. We raised **£286.40** at St Bede's Church and **£836.48** at St Robert's Church. Thank You!



Petitions to Lourdes

Elizabeth and Jim Dixon are travelling on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes on Friday 26th July. If anyone would like prayer petitions to Our Lady of Lourdes or St Bernadette taking to Lourdes and placed in the box in the Grotto, please pass them to Elizabeth. *Petitions are written prayers / requests placed into a sealed envelope. [There is a special box in the grotto at the Shrine in Lourdes where these are placed].*



Mission Appeal

There will be a Mission Appeal in both St Bede's and St Robert's Churches Next weekend, [Saturday 27th / Sunday 28th July] by the Comboni Missionaries, formerly known as the Verona Fathers and one of their priests will be visiting and staying to make that appeal. There will be a Special Collection at all Masses that weekend for their work.



Supporting our Parish Groups

As we think about trying to support the groups that already exist in our parishes, eg the CWL, the Catenians, the SVP, the 3Cs, it is also important that we think about what might be possible for the future. We do not have Social Committees in either St Bede's or St Robert's, so events get left to the one or two who have the enthusiasm to organise them, but given the size of our parishes, and for the size of our local communities, we should be doing more to bring people together! Some parishes have a wine group, a book/reading group, a Justice and Peace Group, a CAFOD group, an Environmental Group, a Scripture group, a prayer group, a regular quiz night, A Cheese and Wine Social, a Bingo night, a gardening group, a Rosary Group, an outdoors group, a young parents group, a young adults group, a Men's Breakfast Group, a men's group, The Knights of St Columba these are just examples, but there are many others. If you feel you would like to commit to lead a new group, or revive an old group in the parish, to bring people together from our local communities, it would be welcomed.

Baptism

Please remember that to get your child Baptised, one parent must be a Catholic and you should be living in the parish boundaries. If you do not live within our parish boundaries you will be asked to speak to your own parish priest and ask for his permission to have your child baptised in the other church, which is hopefully your current place of worship. The next Baptism preparation meeting is not being held until September 12th at St Bede's, Bedlington. Please contact us if you are seeking Baptism for your child and we will make arrangements to get your details as soon as we can.



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Summer Works in School

Contractors are working in School during the holidays. Please use extra caution on Sundays, using the area near the sacristy as part of the yard is / will be cordoned off for their equipment and skips.

Coffee and Tea after Mass

We have Tea and Coffee after the Vigil Mass on a Saturday evening at St Bede's Church and after the 9am Mass at St Robert's Church on a Sunday morning. Everyone welcome. Come along, have a drink and meet fellow parishioners

St Bede's SVP

Tickets for the annual National SVP Raffle will be on sale next Saturday evening, 20th July at St Bede's Church. Details on the noticeboard.



St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's Conference of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be on Wednesday 31st July 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.



Vocations Discernment

Men aged 18+, who think God might be calling them to serve in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle as a Priest, are invited to explore their vocation with the Diocesan Priestly Vocations Team. The evenings will take place at St Joseph's Church, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley on: Tuesday 3rd September, Tuesday 1st October, Tuesday 5th November, Tuesday 3rd December. These Meetings take place each month (except August) between 6pm and 8pm.



Radio Maria UK / Premier Praise

If you have an 'Alexa' and want to listen to Catholic Radio Maria UK, just say "Alexa play Radio Maria UK"; there is also a UK Christian radio station ... just say "Alexa play Premier Praise"



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 Masses at St Robert's Church, willing to serve at our Masses, please speak to Fr Peter. We especially appeal to those who have celebrated their First Holy Communion to see if any of them wish to commit to being an Altar Server?



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.



Thursday Evening Drop-In

Those who were part of the Journey-in-Faith this year, as well as those who are seeking to join the next Journey-in-Faith, or anyone thinking about their own faith journey, are welcome to come along to the Presbytery on a Thursday evening for tea and coffee, for a chat / faith-sharing / discussion, from 7pm onwards. If you have any questions about the Church, our faith, your faith, come with those questions.



Journey in Faith

If there is anyone interested in joining the Journey in Faith, at the end of September, with the possibility of becoming Catholic, it is important to try and make an appointment to see Fr Peter. It is also an expectation that you would be coming to Sunday Mass (or the Vigil) each week. Please try and speak with Fr Peter as soon as possible.



Year of Jubilee 2025

How can we celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025. Please talk about what a Jubilee Year means and have some thought on how we, as local church communities, can celebrate this special Jubilee.



The Year of Prayer and the Diocesan Vision

We are going to focus on some prayer and scripture reflection for the Year of Prayer and preparing for the Jubilee Year, by focusing on the Diocesan Vision that Bishop Stephen released on the Feast of Pentecost. There will be five sessions on the second Monday of September, October, November, December and January from 7pm— 8.30pm, at St Robert of Newminster Church Hall, Morpeth, but open to people from both parishes and beyond. We will focus on the four sections of the Diocesan Vision taking each section month by month, looking at ...

- Discerning the vision together
- Commitment 1: To Walk with Jesus and Enable Others to Encounter Him.
- Commitment 2: To Grow as One Diocesan Family – Rebuilding Relationships.
- Commitment 3: Forming and Developing People for Mission.
- Commitment 4: Living Justly and Caring for Our Common Home.

All documents are available on the Parish Website. Each evening will consist of Prayer, Scripture Reading, quiet Reflection and Sharing on the readings, in groups. You should be prepared to share your thoughts, be open to praying together and we ask that you try to attend all five monthly sessions if at all possible. Prayer is important for us, as we prepare for the Jubilee 2025, and reflecting on this will enable us to think of our mission and role of evangelising our families and local communities. We hope you will feel welcome enough to come along, you are invited!



Partnership Study Morning: Caring for Our Common Home

On Saturday 14th September our St Benet Biscop Partnership have organised a Study Morning to focus on our Care for Creation and the Environment, Caring for our Common Home and what we can do save it. Those present will include CAFOD, Diocesan Environmental Group and Students from St Benet Biscop Academy. This is to be held at St Bede's Church, Bedlington from 10am onwards, through until 12.30pm. We all have a responsibility to care for creation as Pope Francis' Encyclical 'Laudato Si' has reminded us. There will be a 'Sign-up' sheet at the back of Church to tell us if you're attending.



Partnership Mass - Advance Notice

There will be a Partnership Mass on Friday 11th October to celebrate Laudato Si and our commitment to Caring for our Common Home at St Wilfrid's Church, Blyth, Friday 11th October at 7pm. Everyone Welcome.

Readers Study Day - October - Advance Notice

There will be a Study Day for Readers in preparation for the New Lectionary on Saturday 26th October from 10.30am—3.30pm at St Bede's, Bedlington. Forms have now arrived. The cost of the day is £15 per person but will be covered by the parish. If you will be attending, please let Fr Peter or Mary our Secretary have: your name, your email address or your telephone number by September 30th. All readers in both parishes are encouraged to attend, especially as this is taking place so close to us at one of our own churches! An emphasis in this Study Day will be the new translation of the Lectionary and how to proclaim the reading.

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.

First Holy Communion Preparation 2025

The online application form for next year's First Holy Communion preparation is now available on https://form.jotform.com/Fr_Peter/first-confession-and-holy-communion or by scanning this QR Code. As it's a very quick turnaround after the Summer holidays the application form can be completed now. This is open to all children who will be in Year 4 and above. This preparation will begin at the end of September 2024. If there are parents whose children do not attend our Catholic First and Primary Schools, this is not a problem, but please speak to Fr Peter. Father Peter will be encouraging children and their families to attend Mass as part of their preparation.



Urgent SVP requirements

The SVP continue to appeal for the usual food items and toiletries for the Asylum Seekers at Ashington; they do have an ongoing need for nappies (all sizes, especially 5 & 6), and also need children's toys for the drop-in centre at St Andrews C/E Church, Hirst, Ashington. As previously mentioned there is always need for bicycles for the Asylum Seekers as they cannot afford bus fares. For any large items ring Gerry Harber on ☎ 01670 517 829 to arrange delivery / collection. Thank you.

Donation for Foodbanks and Refugees

If you can help with donations, they can be left in the boxes in Church, at either St Bede's or St Robert's. On the list of most needed donations are: toilet rolls, individual packets of biscuits, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, chick peas, pasta, tinned fruit, sugar (standard size packet), spices/dried herbs, table salt, tinned vegetables, rice (standard size packet), cooking oil, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, hygiene and cleaning products. All of the above will also be welcomed by the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank and the Bedlington Foodbank as well.

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.

Diocesan Director of Education

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is seeking to appoint a Diocesan Director of Education. The Application Pack, available on the Diocesan Website, under the Vacancies section, states how important this role is in the life of the diocese and states that the role has four strategic responsibilities and seventeen principal responsibilities, as well as all the other things that come with this role. Check out the Application Pack for further information on www.diocesehn.org.uk. The closing date for Applications is 22nd July 2024.

Invitation to Red Box Holders & Supporters

Fr Greg Price, Missio Diocesan Director, requests the pleasure of your company for a Hexham & Diocesan Mission Mass with Fr Anthony Chantry MHM National Director, Missio, England & Wales on Saturday 27th July at 11.130am at St Anne's Church, Welbeck Avenue, Darlington, DLI 2DR. Please join us for refreshments after Mass. To assist with planning if possible, please RSVP by 22nd July. E-mail: redbox@missio.org.uk or tel. 07593 544625



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!



Volunteer Forms

Please remember that all volunteers 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.

CAFOD and the Great North Run

Would you like to take part in the Great North Run for CAFOD? If so, CAFOD would love to invite you to take on the challenge. The Great North Run happens on Sunday, September 8th in Newcastle and is the biggest Half Marathon in the world! If you'd like a place to run for CAFOD, please follow this link here: [email events@cafod.org.uk](mailto:events@cafod.org.uk) <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/challenge-events/run-for-cafod>



Masses, Intentions and Services This Week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 20th July <i>St Apollinaris</i>	No Mass / No Confessions	5pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Brian Gregory
Sunday 21st July 16th Sunday Yr B	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Parents of Mike and Nene Parker	
Monday 22nd July <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	12noon Requiem Mass: Frances Dodds	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Tuesday 23rd July <i>St Bridget of Sweden</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Tony Smith	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 24th July <i>The Martyrs of the Diocese</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass:
Thursday 25th July <i>St James</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Florrie & James Jameson	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 26th July <i>St Joachim and St Anne</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Fr Nelius O'Connor
Saturday 27th July <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Tony Smith 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions	5pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 28th July 17th Sunday of the Year B	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Douglas D'Netto	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for July 2024

For the pastoral care of the sick: we pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.



Our Lady of Fatima Day of Recollection

St John's Church, Annitsford are holding a special Day of Prayer for the Partnership on 'Our Lady of Fatima'. It will be held on Saturday 31st August 2024. See poster on noticeboard for details.

Foundation Governor Needed

St Robert's First School are looking for a new Foundation Governor. A Foundation Governor must be a practising Catholic because of the role that you are being called to fulfil on behalf of the Bishop. If you're not sure what a practising Catholic is, ask Fr Peter and he will explain! A Foundation Governor cannot be self appointed or appointed by the School or fellow governor, but has to be approved by the Parish Priest who nominates that person for the role. If anyone feels that they could take on this role for St Robert's First School, please speak to Father Peter as soon as possible.

Blessed John Ingram Walk

Father Luke Wilkinson will lead the 52nd annual Blessed John Ingram Walk between Newcastle and Gateshead, on Sunday 28th July. If you wish to join, please meet at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Gallowgate, at 2.30pm for a service at 2.45pm. The walk will start after the service, and will end with a service followed by light refreshments at St Edmund's Anglican Chapel on Gateshead High Street. *There is a rather steep hill on the Gateshead side, so anyone wishing to attend the services only should arrange to be at St Edmund's at approximately 3.45pm.* Everyone is welcome.



Director of Heritage Collections – Venerable English College

This is an exciting opportunity to join the Venerable English College, Rome, Italy, as Director of Heritage Collections. "We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed colleague with experience or proven potential to represent our collections and to oversee their care and development. Further details on the VEC website: <https://www.vecrome.org/news/2024/7/director-job-description> Please note that the deadline for applications is the 9th September 2024". If you have any further queries about this role, please contact the VEC directly via their website.



Tyneside Newman Association

Newman Tyneside Circle invites you to a guided tour of St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle (with particular attention to the stained glass windows, including the new Mgr Kevin Nichols' window). The tour will take place on Tuesday 6th August, at 2pm and will be followed by discussion, refreshments and an Extraordinary General Meeting of the circle.

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.

Diocesan Gift Aid Scheme

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 *giftaid it* 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 (at 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"

St Robert's Finance Committee Meeting: Wednesday 24th July at 6pm in St Robert's Presbytery.