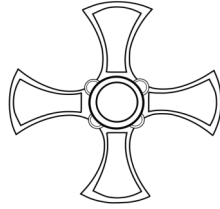


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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**

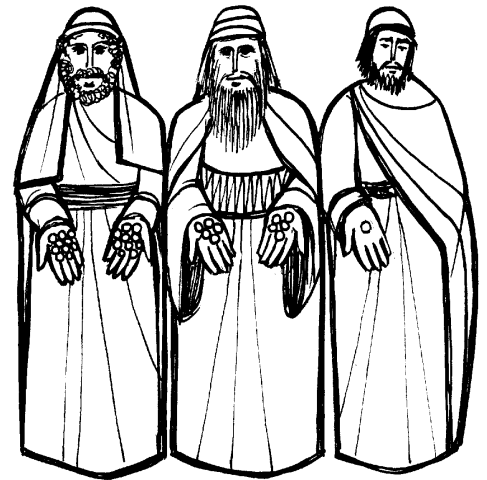
Office Hours | Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am—3.30pm at St Robert's | Wednesday, 9am – 5.30pm at St Bede's

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

## Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023 - 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday [Year A]

The third servant in today's parable was trying to bury a responsibility that he wished to avoid. The treasure he had been given was an opportunity for him to invest and please his master, but instead of putting himself out, he buried the treasure where he could forget about it and go about his own affairs. Buried deep, the treasure was no longer an uncomfortable reminder of his master's expectations. Meanwhile, the other two servants, realising that there is no gain without pain, risked everything on their master's account. They invested and multiplied their gifts, and their master was pleased by their efforts.

Like the three servants in this story we too have been given talents and gifts, and with those talents comes a responsibility to use those talents as an opportunity to make the world a better place. Our talents are varied, some great some small but we are all gifted in some way. Some have high profile and very obvious talents ... there are those who are great musicians, surgeons, sports people and scientists. The rest of us might have less obvious talents. We might have a talent for caring, listening, speaking, growing things or solving practical problems. Whatever our particular gift we are urged to step out with it ... stick our neck on the line and invest our gifts in God's cause. God will not be so impressed if we are too afraid, embarrassed or lazy to use our talents. Ever heard the expression 'Use it or lose it.' If we ignore our gifts long enough, there will come a time when we can no longer rely upon them. This is what happened to the third servant.



One of the excuses that the third servant made for not investing his gift was that he was fearful of losing it. But the message today is not to be fearful. God never asks us to do something we are not capable of doing, and he is not judging us by our levels of productivity. The master in the story did not judge the third servant for producing nothing from his gift, but rather for being lazy and for his bitter indifference to his master's generosity. The master would not have judged him harshly, if he had tried his best but failed.

Today we are invited to look again at what gifts we have been given and how we are using them for the benefit of all. We are asked to examine what gifts we might be ignoring because we are too embarrassed or afraid, and we are asked to live a little dangerously and invest more of ourselves in God's cause.

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



During this time we are asked to pray for The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation; Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Justice and Peace in the World; Prisoners and their Families; All Victims of War; Young People. Please pray for those we know who are unwell, as well as the many who have no one to pray for them; for those in hospital and for all undergoing treatment for serious illnesses. We pray in this month of November for the souls of all the faithful departed; for all who have died recently including **Vittorio [Vic] Pusceddu** (late Stanington and Pegswood) whose Funeral Service will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 12noon; for **Christine Foster** [Morpeth] who died on Thursday (*funeral details to follow*); and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Offertory Collection - 11<sup>th</sup> / 12<sup>th</sup> November**  
St Bede's Church - £164.38 / St Robert's Church - £438.88



### Clergy Training Fund

The Clergy Training Fund remains open until next weekend, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November. If you wish to make a donation please place it in the basket or drop off at the Presbytery. If you are in the Gift Aid Scheme please remember to use the special coloured envelopes available in church.

### Youth Sunday Collection

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November, is National Youth Sunday. There will be a Retiring Collection next weekend for the work of Youth Services in the Diocese.

### Advent Alms for St Cuthbert's Care

Advent begins on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and as usual we will be supporting the work of our Diocesan Charity, **St Cuthbert's Care**, with our Advent Alms. There will be a Retiring Collection on the First and Third Sundays of Advent [3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December] for St Cuthbert's Care.



### CAFOD Appeal for the Holy Land

We have been asked if we can have a collection for CAFOD, as there are some people who do not have the hardware/technology to log onto the CAFOD website to donate online. There are so many collections at this time of the year, but we will have a collection on the Second Sunday of Advent, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> / Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December, a Retiring Collection for CAFOD in their response to the desperate need in the Holy Land.



### Holy Souls Envelopes

Holy Souls Envelopes are available in Church. If you wish to pray for the Holy Souls, place the names of those people you wish to remember and pray for, along with an offering and place in the basket on the Offertory Table. These will be carried forward at the Offertory and these Masses will be celebrated throughout the year for the Holy Souls.

### St Robert's Bonus Ball

The winners of Week 6 of the Bonus Ball were Mag Weightman and Jodi Harrison, with number 32. Congratulations to both of them and good luck to everyone for week 7 of the draw.

### The Letter

Join us for an event to watch 'The Letter', a documentary film about how our spiritual values call us to take action on the planetary emergency. We are called to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor and on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm in St Robert's Church Hall we will show the film. Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si is a worldwide wake up call to help humanity understand the destruction that man is rendering to the environment and his fellow man.



While addressing the environment directly, the document's scope is broader in many ways as it looks at not only man's effect on the environment, but also the many philosophical, theological, and cultural causes that threaten the relationships of man to nature and man to each other in various circumstances. This document presents Gospel truths. And, it provides a challenge for every believer (and non-believers too).. All Welcome. (NB the film is about 1 1/2 hours long)

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

Bernadette Rich will hold another sale of Advent and Christmas Cards, gifts, diaries and books on 26<sup>th</sup> November and will be available from 10am until 11am in St Robert's Church Hall. Please come along early if you normally attend the 11am Mass.

### 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 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

### Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, at 10:30am, in St Robert's Church Hall.

### Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

There will be a Pastoral Council Meeting for St Robert's Parish on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. Items for discussion must be submitted to the Parish Office by tomorrow, Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November. Anyone not able to attend the Meeting is asked to send apologies.

### Little Sisters of the Poor – Christmas Fayre

The Little Sisters of the Poor are having a Christmas Fayre at St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle at 1pm-4pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November. All are welcome to attend.

### The Journey in Faith Group

The Journey in Faith Group will meet on the following dates this year, from 7pm—8.30pm.

- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Eschatology: The Last Things
  - Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November The Sacraments: An Introduction
  - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December The Sacrament of Baptism
  - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December The Sacrament of Confirmation
- Please pray especially for all the enquirers attending these meetings. We have at least 4 people who are looking to join the Church at Easter who come along to these meetings, as well as several members of the parish community.

## MINI-CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Catholic Women's League will be having a Mini-Christmas Fair, on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November, from 10.30am - 12noon, in St Robert's Church Hall. There will be Refreshments, Raffle, Cakes, Tombola and Crafts.

### Advent Service

The Catholic Women's League will be leading an Advent Service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, at 2pm, in St Robert of Newminster Church. It will be a wonderful opportunity on the First Sunday of Advent to come along and share what the spirit of Advent is all about. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall after the Service. **Everyone is welcome.**

### "A Light in the Darkness"

A service is to be held at St Joseph's Church, Gateshead for all those who mourn the loss of a child. It will be held TODAY, Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 3.00pm. Everyone welcome.



### "Blessed Are Those Who Mourn"

This will be a time of prayer, reflection and consolation for all who are bereaved. If you feel you would benefit from this time together please come along on Monday November 20<sup>th</sup> from 2pm- 4pm in St Robert's Church Hall.



### CAFOD World Gifts

CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue are now available in Church. These catalogues list all the different ways you can reach out to the poor and less fortunate around the world by buying gifts in the name of a loved relative or friend for Christmas. Full details are available in the Catalogue or on the CAFOD website [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

### SVP Mass for the Sick and Housebound

The SVP at St Bede's have organised a Mass for the Sick and the Housebound on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 1pm in St Bede's Church. Everyone is welcome. If you will be coming along, it is important to let the SVP know or add your details to the list on the noticeboard. There will be some light refreshments available after the Mass and we hope to have some children from St Benet Biscop School here with us on the afternoon as well.

### St Robert's SVP Group

The next SVP Meeting at St Robert's will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

### New to The Parish?

Are you new to our Parish? Or have you moved? You can 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.



### Childrens Liturgy Groups

Please remember that we have Children's Liturgy Groups at both St Bede's and St Robert's Churches. We invite all children of First and Primary School age to attend the liturgy at St Bede's Vigil Mass each Saturday evening or at the 9am Mass at St Robert's Church.

### Readers

We are looking for new readers to join our teams of readers at both St Bede's Vigil Mass and at the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's Church. We have had one response so far at St Robert's. We're happy to have children from School read and **we also appeal for younger adults, in their 20s and 30s to get involved; if anyone is willing to read at either St Bede's Church or St Robert's Church, please speak to Fr Peter.**

### Altar Servers Appeal

We are delighted to have a new server, Maria, join us at the 9am Mass at St Robert's, but we still have no young servers for the 11am Mass; and only have one young server at the Vigil Mass at St Bede's. Please ask the younger children who are coming to Mass regularly, in Year 5 and above and who have made their First Holy Communion to consider becoming an Altar Server.

### Volunteering in the Parish

Please remember that all new volunteers to any role in our parishes need to complete a Volunteer Registration Form, which will also ask for the names of two people able to give references for you. Please contact Fr Peter or Parish Office if you need one of these forms. If anyone has any queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact Fr Peter or our Safeguarding Representatives - John Carr and Mary Beaton at St Robert's and Mary Carter at St Bede's.

### Invitation from the Sacred Heart Sisters

The Society of the Sacred Heart has spent the last year giving thanks and celebrating their arrival in England on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1842. This year the celebration of our 180 years in this country draws to a close on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We, the sisters in Fenham, would like to invite those who have shared our mission of Education in Fenham over the years as students, pupils, staff and friends from the Sacred Heart schools or St Mary's Teacher Training College to join us for Mass in St Robert's Church, Bolbec Rd, Fenham at 6pm on that day. Come along and meet old friends. Bishop Seamus will be the celebrant as he was the College Chaplain for many years. To have some idea of numbers for the Mass leaflets please RSVP to [rscjfenham@yahoo.com](mailto:rscjfenham@yahoo.com) by November 30<sup>th</sup> or leave a message on 0191 422 3840.



### St Bede's Autumn Fayre

Many thanks to everyone who helped support the Fayre last Saturday. It raised **£852.30**. Thanks to Christine Priest for agreeing to sort it all out and to the parishioners who supported with running the Stalls, to all who provided items for the many stalls and to all who supported. £ was raised from this Fayre. Very Many Thanks.

### First Confession Preparation

First Confessions will be celebrated in a couple of weeks time. A wonderful time for our children and their families.

- \* Preparation meeting at St Bede's Church on 5<sup>th</sup> December
- \* Preparation Meeting at St Robert's Church on 7<sup>th</sup> December.
- \* Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Bede's Church at 6pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December
- \* Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Robert's Church at 6pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Parents are asked to talk to their children about going to Confession and perhaps some of the things they think they will need to "confess"

### Newman Association Tyneside Circle

You are invited to a talk by Emma Wells, speaking about her book, "Heaven on Earth: The Lives and Legacies of the World's Greatest Cathedrals", at St Mary's Church Hall, Cullercoats, on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm. Dr Emma J. Wells is a historian, author and broadcaster. She is a historic buildings consultant, formerly Lecturer in Ecclesiastical and Architectural History at the University of York and now Research Fellow in Archaeology at Durham University.

### Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Medjugorje Centre Northeast Pilgrimage – In conjunction with Northern Star Travel Ltd. (0161- 7732115) Flying from Newcastle – Dubrovnik, 2nd- 9 th June. 2024. Led by Fr Martin Morris. For booking and info: please contact: Adrian Duffy on the above number, or Kath Ash on 01670- 733358

### Pilgrimage to Knock

Are you interested in going on a pilgrimage to Knock, in the west of Ireland. 'Knock Pilgrimages' have launched their 2024 Pilgrimages. Check out their website - [www.knockpilgrimages.com](http://www.knockpilgrimages.com) - for further details.

### Advent Retreat – Wait For The Lord

Minsteracres Passionist Monastery are offering an opportunity to prepare your hearts for the forthcoming gift, through Scripture, image, music, silence, and poetry. This will be held at Minsteracres from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 6pm-Sunday 3rd December 2pm. The recommended donation is £190. It will be led by Sr Sheila McNamara, RSCJ. Sr Sheila is a Sacred Heart sister living in community in Fenham, Newcastle. After working for many years in school based education, for the last 11 years she has worked in Spirituality ministry. Sr Sheila is a Spiritual Director and Supervisor and trains others in Spiritual Accompaniment. She co-ordinates the Diocesan Team of Spiritual Directors.



### Woolly Hats Appeal

Stella Maris [formerly Apostleship of the Sea] gratefully accepts donations of woolly hats for seafarers. You can imagine the need for these at sea at this time of the year. Do you have some wool? Can you knit woolly hats for seafarers? Give it a go and hand them into St Robert's and we'll pass them on to Marian Bell, our Stella Maris parish rep, for passing on to Chaplains.



### Newsletter via email

We currently email the Newsletter to over 40 parishioners but we wish to try and encourage more people to receive the Newsletter this way to make us more environmentally friendly. At the moment we print 95 Newsletters for St Bede's and 180 Newsletter for St Robert's each week, at a cost of 8p per copy. Can you be more environmentally friendly and help us to be? Send us your email address and we will add you to the mailing list and we can cut down on the amount of newsletters we print.

### Food Donation for Foodbanks and Refugees

We are very grateful to the many parishioners who donate regularly to the boxes and bins we have available at our churches to collect food for our Foodbanks and for the Refugees and Asylum Seekers in our diocese. Please continue your support for these people and donate any non-perishable food, toiletries and well as some treats for adults and children if you are able to.



# Masses, Intentions and Services This Week

|   | St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth  | St Bede's Church, Bedlington   |
|---|--|--|
| <b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b><br><i>Dedication of the Basilicas St Peter and St Paul, Rome</i> | 9.40am The Rosary<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Holy Souls<br>1.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions   | 5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish                    |
| <b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b><br><b>Thirty-Third Sunday, A</b>                                   | <b>9am Mass:</b> Holy Souls<br><b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish  |  |
| <b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b><br><i>St Edmund</i>  |  | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Owen McDonnell & Katie Keerigan |
| <b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b><br><i>Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>                 | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Intentions of Frances Kerr  | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion                |
| <b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b><br><i>St Cecilia</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> Jim & Bridget Kiernan           |
| <b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b><br><i>St Clement / St Columban</i>                               | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Dorothy Kindlen   | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion                |
| <b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b><br><i>St Andrew Dung-Lac &amp; Companions</i>                      | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br>10am Service of Word and Communion<br>12noon Funeral Service: Vittorio Pusceddu<br><i>(Followed by Burial At Stannington)</i> | 9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Intentions of Anne Chadwick     |
| <b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b><br><i>Weekday / St Catherine of Alexandria</i>                   | 9.40am The Rosary<br><b>10am Mass:</b> Marilyn Barker<br>10.30am—11am Adoration and Confessions  | 5pm - 5.20pm Confessions<br><b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> Dcd Mbrs Monaghan Family                 |
| <b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b><br><b>Feast of Christ The King</b>                                 | <b>9am Mass:</b> Jim McKee<br><b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish   |  |



## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for November 2023

For the Pope: We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.



### Booking the Parish Hall

Please remember that if you wish to use the Parish Hall, you should book it through our Parish Office. At St Robert's, there are many users of the Hall, so it is necessary to book in advance rather than just expecting it to be available. It costs £20 per hour for use of the Hall or the Meeting room for private uses or for any group that charges others to come to their event. Parish Groups usually use the Hall free of charge, but it is always best to speak to Fr Peter about this. At St Bede's there is very little use of the Hall at the moment but we're always open to discussion for anyone who wishes to hire it for use.

### Marys Meals Appeal

'Mary's Meals is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. Mary's Meals grew out of the Christian Catholic faith of our founder, and the values and ethos we hold reflect this. The roots of our mission are to be found in Medjugorje, a small village in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where it is claimed the Virgin Mary has been appearing since 1981. It costs Mary's Meals just 10p to provide a child with a nutritious school meal and, with the cost of feeding a child for a whole year being just £19.15, we know that small change really can make a big impact. Food & education changes the story for these children, allowing them to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their communities. Pray for our work.'

### ACN #redwednesday

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November is Aid to the Church in Need's Day of Prayer, and their focus this year is Africa, where Christians are displaced and suffering trauma as a result of targeted violence. The effect on families is devastating with countless families suffering the loss of their homes, livelihoods and loved ones. Africa is now a priority for ACN to provide shelter, food & trauma counselling. Can you help them raise £100k4Africa? Families there need urgent practical, material and spiritual aid. So this #RedWednesday, they launch their first-ever £100,000 'Matched' Challenge for Africa. Can you help them raise £100,000 by the end of the year? Check their website for full details. [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org)

### Standing Orders or Payments by BACS

Many thanks to all who contribute to the weekly collections by Standing Order. This probably remains the easiest way to make a contribution to the Church. If you need our bank details to set this up, please see the information below, or contact us for a Bank Mandate. If you do not wish to set up a Standing Order, but do want the availability / flexibility of contributing directly from your bank account via BACS when you want to, you can set us up as a payee in your banking app on your mobile phone. Our bank details are...

#### 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"

### 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

*giftaid it* 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. Contact the Parish Office or Peter Smith for further details.

### Sick and Retired Priests Fund

Donations can be made payable to "The Northern Brethren Fund" and sent to the Treasurer, Father Ian Jackson at St Joseph's Church, Coast Road, Blackhall, Hartlepool, Co. Durham, TS27 4HW. BACS payments are also possible. Please contact Fr Peter.