

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

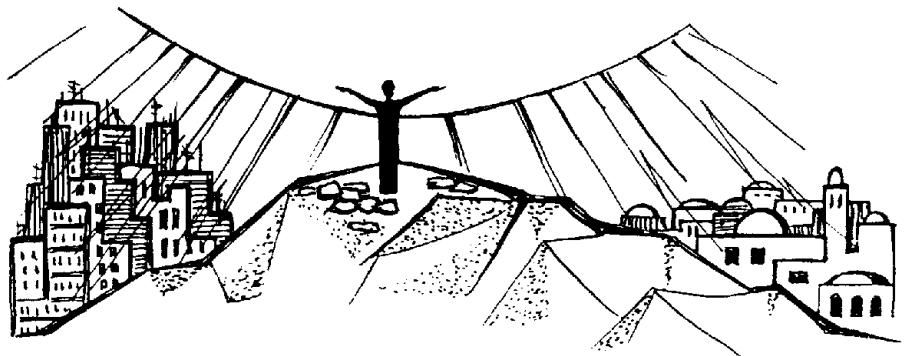
www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

First Sunday of Lent – Sunday 9th March 2025

If we are not criminals, and we don't particularly consider ourselves to be sinners, do we really need to worry about the devil, or the dangers of temptation? If the temptations in our lives are simply to sit at the computer too long, or indulge in the odd tiple, how much does that really matter?

On the first Sunday of Lent we are always treated to the same lesson. We are asked to consider what we are about, how the devil might put spanners in the works, and what we can do about it. Today the devil finds Jesus in the wilderness. He finds him when he is hungry and weak and tempts him with attractive options, food, fame and protection. We don't see Jesus dithering, not even for a minute. Jesus is able to put the temptation behind him because he knows what he is about. Jesus understands his mission and it isn't about materialistic benefit or power. Jesus is able to put aside the temptation because he is confident that the same Holy Spirit that has taken him into the wilderness will lead him back out.

The wilderness comes in all shapes and sizes. For us it could be moments when we're feeling lost, broken, unloved, tired or overburdened. In these moments of weakness this is when we are most at danger. These are moments when the devil can come to us offering comfortable and attractive options. Comfortable and attractive options can tempt us to make poor decisions; decisions that provide distractions. The devil can be subtle. Temptations rarely lead the majority of us into crime or even into sin. Being tempted to finish off a bottle of wine or spend longer than we ought on Facebook doesn't seem so bad, but are the tens of little distractions we succumb to each and every day taking us away from who we really are, and from what is genuinely important?



Every day the Holy Spirit is guiding us towards our specific missions in life. Do we say 'yes' to the work God has lined up for us, or do we fall for all those comfortable little distractions?



2025 | A Year of Jubilee | "Pilgrims of Hope"





During Lent, we are asked to pray for: Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers. 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 Collection: 1st / 2nd March 2025

St Bede's Church **£271.50** / St Robert's Church **£483.51**

February Standing Orders

St Bede's Church: **£1,238.33** / St Robert's Church: **£3,813.00**

Standing Orders or Payments by BACS

If you wish to set up a Standing Order or make a BACS payment please contact us for the Bank details.

Card Reader for Contactless Payments

The card reader for contactless payments is now up and running at St Robert of Newminster Church and is located at the front of the church. It is simple to use. Tap the screen as instructed. You can make a donation with your debit or credit card or you can use your phone to make a donation also.



Pray for Pope Francis

Please continue to pray for the good health of Pope Francis, that he may remain comfortable and well-cared for; and for all who are continuing to provide medical care for him.



Tea and Coffee After Mass

Tea and Coffee is served on a Saturday evening after Mass at St Bede's Church Hall and after the 9am Sunday Mass in St Robert's Church Hall. Everyone is invited in, to join.

Sending Forth and Rite of Election

This weekend we celebrate the "Sending Forth" Ceremony for those who are to become Catholics in coming weeks and who will attend the Rite of Election on Sunday afternoon at the Cathedral in Newcastle. Please pray for David Knight and Gemma Phillips from St Bede's Parish and for Kelly Coffey and Augustine Morrissey from St Robert's Parish. The next few weeks of Lent will be their final preparation for Baptism or being received fully into the Church, so please keep them in your prayers.



Journey in Faith Group

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith Group will be held on Thursday 13th March at 7pm in St Robert's Presbytery, looking at "Living Lent" and "The Creed".



Baptism

If you wish to organise a baptism, please discuss this with Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen. Please be aware that 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 on May 8th at St Bede's Church. We ask parents to contact Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen so we can arrange to meet and record baby/parent/godparent details BEFORE the meeting. Please do not just turn up for the meeting, without speaking to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen to confirm attendance beforehand.



Lenten Lunches

We are holding Lenten Soup Lunches during Lent to raise funds for CAFOD and Mary's Meals.

- Friday 14th March, soup will be served until 1pm.
- Friday 21st March
- Friday 28th March
- Friday 4th April



Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent, Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at the following times ... will you be able to join us in prayer in Church for this?



- Sunday at 4pm at St Bede's Church
- Sunday at 5pm at St Robert of Newminster Church
- Tuesday at 10.30am at St Robert of Newminster Church
- Thursday at 10.30am at St Robert of Newminster Church



Adoration Before Mass

We are very fortunate to be able to have Adoration before Mass. Are you free on a morning, or even after Mass on a Saturday morning? Are you able to give up some of your time, to come along to Adoration, especially during these weeks of Lent as we focus on the Lord Jesus and ask him to help us be better people at the end of the six weeks of Lent. Check back page for times and places.



Partnership Lenten Station Masses

During Lent we will be celebrating four Lenten Station Masses, on a Wednesday evening beginning on Wednesday 12th March. Mass will begin at 7pm. It is hoped that there will also be a cup of tea available after these Masses to enable those present to meet one another afterwards.

- Wednesday 12th March: St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth
- Wednesday 19th March: St Paul's Church, Cramlington
- Wednesday 26th March: Our Lady and St Wilfrid, Blyth
- Wednesday 2nd April: St Aidan's Church, Ashington

Partnership Service of Reconciliation

There will be a Lenten Service of Reconciliation for our Partnership Parishes on Wednesday 9th April at St Bede's Church, Bedlington. We hope you will be free to come along to celebrate this Sacrament, together with others from our neighboring parishes.



CAFOD Family Fast Day

Family Fast Day for Lent is to be held on Friday 14th March throughout the UK. Envelopes are available now. Please return envelopes on Sunday 16th March. The decision by the government very recently, to reduce overseas development assistance from 0.5% to 0.3% means that, in some of the most vulnerable places on earth, more people will die and many more will lose their livelihoods. But with your support for our Lent Fast Day Appeal you can share hope with these communities and stand with them in solidarity against the impact of this cut



Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope. Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>



St Patrick's Day Social Evening

We are to hold a St Patrick's Day Social Evening in St Robert's Church Hall on Monday 17th March, the Feast of St Patrick. Tickets are priced at £5.00 and available from Elizabeth Dixon (01670 516584). Please bring your own wine, beer or soft drinks; entertainment and nibbles will be provided.



Keyholders, Church Openers and Sacristans

I am looking for some volunteers in both parishes, of people willing to both open the Church and set up for Adoration and Mass / Services each day. At both St Bede's and St Robert's, the day could come when we would be very stuck with no one available to open or close the Church, so we need to think ahead now. Could we establish please, a rota of two of three people willing to be keyholders to come down to open the church on certain days, and then set up for the Mass or Service? It would be a great advantage to our parish community. If able or interested in doing this, please let Fr Peter know.

Parish Pastoral Council

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting at St Robert's will be held on Monday 24th March at 7pm. If anyone has any issues they wish putting on to the Agenda, please hand in to Fr Peter or email to the Parish Office before Friday 21st March.

The 3C's at St Robert's

The next meeting of the 3C's will be on Monday 10th March at 2pm in St Robert's Church Hall. Please come and join us for Coffee, Chat and Conversation with God. Perhaps a game of bingo as well! Everyone welcome.

Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be in St Robert's Church Hall on Thursday 13th March at 10.30am following morning Mass. This week we will have a chance to have our say on the "Soap Box".

Holy Island SVP Vinnies Camp

Volunteering is a Work of Heart. Holy Island Children's Camp is looking for new volunteers to help in their Holiday Centre on Holy Island. They are in need of young adults to help the children have a great week's holiday on the island in Summer 2025. Full training and support will be given and would suit someone wanting to give back to the Community by helping 9–12-year-olds have fun for a week. They are also keen to attract people who would like to help by volunteering in the Kitchen/Dining room and with caretaking. Term Time Camps need lots of volunteers if they are to survive. If you could find a few days in term time to help out with serving meals, prepping salads and washing dishes they would be truly grateful. By running term time camps, Summer Vinnies Holidays for children can be sustained. Further information can be found at <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or if you'd like to chat about the role please email BarbaraT@svp.org.uk



The Sacrament of Confirmation 2025

Bishop Stephen Wright will be coming to St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Friday 20th June to celebrate a Partnership Mass at 7pm and confer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Candidates: Any young people in Year 9 and above, who are Baptised and have celebrated their First Holy Communion, can be Confirmed. Candidates should also be making the effort to attend Mass at the weekends. We invite young people who are eligible to be part of the preparation, to come forward and complete an application. A paper application form is available from Fr Peter or those who have a smartphone or tablet can scan this QR code to complete an **Online Application Form**.



Preparation: Confirmation Preparation will be held at St Bede's Church Hall, Bedlington on a Friday evening (to avoid midweek homework and any meetings and Saturday and Sunday morning sports sessions). There will be a Parents' Meeting on Friday 2nd May at 6pm and then the candidates catechesis will be held from 5pm—7pm (pizza and drinks available at the beginning of each session) on Friday evenings in May and June.

Adult Helpers: We need a couple of adults to be part of the preparation, whose DBS paperwork allows them to work with young people. Anyone interested in this is asked to speak to Fr Peter. If interested, please contact early so your paperwork can be sorted.

Children's Liturgy Group

We have a Children's Liturgy Group at both the 5.30pm Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and the Sunday 9am Mass at St Robert's Church. Children are invited forward at the beginning of Mass to go to listen and focus on their own version of the Readings for Mass. They rejoin us at the Preparation of the Gifts and help bring the Gifts forward for Mass. If you have children with you at these Masses, please encourage them to go to Children's Liturgy.

The Wednesday Word



The Wednesday Word website explores the Sunday Scripture readings for children, parents, schools, parishes and parishioners. Check out their website wednesdayword.org/ and see what they have to may even wish to use it in your own private or family prayers. This is an excellent scriptural resource that families can use at home with their children as well as for use by schools and parishes.

Newsletter Via Email

We now have 59 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.



New to The Parish?

New parishioners are all very welcome, we are delighted that you are with us and we hope you feel at home in one of our churches. Please scan this QR code with your mobile or tablet and let us have your details for our parish register. If you have never given us your details before, please use this QR code to do so ... its very easy!



New Flower Arrangers

Both St Bede's Church and St Robert's Church are appealing for new volunteers to help with Church flowers. The youngest at St Bede's Church is 75! Can you help? Please let us know. St Robert's parishioners are asked to contact Christine Stansfield ☎ 07949745015 or Pat Rathbone ☎ 07823476486 if able to help



Survey on 2-Child Benefit Cap

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap and the current economic climate on Catholic families in England and Wales. Please share your experience by completing the survey, which can be accessed at csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey, where you'll also find further information about the survey. The survey will close on 25th March"

St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD

The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 22nd - 27th June in London. Candidates must have completed their first or second year at university and have a passion for social justice. Applications close on the 20th April. For any queries, please contact KeziaH@svp.org.uk

Choir Practices

Our 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 I am Mass.



"The Welcome Directory"

The Churches of Morpeth are exploring the possibility of forming a group of people who would provide initial outreach, support and welcome to ex-offenders, to those released from prison. If anyone in St Robert's Parish thinks this may be something they could be interested in, a meeting is to be held at St George's URC on **Wednesday 9th April** (**please note change of date**) at 7pm and everyone is welcome to attend. Our churches could then be listed in the Welcome Directory, a national directory that lets people know that our churches in Morpeth are places of welcome.

Relaunch of the Diocesan Youth Council

There is to be a relaunch of the Diocesan Youth Council, for the voices of young people in the Diocese. The first meeting is scheduled for Sunday 18th May 2025, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle, from 2.30pm to 4pm. We are actively seeking motivated students from Year 9 and above to join this transformative council. For more details on the council, how to nominate candidates, and to view the full announcement, visit: <https://diocesahn.org.uk/news/announcing-the-relaunch-of-the-diocesan-youth-council/>

Masses, Intentions and Services This Week

| | St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth | St Bede's Church, Bedlington |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday 8th March 2025 | 9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Holy Souls 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions | 5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Rebecca Underwood |
| Sunday 9th March Furst Sunday of Lent | 9am Mass: Robert Weatheritt 11am Mass: People of the Parish | 4pm Stations of the Cross |
| Monday 10th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i> | | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Private Intention (CG) |
| Tuesday 11th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i> | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Michael Lillico | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion |
| Wednesday 12th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i> | 7pm Mass: Partnership Station Mass for Lent | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Pat Tait |
| Thursday 13th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i> | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Pat Fanning 10.30am Stations of the Cross | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion |
| Friday 14th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i> | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: People of the Parish |
| Saturday 15th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i> | 9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: In Thanksgiving 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions | 5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Intentions of Fr Peter Stott |
| Sunday 16th March Second Sunday of Lent | 9am Mass: Joe McKee 11am Mass: People of the Parish 5pm Stations of the Cross | 4pm Stations of the Cross |



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for March 2025

For families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.



| St Robert's Church Ministries | | Readers | | Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | | Welcomers | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 9 th March | 9am | Anne Beattie | Ruth Higginbottom | Damian Butler | Andrew Smith | Chris Smith | Linda Hood |
| 9 th March | 11am | Veronica Shearer | Lynn Cole | Mary Beaton | Emma Halliday | Gail Swift | Christine Watson |
| 16 th March | 9am | Andrea Mitchell | Tricia Walker | Eileen Dutt | Jodi Harrison | Andrea Mitchell | Anne Beattie |
| 16 th March | 11am | Anne Dawes | Ben Cole | Veronica Shearer | Gillian Davison | Julie McMorro | Tom McMorro |

St Robert's Counting Teams

11th March: J Carr, J Shepherd, J Rice

18th March: B McCole, V Shearer, M Beaton



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.

A Liturgical Day of Reflection

A Day of Reflection for Liturgical Leaders for Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion is being held on Saturday 15th March 10.30am at St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY. Please book your place by contacting the Parish Office as soon as possible.

St Robert's SVP

An annual report for 2024 from the St Robert's SVP Conference has been produced and copies are available at the back of church. Please take one. The next meeting of St Robert's Conference will be on Wednesday 12th March at 6.00 pm in the upper Meeting Room of the Church Hall. Those who came to the Welcome Meeting with Patrick Rutherford as prospective new members and anyone else who might be interested in joining is welcome at this meeting. The SVP are still looking for kitchen utensils, household equipment, toys and bicycles. Thanks to all who have already donated, these items are always gratefully accepted.



Christian Aid Coffee Morning and Toy Sale

Morpeth Christian Aid Group will be holding a coffee morning and pre-loved toy sale on Saturday 29th March in St George's Church from 10 am till 12 noon. Free entry, coffee and cake/traybake £2.50, free for children. We would welcome donations of any toys in good condition for this event. Please contact Eileen or Gerry Harber on 517829 if you have any you can offer. And please come along and enjoy yourself!

The Chosen

The Chosen is an American Christian historical drama television series, about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. Season 5 is to launch very soon and will be available to watch at Cineworld in Newcastle (The Gate) in time for Easter, April 10th—13th.

The Bulgaria Project Update: Project Ends as Orphanage Closes

As the Maria Luiza Orphanage is finally due to close, the remaining young people will be moved into 2 newly built specialist homes in the local town, Kazanlak. As such, we agreed with the Orphanage Director, Dr. Panova, that our work was complete, and to end our project at the end of December 2024. Between 2012 and 2024, thanks to the immense generosity of parishioners at St Bede's, we were able to fund a very capable worker, Maria, to provide much needed one-to-one care to 11 children and young people. A summary of the outcomes for all the children and young people who have been supported by Maria, can be found on the table in the St Bede's Narthex. Please feel free to take a copy. With Gratitude for all your support Rebecca and Beth.