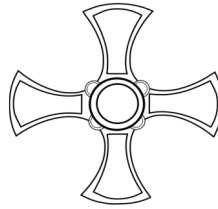


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

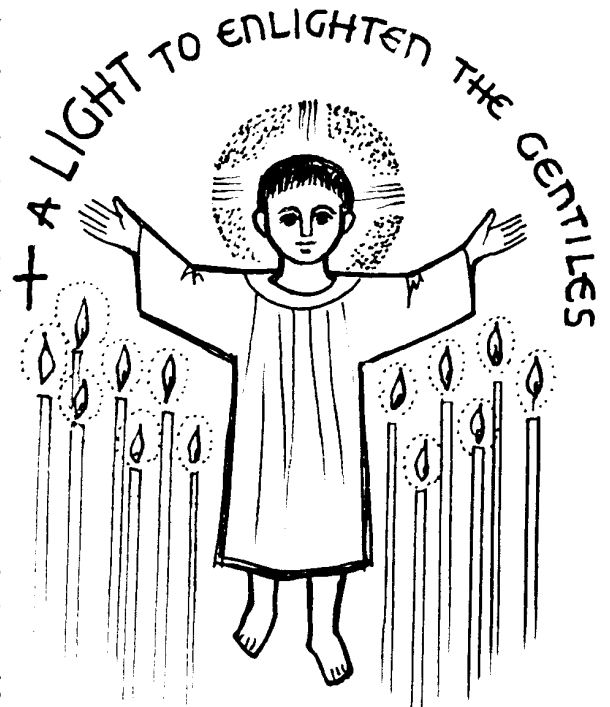
Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) – Sunday 2nd February 2025

If you were told you were going to die tomorrow, would you be ready to go? Young and old alike, the answer to this question is probably “No!” Being ready to leave this world demands tremendous clarity, and whilst some of us have achieved clarity in our lives, the rest stumble around confused and overly burdened. We go through the motions of living but all too easily we are living out a ‘ground-hog-day’ existence... running on the spot and repeating the same old mistakes. What we need is someone to tell us where we are going wrong, and gently put us on the right track. In short, what we need is someone to light our way.

In today's gospel reading, Mary and Joseph present the Baby Jesus at the temple as Jewish law required. Here they meet the elderly Simeon and Anna. Simeon and Anna have been waiting for the promise written in scripture that a Saviour would come to light the world and bring salvation to the ends of the earth. Despite their great age, Simeon and Anna were living and praying in hope that they would see the fulfilment of God's promise. When Simeon sees the Baby Jesus and recognises him as the Messiah he is ready to die in peace because the fulfilment of scripture was his own personal fulfilment too.

So what are we waiting for in our lives today? Are we able to recognise Jesus and the opportunities he gives us as Simeon did, or are we too busy running round like headless chickens looking for happiness and re-assurances in all the wrong places? How are we waiting? Are we waiting like the proverbial rabbit mesmerised by the fast approaching headlights, or are we waiting in constant preparation?

The time has come to stop flitting from one ambition to another and from one hollow goal to the next. The time has come to look for a genuinely important goal of God's floodlit making.



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






In this time leading up to Lent, we are invited 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 recently including **Maria Olah** (Morpeth) whose Funeral Service will be held at


St Robert's Church on Wednesday 12th February at 12.45pm, followed by Burial at Fairmoor Cemetery; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.


Offertory Collection: 25th / 26th January 2025

St Bede's Church **£188.60** / St Robert's Church: **£421.46**

Card Reader for Donations

The Parish Finance Committee at St Robert of Newminster Parish has approved installation and use of a DONA  card reader for use in Church for "contactless donations". This will be installed in coming weeks. *Father Peter is looking for someone, or a couple of people, to help with this, for looking after this machine at Masses, helping set up the machine*

 and with ongoing maintenance and support of this system and to be a liaison person with DONA, the suppliers.



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.

Weekday Adoration and Mass

As we begin this Jubilee Year and acknowledge that we are Pilgrims of Hope, can you come along to Adoration in this Jubilee Year? We have Adoration in both St Bede's and St Robert's Churches most days at 9.25am. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament gives us some quiet time in the presence of Our Lord. After Adoration we then have Mass or a Service of Word and Communion, depending on the day and church. The Mass is the source and the summit of everything we do. We have this time set aside to help us spiritually. Please, if you are free and not at work, try and come along. The benefits will be worth it.

Journey in Faith Group



The next meeting of the Journey in Faith Group will be held on Thursday 6th February at 7pm in St Robert's Presbytery, looking at "The Sacrament of Matrimony" and "The Sacrament of Holy Orders"

"Come to the Well"

"Come to the Well" is a monthly gathering for prayer - meeting every first Thursday of the month. The next meeting will be held on Thursday February 6th at 7pm in St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth. Everyone is welcome to come along and prayer together.

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 February 6th at 6.30pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington. 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 us beforehand.



The Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word website explores the Sunday Scripture readings for children, parents, schools, parishes and parishioners. Before Covid hit us, we used to print off the parish version, but so many more people today have access to the internet through smartphones and tablets. 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.



Marriage & Family Life Mass 2025

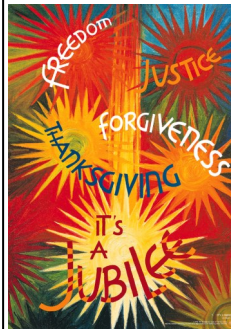
Bishop Stephen Wright will be presiding at a Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage and the graces received in Family Life, which will take place on Saturday 8th February 2025, from 12pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. All married couples are invited, with particular focus on those celebrating a significant anniversary together with bereaved spouses, separated individuals and families experiencing or who have experienced domestic difficulties.

Getting Married in 2025

If you are thinking about getting married in 2025 and haven't yet spoken to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen to make sure that a Church wedding is possible, please contact them as soon as you can. At least six months notice is usually needed to give enough time to arrange all paperwork, especially if overseas contacts are necessary. A Marriage Preparation date with Marriage Care is already fixed and we would need to make sure there would be enough availability for you to attend that course.

Jubilee Year 2025: Make a Pledge

Pope Francis has decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. We are each asked to be a pilgrim throughout the Church Year of Jubilee. In a world that is growing more unjust and unequal, we are invited to respond to God's call for a renewal of faith and a recommitment to a just world. We need to think about how we can act differently this year. Could we take time to read the Gospels if we haven't read them all the way through before? Could we pledge our time or our money to a just cause? Could we get ourselves better educated? Could we commit to campaigning or communicating? There is plenty for us to think about.



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.

Weekday Readers Rota

We ask weekday readers to sign up to read at the weekday Masses and Services. If you sign up in advance you will have the opportunity to read your reading in advance of the day you actually read. *Hopefully this will work, with your cooperation ... please sign up ... don't wait to be asked.*

The Welcome Directory

The Christian 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 thinks this may be something they could be interested in a meeting is to be held at St George's URC on Wednesday 12th March 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 are places of welcome.

St Robert of Newminster Proposed Narthex

On Thursday 28th November Mr Michael Quincey met with the Diocesan Finance Committee to present the proposal from St Robert of Newminster Parish for a Narthex with disabled access and toilet facilities. This proposal was then put to the Diocesan Board of Directors in early December. As of this week, we still have no news from the Board of Directors as to whether we have been granted permission to seek an architect and begin preliminary works. Without this permission we cannot do anything else.

School Masses

- Thursday 6th February - St Robert's Yr3 and Yr 4
- Wednesday 12th February - St Bede's Early Years and Key Stage 1
- Thursday 20th February - St Robert's Yr 1 and Yr 2
- Wednesday 12th March - St Bede's Key Stage 2
- Thursday 13th March - St Robert's Nursery and Reception
- Wednesday 26th March - St Bede's Early Years and Key Stage 1
- Wednesday 9th April - St Bede's End of Term Mass - Whole School

Minister of Holy Communion Needed

Please Note ... that if you are an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and are willing to visit the sick and housebound, you must have the relevant DBS check that allows you to do those visits. There are two categories of Extraordinary Ministers apparently, one which allows visits to the sick and one which doesn't. It may be worthwhile checking to make sure you have the correct one for your ministry.



Crib Figures Repair (St Robert's Morpeth)

Is anyone good at repairing statues? Our outside crib figures have been damaged during the year, whilst in storage, but we still displayed them as we had no other option. As they are now back in storage, we have the chance to repair them. Are you able to do it?



Newsletter Via Email

We now have 58 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.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will travel on Friday 25th July – Friday 1st August 2025. Full details and online booking is available now on the 'Tangney Tours' Website, the tour operator for the diocesan pilgrimage. Choice of nine hotels, flying direct to Lourdes from Newcastle International Airport. www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle



St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be held on Wednesday 12th February at 7.30 pm in the Upper Meeting Room of the Church hall.



St Robert's Senior Parishioners' Social

The annual social afternoon for St Robert's Senior Parishioners will be held on Saturday 15th February from 3pm to 6pm. All parishioners over the age of 70 and their spouses are cordially invited. Those who have come previously will receive a personal invitation, but we cannot know who else is entitled to come so if you are eligible but have not come previously please put your name and phone number on the list at the back of church or on the notice board in the church hall. Please indicate if you would require help with transport. As usual there will be free raffle at the end of the social and we would welcome donations of prizes for this. Please give them to a member of the SVP or leave them in the presbytery clearly marked with what they are for. Also we would be delighted if some people could volunteer to make cakes - again there is a list at the back of church for this. Thank you.

First Holy Communion Preparation

Session Six of the First Holy Communion preparation will be held this week. The children at St Bede's will meet on Tuesday 4th February, from 3.30pm – 4.30pm, at St Bede's Church Hall, Bedlington and those from St Robert's will meet on Thursday 6th February from 3.30pm – 4.30pm in St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth



St Bede's Church Flower Arrangers

The flower arrangers at St Bede's Church are appealing for support from some young members of the parish. They say that their "youngest arranger is 75 years old, we really need some more recruits". Would you be able and willing to join the Bedlington flower arrangers team? If you don't know anything about flower arranging, this is not a problem ...you will be very welcome to accompany a current flower arranger to see how it works before deciding if it is for you. Please give your name and phone number to Father Peter, Deacon Stephen or send an email to the Parish email address and we will get back to you.



St Robert of Newminster Church Flower Arrangers

We all appreciate flowers decorating the church. At St Robert of Newminster Church, we need more volunteers to help with the flower arranging, no previous experience necessary. If you can help please speak to Christine Stansfield ☎ 07949745015 or Pat Rathbone ☎ 07823476486



New to The Parish?

There have been a number of new parishioners to both St Bede's Parish and St Robert's Parish in recent months. You are all very welcome and we hope you feel at home in one of our churches. If you are new to our Parish or even if you have just moved house recently 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.



Life in the Spirit Seminars

The Life in the Spirit Seminar 2025 is taking place in St Aidan's Church, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, every Thursday until the 27th February from 7.00pm – 8.30pm each evening.

- 6th February: a talk on Receiving God's Gifts from Pat Kennedy and testimony from Christine Dixon.
- 13th February: a talk on Baptism in the Holy Spirit from Fr Shaun O'Neill and testimony from Alun Sunny.
- 20th February: a talk from Deacon Frank O'Neill on Growth and testimony from Susan Picola.
- 27th February: a talk from Bishop Stephen Wright on Transformation in Christ and testimony from Santhosh Joseph.

Word on Fire Conference in London

Join Bishop Robert Barron from the USA, and others, for the Evangelisation & Culture Conference from 21st - 22nd February in London. It will be at Excel London, right in the heart of London's historic Royal Docks, just 10 minutes from Canary Wharf and 12 minutes from the City. To proclaim Christ in the culture, we must know Christ; and to know Christ, we must know Scripture. As St. Jerome observed, "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ." But in order to uncover the spiritual and theological meaning of the Bible, we need to take a genuinely Catholic approach: reading it within the context of the great and beautiful chorus of voices from across the centuries of the Church's tradition. Join us in London this February for our first-ever conference on the Bible. www.wordonfire.org/the-bible-event. [Conference Tickets cost £109 + travel + accommodation].

Choir Practices

Our Choir assists the singing for our 11am Mass each Sunday and on special occasions, such as Christmas. The 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 11am Mass.





Masses, Intentions and Services This Week



	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 1st February 2025 <i>Weekday</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Audrey Finlay 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Deceased Mbrs Monaghan Family
Sunday 2nd February Presentation of the Lord	9am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 3rd February <i>Weekday / St Blaise St Angsar</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: People of the Parish
Tuesday 4th February <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Audrey Finlay	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 5th February <i>St Agatha</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: John and Catherine McGinn
Thursday 6th February <i>St Paul Miki and Companions</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am Mass: Jan Holland and Family	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 7th 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 Mass: Brian Macy
Saturday 8th February <i>Weekday / St Jerome Emiliani / St Josephine Bakhita</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Pat Fanning (DS) 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions 12.30pm Baptism: Aidan Romal	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 9th February Fifth Sunday of the Year	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Jack and Sheila Brown	

The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for February 2025



For vocations to the priesthood and religious life: Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



St Robert's Church Ministries		Readers		Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion		Welcomers	
2 nd February	9am	Neil McCole	Chris Smith	Eileen Harber	Gerry Harber	Pat Rathbone	Linda Hood
2 nd February	11am	Jan Holland	Veronica Shearer	Elizabeth Dixon	Gillian Davison	Julie McMorrow	Tom McMorrow
9 th February	9am	Connie Reardon	Andrew Gorman	Andrea Mitchell	Tony McLaughlin	Anne Beattie	Chris Smith
9 th February	11am	Emma Halliday	Gail Swift	Mary Beaton	Jan Holland	Gillian Davison	Elizabeth Dixon

St Robert's Counting Teams

5th February: K Brown, S Garbutt

12th February: J Carr, J Shepherd, J Rice

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, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY. The cost is £15.00 per person. Catering: Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. Booking Deadline is Friday 7 March 2025. Please book your place by contacting the Parish Office as soon as possible.

Donation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project is asking for donations. Regular items needed are Toilet Rolls, Individual packets of biscuits, tinned tomatoes, tins of fish and Chickpeas. In addition, they also need ... Pasta, Flour, Table Salt, Cooking oil, Tinned fruit, Tea and Coffee, Porridge and Cereals, Spices & Dried Herbs, Custard or Rice Pudding, Rice (standard size packets), Sugar (standard size packets), Cooking Sauces e.g., pasta sauce, Condiments (Ketchup / Mayo / Jams), Washing-up liquid and Surface & Toilet cleaners, Shampoo and / 2-in-1 Conditioner, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Male & female deodorants, 'Bags for Life' and Nappies. If you can help, please leave in the boxes that are in the entrances of St Bede's and St Robert's Church.

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.

LENT begins: Wednesday 5th March 2025

Donate to your Parish Online

You are now able to make a donation to your parish via the Diocesan Website. Click onto <https://diocesahn.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.

Gift Aid Scheme

If you are a Tax Payer and you give a donation regularly to our Church you can be in the Gift Aid scheme, with an extra 25% of your donation claimed back through HMRC. At no extra cost, just a signature on a form, you can help your parish. Please contact Peter Smith at St Robert's Church, or Mary our Parish Secretary, or Fr Peter. Please note that Gift Aid Forms have been updated, and so if setting up a new Gift Aid Donation, your form must be one of these new forms, available from the Parish Office.

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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"
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#### Bedlington

Sort Code 40-34-18  
Account Number 81163620  
Name of Account "DHN Bedlington St Bede"