

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

# Palm Sunday – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Here we are again at the beginning of Holy Week, but what is it that makes Holy Week holy? As we process into Church on Palm Sunday waving our palms or weaving them into crosses, it's tempting to feel that this is all just a commemoration of the past. But if Holy Week doesn't impact on our lives a little more with each passing year, then it really is just a story about something that happened a very long time ago.



It's the very first 'Palm Sunday' and the excitement is growing like wildfire. Jesus rides into Jerusalem and his followers throw down palms and robes. Only Jesus seems aware that something is very wrong with this triumphant parade. The followers are misguided. They think that Jesus has come like some great military deliverer to overthrow the authorities. But in truth, Jesus doesn't ride into Jerusalem on a stallion with great might and power, he rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and he comes in peace, humility and servitude. He comes to stand up for what he believes without any hint of compromise or aggression. He comes ready to lay down his life. He comes to show humanity what real love means and he brings the promise of his heavenly kingdom for all those who can realise his teaching.



Those original Palm Sunday crowds had a very poor grasp of what Jesus was about, and so it's no wonder that by the end of Holy Week they had switched to shouts of 'Crucify!' Like those original Palm Sunday crowds, we celebrate Jesus' life, but we celebrate for the right reasons. Hopefully we are not celebrating someone we think can wave a magic wand and make everything right for us. Holy Week brings into sharp focus what Christianity should be about. Each year we endeavour to make Holy Week holy with greater insight and a greater maturity of faith. Each Holy Week we endeavour to become better ambassadors for Christ.



**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, remembering especially the Holy Father Pope Francis, 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

St Bede's Church 5<sup>th</sup> April: **£144.75** / St Robert's Church **£463.49**

#### CAFOD Family Fast Day

Very many thanks to those who supported CAFOD Family Fast Day recently. At St Bede's Church we raised **£207.10** and at St Robert's Church we raised **£338.31**.

#### Soup Lunches



Many thanks to the many people who have supported the Soup Lunches throughout Lent, and to all who have contributed practically by making soup and offering other items of food for the lunches. Everyone's support is greatly appreciated. Totals collected for CAFOD and Marys Meals will be announced soon.



#### CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal


Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there, to support families affected by the disaster. Any donations you make for the Myanmar Earthquake Appeal will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/myanmar](http://cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to c70450 to donate £10. Donations can be handed in to the Presbytery marked CAFOD MYANMAR or EARTHQUAKE.



#### 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.

#### Contactless Payments

Please note St Robert's Church now has a machine enabling  contactless card or mobile payments.

#### Gift Aid Claims

St Bede's Church has received **£3,547.14** and St Robert's Church received **£9,695.76** in Gift Aid Claims from HMRC. Many thanks to all who 'Gift Aid' their donation and who have helped towards this. If you make a regular contribution to the Church, either by Standing Order or in person at Church and you pay tax, please consider being a part of the Gift Aid Scheme. All it needs is a simple form being completed. If you would like more information about this, please contact our Gift Aid organisers, Mary Carter at St Bede's or Peter Smith at St Robert's.

*giftaid it*

#### NBF Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

Many thanks to all who contributed to this collection last Sunday for the Northern Brethren Fund. This Fund remains open until 27<sup>th</sup> April for anyone who may wish to make a further donation towards the work of offering relief grants to our sick and retired priests. Legacies and regular donations are always welcome for this Fund. Please speak to Fr Peter if interested.



#### 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. Tea and Coffee (and sometimes Toast) is also available on a Friday after Mass at St Bede's.

#### Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Palm Sunday at 4pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington and 5pm at St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth and then on Tuesday at 10.30am at St Robert of Newminster Church.



#### Ministries for Holy Week

As usual we need Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Welcomers, for the Masses and Services of Holy Week. It is still a couple of weeks away but a volunteers form for the Easter Celebrations is now at the back of church; please sign up if you are able to participate.



#### Palm Sunday Mass

This weekend all our Masses begin with the Blessing of Palms. At St Bede's Church this Blessing will take place in the Church Hall which is where we ask everyone to gather.

#### Holy Places Collection

The Retiring Collection TODAY, Palm Sunday, is for the Catholic Community of the Holy Land (Holy Places) - the religious sites in the Holy Land and the Catholic Christian Community that lives there. Please pray for the desperate situation there at the moment.



#### Chrism Mass

This year the Diocesan Chrism Mass will be celebrated on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April** at 11am at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Everyone is welcome. Please note that this is a change of day from Thursday to Wednesday.

#### Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

On Holy Thursday, the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7pm at St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth. At the end of the Mass there will be "Watching" until 10pm, to which you are invited to be part of. This marks the time in the Garden of Gethsemane after the Last Supper when Jesus invited his disciple to spend time with him in prayer. This will conclude with Night Prayer at 9.50pm.

#### Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

The solemn Office of Readings and Morning Prayer will be prayed together at St Robert's Church, Morpeth on Good Friday and Holy Saturday at 9.45am. If you are free, please try come along and pray these important offices of the Church

#### Children's Stations of the Cross

We will celebrate a Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.30am on Good Friday Morning in St Robert of Newminster Church. All Children and young families are welcome.

#### Good Friday Ecumenical Service

Morpeth's Ecumenical Procession of Witness will take place as usual on Good Friday. Please meet at St James Church at 11.30am and then there will be an informal walk down to the Market Place for the Service at approximately 11.45am.

#### Good Friday Church Services

Good Friday is the only day the Catholic Church does not celebrate a Mass, but we do have Services which commemorate the Passion and of Jesus Christ. This Service will be held at 3pm and there will be a Service in both St Bede's Church and St Robert of Newminster Church on Good Friday afternoon.

#### Day of Fast and Abstinence

Good Friday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence. Fasting is for all aged 18-59 years while Abstinence, ie abstaining from meat or some other luxury, is for all aged over 14.

#### Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil will be celebrated on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington. Please note that there will not be a 5.30pm Vigil Mass on the same evening. Mass will begin in the Church Garden with the Blessing of the Fire and the New Paschal Candle, followed by the Exultet and Vigil with four Old Testament Readings, before we begin the first Mass of Easter and celebrate the Reception into Full Communion of two new members of the Parish Community.



#### Welcoming Into the Church our Journey in Faith Group

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April, during the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate the Adult Reception into Full Communion of Gemma Phillips and David Knight. On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April, during the 9am Easter Sunday Mass, we will celebrate the Adult Reception into Full Communion of Kelley Coffey. During the 11am Mass on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, Divine Mercy Sunday, we will celebrate the Adult Baptism and Reception into Full Communion of Augustine Morrissey. Please pray for these four members of our community and for their families and friends at this very special time.

### Welcome to Visitors

If you are on holiday and visiting our church during your holiday to the North East and Northumberland, then we hope you feel welcome here. If you're at Mass, introduce yourself to Fr Peter ... he loves to know where everyone's from!

### Journey in Faith Group

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith Group will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in St Robert's Presbytery.

### Welcomers

St Robert of Newminster Parish are looking for more parishioners to join the existing team of Welcomers for the 9am and 11am Sunday Masses at St Robert's Church. For further information please contact Father Peter or Elizabeth Dixon

### 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!



### Preparing for 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 8<sup>th</sup> at St Bede's Church. Parents should contact Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen so we can arrange to meet and make note of 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.



### The Partnership Sacrament of Confirmation 2025

Many thanks to all who have signed up for Confirmations.

- Bishop Stephen will be with us at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate a Partnership Mass at 7pm for these young people.
- **A Parents' Meeting** will be held at St Bede's on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 6pm. Preparation will begin on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.
- Any young people in Year 9 and above, who are Baptised and have celebrated their First Holy Communion, can be Confirmed. Please scan this QR code to complete an Online Application Form.
- We could still do with one or two younger adults to help with catechesis, and to be present for Safeguarding Purposes ... DBS cheques need to be completed for volunteers
- Catechesis will involve Sycamore Course videos and YouCat



### First Holy Communion Preparation

There is another preparation session in the diary for 6<sup>th</sup> May (Bedlington) and 8<sup>th</sup> May (Morpeth). The First Holy Communion Mass at St Bede's Church will be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, and, as there are only three children from two families involved this year, the Holy Communion celebration will take place during the 5.30pm Vigil Mass. The Mass at St Robert of Newminster Church will be celebrated at 10am on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May, for the sixteen children at St Robert's making their First Holy Communion. The final catechesis sessions will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June (Bedlington) and 5<sup>th</sup> June (Morpeth). Please keep them all in your prayers.



### Assisted Dying Bill

The Bishops of England and Wales Pastoral Letter concerning the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is encouraging us to oppose this Bill, which will be coming back to the House of Commons on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025 for further debate. Since its introduction, there have been ongoing discussions and some of the "safeguards" that were in the original document have already been removed, making the proposed legislation less safe for the vulnerable than it was originally! This changes many things and more people are unsure about how safe this legislation will ever be. It appears both David Smith MP for parishioners in Morpeth and Ian Lavery MP for parishioners in Bedlington, will both oppose this Bill, but never let us be complacent ... write to them to keep the message of opposition alive. The charity **Right to Life UK** has a simple online mechanism to help you contact your MP the website **Care Not Killing** - [www.carenotkilling.org.uk](http://www.carenotkilling.org.uk) has something very similar as well.

### Good Friday Volunteer required

This a request for a couple of volunteers to take three tables, water boiler etc to the Market Place on Good Friday for the Catholic Women's League. The tables need to be there for about 11am and returned to St Robert's Church Hall at about 1pm

### Diocesan Reflections

The Faith and Mission Department of the Diocese have produced a series of daily reflections for Holy Week which are available on this link <https://bit.ly/DHNLentReflections>.

### Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

The Diocesan Finance Office has been able to make a claim for St Robert's Parish through the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and have informed us that the sum of **£473.03** has been received and credited to our Account.

### St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of St Robert's Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 7.00 pm (note time!) in the upper Meeting Room of the Church Hall. 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.

### Finance Committee Meetings

- St Bede's Finance Committee Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm
- St Robert's Finance Committee Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April at 6pm

### Coffee Morning: Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre

Peter Smith will be holding a Coffee Morning with a Cake Stall and Raffle in St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025, from 10am—12noon, to help raise much needed funds towards supporting medical / nurse training & equipment at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Tanzania. It would be wonderful if you could support the event. Many thanks. Peter

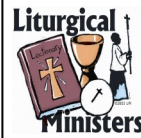


### Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year runs from Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May. The Morpeth Christian Aid Committee are organising a 'house to house' collection and they will be looking for volunteers to help with this. Details will follow in coming weeks. Please watch here for further details

### New Lay Leaders Course

A course to prepare new Lay Liturgical Leaders, to lead Services of Word and Communion, is being held by the Diocesan Liturgical Office and begins on 13<sup>th</sup> May in Newcastle. Both St Bede's and St Robert's Parish could do with an extra leader or two - Bedlington only has one and at Morpeth there has been some standing down while others are going through illness and treatment. If you feel you could be the person able to lead Services of Word and Communion in our Church, please speak to Fr Peter. Fr Peter is asked to assess that those who do this are both willing, able and capable of leading these Services. The organisers also request that new candidates must be able to attend all six meetings that the diocese offers. There are six sessions, which helps new Liturgical Leaders of Celebrations of the Word and Holy Communion learn about this church ministry. The Course begins on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and will be held at St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE15 7PY. Please if you have the time for this, give it some thought and speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible as names have to be submitted by the end of April.



### Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

Divine Mercy Sunday is the Sunday after Easter (27<sup>th</sup> April) and St Aidan's Parish at Ashington will be holding a special afternoon to mark this, with ...

- 1.30pm Enthronement of Merciful Jesus
- 1.30pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Testimony and Confessions
- 2.15pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Mass
- 3pm Veneration of Image of Divine Mercy

### Morpeth Gathering

The Morpeth Northumbrian Gathering takes places on Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please note that St Robert's Church Hall will be used during the day on the Saturday for various Gathering Events (see 2025prog.pdf)



# Masses, Intentions and Services This Week

	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
<b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10am Mass:</b> 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11am Mass:</b> Mr P Onono 5pm Stations of the Cross	4pm Stations of the Cross
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Monday in Holy Week</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Tuesday in Holy Week</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Anthony McGrady 10.30am Stations of the Cross	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April</b> <i>Wednesday in Holy Week</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <b>10am Mass:</b> Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Holy Thursday</b>	<b>7.00pm</b> Leo Horrax Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, <i>Followed by "Watching" until 10pm</i>  <b>9.50pm</b> Night Prayer	
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>9.45am</b> Office of Readings and Morning Prayer <b>10.30am</b> Children's Stations of the Cross <b>3pm</b> Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord	<b>3pm</b> Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord
<b>Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b>	<b>9.45am</b> Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	<b>7pm</b> Easter Vigil: People of the Parish <i>(with Reception into Full Communion of Gemma Phillips and David Knight)</i>
<b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <i>(with Reception into Full Communion of Kelly Coffey)</i> <b>11am Mass:</b> Alan Smith	



### The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for April 2025

For the use of the new technologies: Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.



St Robert's Church Ministries		Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Welcomers
13 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>9am</b>	Damian Butler    Connie Reardon	Tricia Walker    Tony McLaughlin	Chris Smith    Pat Rathbone
13 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>11am</b>	Lynn Cole    Ben Cole	Elizabeth Dixon    Veronica Shearer	Gillian Davison    Elizabeth Dixon
20 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>9am</b>	<i>See volunteer list at back of church</i>	<i>See volunteer list at back of church</i>	<i>See volunteer list at back of church</i>
20 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>11am</b>	<i>See volunteer list at back of church</i>	<i>See volunteer list at back of church</i>	<i>See volunteer list at back of church</i>

#### St Robert's Counting Teams

15<sup>th</sup> April: B McCole, V Shearer, M Beaton

22<sup>nd</sup> April: G Snaith, L Hood

#### The National Shrine of Our Lady

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham has a national fundraising campaign to support Jubilee initiatives and ongoing projects at the Shrine and Basilica in Norfolk. If you wish to make a donation, to support the Basilica and Shrine and help promote devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham, the details are:-

Account:            Walsingham Trust  
Bank Name:        Lloyds Bank  
Sort Code:         30-99-77  
Account No:       28909560



#### 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 non-perishable food to church and place in the boxes in the Church porches.

#### Newsletter Via Email

If you 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 Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking to appoint to the following vacancies:

- **Parish Secretary, St Bede and Ss Peter and Paul, South Shields:** 12 hours a week, permanent contract. Closing date: 21<sup>st</sup> April
- **Chief Executive Officer of the Youth Ministry Trust:** based at the Emmaus Village, Consett – full-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 25<sup>th</sup> April
- **Head of Human Resources:** based at the Diocesan Offices in Newcastle – full-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 27<sup>th</sup> April

Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk/job-vacancies) for full details



## Palm Sunday