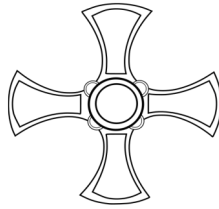


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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](mailto:strobertainewminster.morpeth@diocesehn.org.uk)  
✉ [peter.stott@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:peter.stott@diocesehn.org.uk) | ✉ [peterjstott@aol.com](mailto:peterjstott@aol.com)

St Bede's Church and Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS  
☎ 01670 823258 | ✉ [stbede.bedlington@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:stbede.bedlington@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter** | ✉ [stephen.boulter@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:stephen.boulter@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary: Mary Carter**

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

[www.strobetsmorpeth.com](http://www.strobetsmorpeth.com) | [www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk](http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk) | Northumberland Listening Service ☎ 07732 980740

## Third Sunday of Lent - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

Once a year at Passover, Jews visited the Temple and offered a sacrifice to God. At this time of year the number of visitors to Jerusalem swelled and the moneylenders, with their eye to business, took to operating a scam. When visitors came to the Temple they were able to purchase animals or doves to offer as sacrifices. Because the Jews considered Roman coinage bearing Caesar's head as idolatrous, they were given the opportunity to exchange their Roman coins for Temple coinage. The idea was originally a good one, but the moneylenders were operating an unfair exchange rate for over-priced animals. What had started out as a good idea had turned into an abuse. .... and this in God's name! Was it any wonder that Jesus was so angry?

To see Jesus angry enough to take a whip and drive out the villainous traders might surprise us. We are brought up with a vision of a Jesus as both meek and mild. In our modern times, where disputes have to be settled over a table and those who display temper are sent off for anger management counselling, the story might even make us raise a disapproving eyebrow. But what this story makes us realise is that there are situations that warrant our righteous anger. Jesus simply could not tolerate injustice, and neither should we.

What injustices do we need to drive out of our society today? We don't have to look far. How can we claim to be Christians yet settle for injustices that Jesus would not have settled for? Can we really sit back and allow rich countries to profit greedily at the expense of poor countries? Can we really condone the unfair distribution of our planet's resources just for our own convenience? Can we continue to let governments ride roughshod over those who cannot speak up for themselves?

What has to be driven out of our lives and communities because instead of bringing us closer to God they prevent us from meeting him? Today's story is not about protecting a sacred building. God after all does not live in a building. Each of us is a living temple. God lives through us.



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



During Lent we are asked to pray for Candidates for the Sacraments, The Needy and Hungry of the World, Women's World Day of Prayer, Survivors of Sexual Abuse, 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 including **Ralph Sherwin Nicol**, formerly of Abbots Way, Morpeth, whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 10am at St Robert of Newminster Church followed by Burial at St Mary's Cemetery; **Father John McElhone**, retired (formerly Wallsend) who died on Wednesday; and **Fr Mark Whelehan CP**, priest of the Passionist Community at Minsteracres who died on Wednesday, who recently celebrated 70 years as a priest; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### Offertry Collection - 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024

St Bede's Church: £172.34 / St Robert's Church: £615.23



#### The Journey in Faith Group



The next Meeting of the Journey-in-Faith Group will be on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, looking at "The Creed", "The Way of the Cross", "The Lords Prayer". Please meet at 7pm in St Robert's Presbytery. Please pray for the five people from our parishes who are now preparing to celebrate their First Confession and who are to be received into the Church at our Easter Vigil Mass ... Karen Brown, Norman Brown, John Clark, Gordon Mackay and Benjamin Whittaker.

#### Come to Adoration and Holy Communion

Are you retired? Are you on holiday? Are you free on a morning? Come to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass or 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!



#### Families coming to Mass

It is wonderful to see the young families of our parishes come to Mass together. Please do not stay away, but come and bring your children with you, even if they are young. Sometimes they might cry, sometimes they might be a bit of a distraction, sometimes you may feel embarrassed and flustered, but the advantages of bringing your children to Mass from an early age, far outweigh the reasons for not bringing them at all.

#### St Robert's St Vincent de Paul Society

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Upper Meeting room of the Church Hall.

#### New Readers

Would you like to read at Mass? We are 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.



#### St Robert's 3Cs

The 3Cs group will be meeting on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm—4pm in St Robert's Church Hall. All welcome.

#### Narthex Working Party

The next Meeting of the Narthex Working Party will be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm.

#### Stations of the Cross during Lent

We will celebrate Stations of the Cross this week at 10.30am on Tuesday, but please note there will not be Stations of the Cross on Thursday because of the visit of Bishop Stephen for the School Mass. Stations of the Cross will also be celebrated on Sunday afternoon at 4pm at St Bede's Church.



#### Lent Lunches Morpeth

We are holding three more Friday Lunches throughout Lent, starting at 12noon on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. **Please don't arrive too late as the soup may all be gone!** Thank you for your support. All proceeds from these lunches will be shared between 'CAFOD' and 'Marys Meals'. Both charities are worthy causes working in difficult parts of the world providing care and support to those who desperately need it.

#### Lent Lunches Bedlington

Churches Together in Bedlington are having Lent Lunches at the Salvation Army Hall on Fridays in March from 11am –12noon. All Welcome.

#### Partnership Lent Stations Masses

We encourage you to come along to these Partnership 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, especially in Lent, for us try and come together. *There may be some people who may need a lift, please ask around.*

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm

at Our Lady and St Wilfrid's Church, Blyth [NE24 1EA]

#### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm

at St Aidan's, Ashington [NE63 8AD]

#### Partnership Service of Reconciliation

There will be a Partnership Service of Reconciliation on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 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/lent](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/lent)

#### Lenten Alms

During Lent we collect our Lenten Alms for our Diocesan Charity, St Cuthbert's Care. There will be a Retiring Collection for this **on the fourth Sunday of Lent, 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> March**. This collection will be used by St Cuthbert's Care for the many services they provide in our diocese to children, young people, disabled children and families, the elderly and infirm in their nursing homes. Thank you for your support.



#### Lenten School Mass with the Bishop

We look forward to welcoming Bishop Stephen Wright to St Robert of Newminster Church on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March when he will celebrate the 10am Mass for us and especially for the whole school.

#### CAFOD Lenten Fast Day

CAFOD envelopes should be returned to Church as soon as possible please.

#### Welcome Home

One of the themes of Lent is welcoming back Catholics who no longer come to Mass. If there is someone in your family who no longer comes to Mass, you might explore ways to bring them back. Sometimes people who have ceased to attend might keep meaning to come along but just need some gentle encouragement. You could encourage them by offering a lift, inviting them for a coffee afterwards or sharing the newsletter.

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm in the upstairs Meeting Room at St Robert's Church Hall.

### 2024 The Year of Prayer

This is a Year of Prayer, called by Pope Francis to prepare for the Jubilee Year 2025. He asks that during 2024 we focus on the words of the Our Father, and try to get back to what it really means to pray the Our Father. The banner on the Sanctuary, displaying the words of the Our Father, can help our focus during Mass on this ancient prayer.

### Sacrament of Baptism - Preparation Meeting

Any Parents hoping to have their child baptised at St Bede's Church or St Robert's Church are asked to speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen, as we need some basic details from you. Please note that one parent must be a Baptised Catholic, and at least one godparent should be a practising catholic. Please get in touch with us to make an appointment so that we can also book you onto the next Baptism Meeting, which will be held on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> at St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth.

### First Holy Communion Preparation

The Children's catechesis continues on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm at St Bede's Church Hall for the children in St Bede's Parish and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm in St Robert's Church Hall, for the children in St Robert of Newminster Parish. Please continue to keep all the children and their families in your prayers.



### New to The Parish?

Are you new to our Parish? Or have you moved house? Please scan this QR code with your mobile or tablet, and complete an online form; or type this link into your search engine [https://form.jotform.com/Fr\\_Peter/new-parishioner--updated-info](https://form.jotform.com/Fr_Peter/new-parishioner--updated-info) and complete the form. We will then receive your contact details and put you on our parish register.



### Lenten Day for Families

Catholic Mothers and the Carmelite Friars invite you to a Lenten Family Day at St John Vianney's Church, West Denton, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, beginning with 10am Mass and followed by a short talk, opportunity for Confession, a soup lunch, children's activities and social time. All ages and families welcome. For more information email [catholicmothersne@gmail.com](mailto:catholicmothersne@gmail.com)

### Ecumenical Prayer Meeting

St George's URC Morpeth host an Ecumenical Prayer meeting, every fortnight on a Wednesday evening at 7pm, for the people of all the Christian churches of Morpeth. These prayer meetings are open to all parishioners from the town. Everyone is welcome. All dates for 2024 are on the poster in the porch.

### 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.



### Saturday Evening Tea and Coffee

Please remember that donations for Tea and Coffee and the food provided by others are gratefully accepted on a Saturday evening. All donations at this time (from January—March) will go towards the work of the Great North Air Ambulance Service.



### Wansbeck Valley Food Bank

The Trustees of Wansbeck Valley Food Bank have pleasure in inviting you to attend their Annual General Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in St George's United Reformed Church, Bridge Street, Morpeth, NE61 1PD, at 7pm. Guest Speaker is Sarah Bredin-Kemp, from Full Circle Food. This will be an opportunity for you to learn more about how the organisation operates, its progress over the last year and its plans for the future. In addition, there will be the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any issues arising.

### Building our Parish Communities

Several weeks ago, a meeting was held at St Bede's Church, Bedlington to discuss what we do to attract people and families back to Church or to stay with us rather than walking away. A second meeting will be held at St Bede's Church Hall at 7pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April. This is our second meeting discussing the future of our parish and building our community. If you are interested in the future of our parish please come along and let us know your views and ideas - they will be much appreciated.

### Catholic Parish Summit

A special gathering of Catholics is taking place in Harrogate from 12<sup>th</sup>—14<sup>th</sup> June, based at Harrogate Convention Centre King's Road, Harrogate, HG1 5LA. It is being organised by an organisation called "Divine Renovation" who are encouraging parishes to attend with a view to reviving life within our parish communities. Catholic Parish Summit is about inspiring parish leaders with a vision of a renewed Church that is missionary and apostolic at its core, and equipping them to cast off their parishes into mission — so that they can bring people to Jesus. Who is this for? If you're involved in parish ministry in any way, this summit is for you. Whether you're a priest, pastoral worker, bishop, ministry leader, deacon, or a Catholic who desires more for your parish — there's a seat for you at CPS. If there are four people wishing to attend, tickets are only £169 each if bought before 29<sup>th</sup> February! Otherwise they go up in price. We have one person wishing to attend. Does anyone else wish to attend and so avail of cheaper price ticket. Please note - Accommodation costs are extra to the Conference ticket price and need to be booked separately in addition to the Conference. See their website for more information - [catholicparishsummit.com](http://catholicparishsummit.com)

### Christian Aid Volunteer wanted

A volunteer is needed to help with the organising of Christian Aid for St Robert's Parish, with a view to taking over from Gerry Harber, who has held this role for many years but feels that it is time to step down allowing someone younger to come with new ideas. If you feel you might be interested contact Gerry on ☎ 517829 for more information.

### Retrouvaille – Marriage Support

Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage, contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### St Bede's Safeguarding – DBS check renewals

The diocesan safeguarding team have asked us to bring forward the updating of online DBS checks for any parishioner who is due for renewal in the next 18 months. This involves completing one form which Mary Carter will leave in the Narthex for those volunteers it is relevant to. Please complete the form and return to the parish office at your earliest convenience. If you no longer carry out your role or have changed roles, you are required to let Mary know ASAP.

### Come to the Well

'Come to the Well' is an hour of quiet and contemplative prayer. The next meeting will be held on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the church hall. All Welcome.



# Masses, Intentions and Services This Week

|   | St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth  | St Bede's Church, Bedlington  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b><br><i>Weekday of Lent</i>                                | 9.40am The Rosary<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Ken and Eileen Percival<br>10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions           | 5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish           |
| <b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March</b><br><b>Third Sunday of Lent B</b>                           | <b>9am Mass:</b> Helen and Douglas Cone<br><b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish                                  | 4pm Stations of the Cross   |
| <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><i>Weekday of Lent</i>                                  |  | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> George and Ellen Arkle |
| <b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><i>Weekday of Lent</i>                                 | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Anne Frank<br>10.30am Stations of the Cross         | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion       |
| <b>Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><i>Weekday of Lent</i>                               | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion                                    | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Private Intention      |
| <b>Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><i>Weekday of Lent /<br/>SS Perpetua and Felicity</i> | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Jane Edmondson<br><i>with Bishop Stephen Wright</i> | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion       |
| <b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><i>St John of God</i>                                   | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion                                    | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> James and Mary Tait    |
| <b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><i>Weekday of Lent</i>                                | 9.40am The Rosary<br><b>10am Mass:</b> The Taylor Walker family<br>10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions          | 5pm - 5.20pm Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> Sylvia Thompson                 |
| <b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March</b><br><b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>                           | <b>9am Mass:</b> Robert Weatheritt<br><b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish                                       | 4pm Stations of the Cross   |



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

For the new martyrs; We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



### LOUDfence

Together with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle, our diocese is hosting a LOUDfence at St Marys' Cathedral and at Newcastle Anglican Cathedral. It will begin at the 11.30am Sunday Mass on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March at St. Mary's Cathedral and end with a Service of the Word at Newcastle Cathedral on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. Everyone is welcome to these liturgies and to visit both Cathedrals during the days to offer their prayers and support for all who have suffered abuse within church communities and all contexts. We are invited to leave prayers and messages together with provided items like the prayer ribbons presented to Bishop Stephen at his Installation Mass, which are still tied to his Bishop's Chair. People can leave their prayers and messages within or outside of the Cathedrals, recognising some people would rather not enter a place of worship. There will be people available for pastoral accompaniment if that is requested. As a diocesan family we pray for all who have suffered abuse and recognise our shared duty to safeguard the vulnerable.

### Act now to stop DIY abortion up to birth

Diana Johnson MP has tabled an amendment (New Clause 1) to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill, which is coming up for Report stage in Parliament in early March. This amendment seeks to change criminal law so that "no offence is committed by a woman acting in relation to her own pregnancy" at any gestation. This means that a woman who induced her abortion at home using pills (or any other method) at any stage of pregnancy, including just before natural birth, would commit no offence. This is dangerous for women and lethal for unborn babies. Please contact your MP urgently, asking them to oppose this extreme and barbaric proposal. You can do this using SPUC's easy to use webtool, at <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortionamendments> Please pray for the defeat of this amendment, for protection of unborn babies, and help and comfort for mothers in need.

### Parish Office Hours

Please note that Mary, our Parish Secretary does not work full time hours in the Parish Office. Full details are on the front page of this Newsletter.

### Summary of Diocesan Listening Exercises

On our diocesan website <https://diocesehn.org.uk/> you will find all the summaries from the various listening exercises that have been running since the summer of 2023, and the results of the Questionnaire for the Dicastery of Bishops Report from March 2023. These are together with Bishop Stephen's response to what has been presented to him. He reflects on the past, present and our future together. The documentation is necessarily lengthy. Too lengthy for a pastoral letter.

### 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.

### 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"