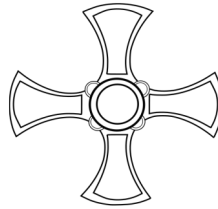


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

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

Fifth Sunday of the Year - 4th February 2024

When we read about Jesus' miracles, two big questions spring to mind. Does Jesus still cure people today? And ... why does Jesus cure some people but not others? Surely with his power he could cure everybody!

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother in law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.



In some schools today, children are rewarded for a hundred percent attendance. Children come rushing home at the end of term waving certificates to prove that sickness has not kept them away from the classroom for one single day. But there are critics who would suggest that being in school every single day is not the important bit; it's what the pupil achieves whilst in the classroom that is of true importance. So it is with our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. It is important to look after a vehicle, but what point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere?

To achieve anything in this world our health of course is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Does Jesus still cure today? Perhaps the question is irrelevant. In asking it, are we missing the greater point? As mere mortals, our health is of paramount importance to us, but is it top of God's agenda? Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."

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

2024 The Year of Prayer

Pope Francis has asked the Catholic Church to celebrate 2024 as a Year of Prayer in preparation for a Jubilee Year in 2025. He asks that we have a particular focus on the "Our Father", and this presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. Every Catholic is encouraged to reflect on their life of prayer: what they pray, how they pray and why they pray. This is for two reasons: to encourage Catholics to deepen their prayer life and love of God; and for each Catholic to help at least one other person to pray during the Year of Prayer.



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

A couple of years ago, Pope Francis wrote a book on the Our Father. Would there be any interest, say after Easter and into the summer months, in having a few meetings to reflect and talk about the message Pope Francis gives us in this book, as something very particular about the Year of Prayer? And you will need to buy a copy.... The book is "Our Father: Reflections on the Lord's Prayer" and is available on Amazon £11.89, Amazon Kindle for £4.99 or Waterstones for £14.99.




In this time leading up to Lent we are asked to pray for Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those Who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; The Unemployed. 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 including **Olive Kelleher** [Morpeth] whose Funeral will be celebrated on Monday 26th February at Cowpen Cemetery; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collection - 27th / 28th January 2024

St Bede's Church: **£166.70** / St Robert's Church: **£492.03**



Visit of Bishop Stephen Wright

 Bishop Stephen Wright will be visiting St Bede's and St Robert's on the weekend of 10th / 11th February. He will be with us for the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church on Saturday 10th February, followed by refreshments in the Hall afterwards and he will celebrate both the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's Church on Sunday 11th February. **The Bishop would like the opportunity to meet people, so there will be tea and coffee served after both the 9am Mass and 11am Mass. Many thanks to those who are the Coffeemakers on that day!** The Bishop will be returning to St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth on Thursday 7th March for a Mass with the School in Church.

The Journey in Faith Group

There is NO Meeting this week of the Journey-in-Faith but will meet next on Thursday 15th February, looking at "Christian Moral Living" and "The Dignity of Life". Please meet at 7pm in St Robert's Presbytery.



The Rite of Election


Please pray for those who are on the Journey into Full Communion with the Catholic Church and who will be either Baptised or Received into the Church at Easter—Norman Brown, John Clark to be Baptised and Karen Brown, Gordon Mackay and Benjamin Whittaker to be received into Full Communion. The Rite of Election is to be celebrated on Sunday 18th February, First Sunday of Lent, at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle upon Tyne. This is the Service during which those to be received into the Church are presented to Bishop Stephen and become known as "The Elect". We will have a special Service of Sending Forth at Mass on 17th / 18th February as they prepare to go to the Cathedral on the Sunday afternoon.

St Bede's SVP

The Annual Report, detailing everything that been done on your behalf, by the SVP at St Bede's over the last twelve months, is now posted on the noticeboard in the Narthex. None of this would have been possible without your help and generosity. Thank You.



St Robert's St Vincent de Paul Society

 The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be on Wednesday 7th February at 7.30pm in the Upper Meeting room of the Church Hall. The SVP are always looking for new members so if you think you might be interested in joining the Society please come along to this (or any other) meeting to find out more. You will be made very welcome. This week the SVP are looking for hats and warm gloves, men's clothes and men's shoes for the asylum seekers. Please hand to any SVP member.

Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday 8th February, at 10:30am, in St Robert's Church Hall. This will be a 'Book Lovers' session, when we will be talking about our favourite books and authors.



St Robert's 3Cs

The next meeting of the 3Cs will be held on Monday 5th February from 2pm until 4pm in St Robert's Church Hall. Everyone Welcome for a cup of tea, chat and a little prayer.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Sunday 11th February is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. It is also normally the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In his message for this Day, Pope Francis has stated, "Brothers and sisters, the first form of care needed in any illness is compassionate and loving closeness. To care for the sick thus means above all to care for their relationships, all of them: with God, with others – family members, friends, healthcare workers – with creation and with themselves. Can this be done? Yes, it can be done and all of us are called to ensure that it happens. Let us look to the icon of the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:25-37), to his ability to slow down and draw near to another person, to the tender love with which he cares for the wounds of a suffering brother. Let us remember this central truth in life: we came into the world because someone welcomed us; we were made for love; and we are called to communion and fraternity. This aspect of our lives is what sustains us, above all at times of illness and vulnerability. It is also the first therapy that we must all adopt in order to heal the diseases of the society in which we live. To those of you who experience illness, whether temporary or chronic, I would say this: Do not be ashamed of your longing for closeness and tenderness! Do not conceal it, and never think that you are a burden on others. The condition of the sick urges all of us to step back from the hectic pace of our lives in order to rediscover ourselves. The sick, the vulnerable and the poor are at the heart of the Church; they must also be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. May we never forget this! And let us commend ourselves to Mary Most Holy, Health of the Sick, that she may intercede for us and help us to be artisans of closeness and fraternal relationships.

St Robert's Parish Senior Parishioners Social

The annual Social for our Senior Parishioners will be held on Saturday 24th February from 3pm to 6pm in St Roberts Church Hall. The Social is open to parishioners and spouses who are aged 70 or over. Those who have come previously will receive invitations, but anyone who qualifies is welcome. If you are new to the parish or have reached the qualifying age in the last year please put your name on the list either at the back of church or in the church hall. There will be food and drink, music, bingo and a free raffle for all who attend. As usual the SVP would welcome donations of prizes for the raffle. Please hand to any SVP member clearly labelled what they are for. Thank you.

First Holy Communion Preparation

The next Meetings for First Holy Communion will take place this coming week. St Bede's Children will meet on Tuesday 6th February at 3.30pm in St Bede's Church Hall and St Robert's Children will meet on Thursday 8th February at 3.30pm in St Robert's Church Hall. Thank you to everyone involved for the support being given to the children at this special time.

Come to Adoration and Holy Communion

Are you retired? Are you on holiday? Are you free on a morning this week? Come to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a Service of Holy Communion during the week and experience the benefits we receive by doing so. Adoration 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!



St Robert's Church Cleaning Rota

The new Church Cleaning Rota for St Robert's Parish is now available in the Church Porch



Ash Wednesday is on 14th February, . Masses will be celebrated at 10am at St Bede's Church and 12.30pm and 7pm at St Robert's Church.

Ash Wednesday

Lent Lunches

Lent Lunches will begin soon. Lent begins on Wednesday 14th February and we will be running six Lent Lunches every Friday during Lent, with proceeds to 'CAFOD' and 'Marys Meals'. There is now a list at the back of Church for 'volunteer soup makers' for the different lunches. If you are able to help with making soup and providing for the lunch, please sign the list that is now at the back of St Robert's Church. These lunches were very popular last year. Please support.



Lent in the St Benet Biscop Partnership

During Lent we have organised **Station Masses** to be celebrated in four of our Partnership Parishes. We encourage you to come along to these Masses and join together with priests and people from our local catholic communities. It does take some effort to travel to our different parishes, but it is good for us try and come together. *There may be some people who may need a lift, please ask around.* At the end of the four Masses we will conclude on the fifth week with a Service of Reconciliation (See below)

- **Wednesday 21st February at 7pm** at St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth [NE61 1QF]
- **Wednesday 28th February at 7pm** at St Paul's Church, Cramlington [NE23 6EF]
- **Wednesday 6th March at 7pm** at Our Lady and St Wilfrid's Church, Blyth [NE24 1EA]
- **Wednesday 13th March at 7pm** at St Aidan's, Ashington [NE63 8AD]

Everyone Welcome to All Masses. Please come and join us as we celebrate LENT together.

Partnership Service of Reconciliation

There will be a Partnership Service of Reconciliation on Wednesday 20th March at 7pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington [NE22 6HS]. We will have a Service of reading and prayers and then there will be opportunity for Individual Confession with local priests.



Resources for Lent

The Diocesan Website has lots of Resources to help you spiritually throughout Lent. Daily Scripture Reflections will be available on <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>. But there are many more resources for use throughout Lent, all accessible via this link ...www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/len This is a great asset for us during our six weeks of Lent

A message from St Cuthbert's Care

During Lent we will collect on TWO SUNDAYS our Lenten Alms for our Diocesan Charity, St Cuthbert's Care. The CEO writes,

"As valued supporters of St Cuthbert's Care, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you and your parishioners some of the incredible work of our charity. Over the last 12 months, alone:

- Three of our children's services have received the highest rating of Outstanding in all areas from industry regulators, Ofsted, demonstrating our commitment to providing the best possible care and support to the young people in our care.
- In June, we opened a brand-new service to support adults with learning disabilities living in their own homes. This service joins our Outstanding-rated Independent Supported Living project, ensuring we continue to strive to fulfil our purpose of 'enabling people to reach their personal potential.'
- Our two nursing homes continue to benefit from the expertise of our very own dementia specialist, Dr Ruth Cromarty. With Dr Ruth's support, we have implemented new initiatives, such as cognitive stimulation therapy and group activities, to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of our residents living with dementia. The positive feedback we have received from families and loved ones is testament to our team's hard work and dedication in this area.
- You may be aware that our nursing homes operate a 'Hardship Fund' that ensures no one is ever turned away from our homes because of an inability to pay. This year our Hardship Fund has supported 161 older people in our care across our homes in Newcastle and Sunderland.
- As well as providing free therapeutic and sensory facilities to over 4000 members, this winter, our Alan Shearer Centre has provided over 400 free meals to members who are struggling with the ongoing cost of living crisis.
- This winter we have also been able to support community projects with donations of sleeping bags, toys and warm clothes. This is just a small snapshot of the care and support we provide across our Diocese, none of our achievements would be possible without the generosity of our parishes. Your support enables us to expand our services, invest in new projects where no other funding is available and ensure we continue to provide outstanding care to the people we support.

I would like to thank you and your parishioners for your ongoing support and very much hope you will continue to be part of our journey and support our charity during Lent."



New Readers

Would you like to read at Mass? We're always looking for new people to join our readers list. We're happy to have children from our Middle and High Schools read and we also appeal for younger adults, in their 20s and 30s to get involved, as well as other adults; if anyone is willing to read at either St Bede's Church or St Robert's Church, please speak to Fr Peter.



Still looking for some Young Altar Servers

We're still looking for some young Altar Servers for the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church on a Saturday night and the 11am Mass at St Robert's Church on a Sunday morning. If interested, please speak to Fr Peter



Sacrament of Baptism

Any Parents hoping to have their child baptised are asked to speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen, as we need some basic details from you. 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 February 8th at St Bede's Church.



Narthex Working Party

Very many thanks to those who attended the meeting last Monday and to those willing, but unable to be present. It was a good first meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday 26th February at 7pm.

World Day of Prayer

The [Women's] World Day of Prayer 2024 has been prepared by the women of Palestine, taking as their theme "I beg you, bear with one another in Love", taken from St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. The Service this year is to be held at St Robert of Newminster Church on Friday 1st March at 1.30pm. Anyone who would like to join the choir or band is invited to join the Rehearsals on Friday 16th and Friday 23rd February, at St Robert's Church, 10.30am for Readers and 11.15am for Choir, and then at 10.30am on Friday 1st March for a full rehearsal. Light refreshments will be served after the Service. For further information, please contact Christine Watson or Eileen House.



Prayers for Life

The Good Counsel Network writes "On Saturday 10th February, the Vigil of the Feast Our Lady of Lourdes, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com".

Masses, Intentions and Services This Week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 3rd February '24 <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: J & E Swift 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Molly, Owen & Patrick Ruddy
Sunday 4th February 5th Sunday Yr B	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 5th February <i>Weekday</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Tuesday 6th February <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 7th February <i>St John Bosco</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Thursday 8th February <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 9th February <i>Presentation of the Lord / Candlemas</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 10th February <i>St Blaise</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Andrew Kingwell 10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 11th February 6th Sunday, Yr B	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Betty Amer	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for January 2024

For The Gift of Diversity In The Church: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.



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 and complete the form. We will then receive your contact details and put you on our parish register.



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 **Toilet Rolls, Individual Packets of Biscuits, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fish and Chickpeas.** The next most needed items are **Rice** (standard size packet) **Pasta, Cooking Oil, Sugar** (standard size packet) **Spices and Dried Herbs, Tinned Fruit, Table Salt, Tinned Vegetables, Flour, Custard or Rice Pudding, Cooking Sauces e.g. pasta sauce, Juice and Cordial, Long-life Milk, Porridge and Cereals, Condiments** (ketchup / mayonnaise / jam), **Tea and Coffee, Washing-up liquid, Surface & Toilet Cleaners. Various toiletries and sanitary products are also welcome.** All of the above will also be welcomed by the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank and the Bedlington Foodbank.

Marriage and Family Life Mass 2024

Bishop Stephen will celebrate Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 17th February 2024 to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage and Family Life. All married couples are invited, with particular focus on those celebrating a significant anniversary, together with bereaved spouses, separated individuals and families experiencing or having experienced domestic difficulties.

Asylum Seekers Support

Since October and through to 25th February, from 10am - 4pm, "Hjem" by Jamie Sinclair, is an exhibition being shown at Woodhorn Colliery to highlight the plight of recent asylum seekers to Ashington who are seeking sanctuary. It is a film about hospitality and kindness, showing people creating joy and looking forward to the future rather than being asked to focus on the past. Full details can be found on the Woodhorn Colliery website ... www.museumsnorthumberland.org.uk/woodhorn-museum



Collection Envelopes

The number of people in our two parishes who use envelopes for their collection has reduced drastically in recent years. Many who once had envelopes, now pay by Standing Order or online via BACS. So we have reduced the number of envelopes to suit our needs accordingly. We now have only two users of envelopes at St Bede's and less than forty at St Robert's. When new envelopes re available at St Robert's Church you will notice that new numbers have been allocated to those who have envelopes.

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 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 for further details.

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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"