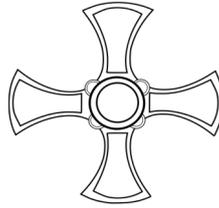


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**Saint Robert of Newminster  
Catholic Church**  
Oldgate  
MORPETH  
NE61 1QF

## **PARISHES OF THE BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND**

**Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott**

St Robert's Presbytery, Collingwood House, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF  
Tel 01670 513410 | Email [morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) | [peterjstott@aol.com](mailto:peterjstott@aol.com)

**Parish Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter**

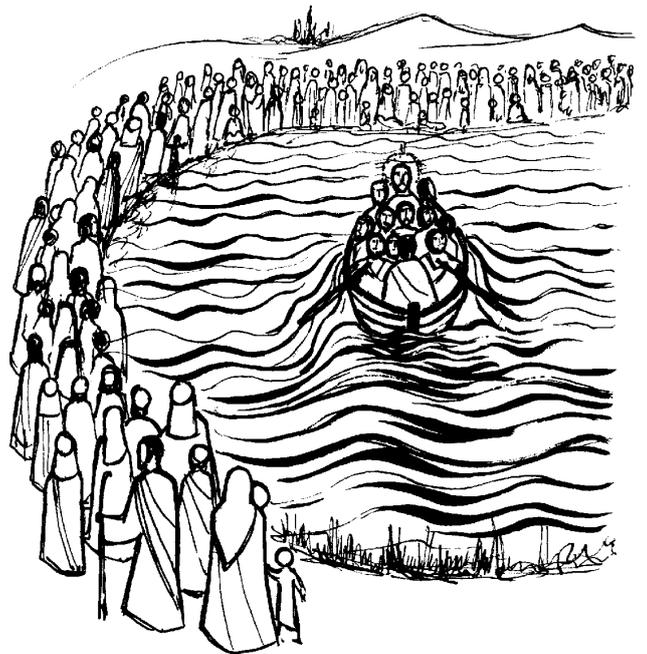
St Bede's Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS  
Tel 01670 823258 | Email [bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk)

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

# **Sunday 18th July 2021 - Sixteenth Sunday [B]**

It's the end of the day and you have been on your feet for the last twelve hours. If one more person makes demands on your good nature you will surely snap. Enough is enough; it's time to retreat. It's when you are feeling this desperate need for your own space that you can perhaps best appreciate the compassion of Jesus in today's gospel.

Exhausted by the demands of the crowds, Jesus and his apostles escaped by boat to find a quiet place to rest. Unfortunately, the crowds worked out where Jesus was off to and beat him to it. Jesus stepped out of the boat to be greeted by the same crowd he had just left behind. He might have been forgiven at this point for snapping, for showing complete exasperation. Instead, Jesus is moved by pity because 'they are like sheep without a shepherd.' These are people who long to be taught, or long to find cures for loved ones. These are people who have no one else to turn to but Jesus, and so Jesus sets about putting their needs before his own.



Jesus is not promoting a work-until-you-drop ethic here. It's important to remember in this story that Jesus was showing his apostles equal compassion. The apostles had just returned from their mission to evangelise. They had travelled many miles, and spent many hours in preaching and in driving out unclean spirits. Jesus' ministry had been multiplied by twelve and it didn't take a genius to guess that the small party of men, would suddenly be swamped by excited crowds making hungry demands. Jesus clearly saw that his apostles needed rest and it was for this reason he suggested they make a get away.

We live a lifestyle nowadays where time has become telescoped. We are surrounded by devices and modes of transport designed to save us time, yet we are left with a horrible feeling that somehow, instead of creating more time we have simply ended up living in a fast lane. We work faster, travel faster and eat faster. We rush to fill our lives with more work and yet more work still. We take work home with us from the office and even take our work on holiday with us. Retreating from the world is more important now than ever. We all need time to recharge our batteries both physically and spiritually. We all need time to slow down and decide where our priorities really lie.



At this time of the Church's Year, we are asked to pray for: A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights; Europe; Human Life; and Seafarers. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; we pray for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery; and at this difficult time of the coronavirus we pray for all suffering from COVID-19; please remember Fr Peter's dad, Morton, who is seriously ill and who is now in the Hospice in Hartlepool; for all who have died recently, including **Jack Johnson** of Abbey Meadows, Morpeth, whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 19th July at 11.30am at St Robert's Church; for **Kathleen Elizabeth O'Donnell** [Bedlington] who died on Wednesday; for **Michael Craggs** [Netherton] whose Funeral Service takes place on Tuesday 27th July at Copwen Crematorium; for **John Carter** [Bedlington] whose Funeral Service takes place on Tuesday 27th July at 1pm at St Bede's Church; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Updated Coronavirus Advice

On Friday afternoon, 16th July, Bishop Robert issued an email to all parishes with updated Coronavirus information. In his email Bishop Robert states,

"As you will be aware the Government has confirmed that it will proceed with taking the next step on the Roadmap out of lockdown, with most restrictions set to be lifted from Monday 19th July.

This comes at a time when COVID cases are rising rapidly across all areas of the Diocese, with some areas recording the highest infection rates in the country. When this is considered alongside the more elderly demographic of the Diocese, it would present a very serious situation if we were to abandon our existing COVID controls.

The Government will remove the legal requirement to comply with many (if not all) COVID controls on 19th July and leave it to individuals to exercise responsibility and judgement. This means that some aspects of the "Coronavirus Act 2020" may be revoked or amended and many (if not all) of the resulting COVID regulations made under the Act, may be revoked or amended.

Regardless of the changes to Coronavirus legislation and GOV.UK guidance, organisations still have a general duty under the "Health and Safety at Work Act 1974" to protect the health and safety of everyone who is affected by their activities. One of the regulations made under the '74 Act, "The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999", details a specific legal duty to manage risks by carrying out a risk assessment. This still applies and includes an assessment of COVID risks.

The Diocese has done this for all its churches and church halls that are currently open. Despite a relaxation of legally enforceable controls made under Coronavirus legislation, the remaining requirement to carry out a risk assessment gives the Diocese the ability to introduce (or retain) whatever COVID controls we feel are appropriate based upon the circumstances and risks in the Diocese.

The Government has given us the freedom to make our own decisions but has urged us all to be cautious. Included for your information is the link to the latest Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) Guidance dated 15th July and entitled COVID-19 Route Map: Step 4 Guidance. At this stage, given our Diocesan circumstances, I am not suggesting that we adopt this CBCEW Guidance in its entirety. It is however now possible to celebrate Life Cycle Events with numbers up to the safe capacity of your church as identified by your site specific risk assessment. Please find attached for ease of reference v15 of the Diocesan Risk Assessment for the Return of Congregations to Church and v11 of the Diocesan Handbook for the Re-opening of Churches which still apply.

**I have taken both Clergy and Lay advice and due to the very high infection rates across all areas of the Diocese, I ask you to retain all of the COVID control measures and cleaning protocols that you are currently following in all our churches and church halls until at least the end of August 2021.**

The virus is expected to peak in the middle of August, following which in September there will be a review of available data and guidance to allow a decision to be made regarding controls and protocols. If the data allows, we may then take a cautious and staged approach to the relaxation of controls and protocols."

Bishop Robert Byrne

### Booking for a Mass

Following Bishop Robert's decision not to ease covid restrictions, you must continue to book for Mass at our Church on a Sunday, until at least the end of August, perhaps even into September.

To book your place at the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church

Please call St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258

**Monday - Friday, 6.30pm - 8.30pm**

To book your place at Sunday Mass at St Robert's Church

Please call St Robert's Presbytery ☎ 01670 513 410

**Please note the change of time for ringing is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am - 12noon**

### Contact Tracing App

We will only be keeping a record of all who come to Sunday Mass, so we ask that for weekday Mass you to check in for the Track and Trace system using the QR code that we have available in both Churches. When you come to Church, open the app on your phone and scan the code to record your presence. Please remember that if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 you should not attend Church. *The classic signs of coronavirus reported since the start of the pandemic have been loss of smell or taste, a new persistent cough, and a fever. A headache, sore throat and runny nose are now also thought to be symptoms of the virus, instead of a cough and loss of smell or taste - though a fever is still common.*



### Volunteer Stewards

We were all thinking that our stewards were going to get a rest, but I am now asking if it would be possible for our stewards to remain in place until the Diocese gives us the permission needed to change. Some may want to stand down, others who have not yet helped may be willing to help out throughout August. Please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible, as new rotas will have to be issued for August this week.

### First Holy Communion Masses

Almost all the children have now celebrated their First Holy Communion. We will have one more at the 9am Mass on Sunday 25th July. We congratulate them and hope that they, along with the families, will come to join us regularly at Mass. Many thanks are extended to all the staff in our schools who have helped prepare the children and to their parents and families for guiding them through this time of preparation. Long may it continue.

### Newsletter by Email

If you would like to go onto our mailing list for the Newsletter please send your email address to Fr Peter at St Robert's and you will be added and it will be emailed each weekend. Please feel free to print off copies for yourself and if possible print and pass them on to others.



### Farewell to the Coen Family



Seamus Coen has been living in Scotland for a while now because of his work in the Rusacks Hotel at St Andrews, but this weekend we say goodbye also to Lisa and Orla, as they move to their new home and join Seamus. We thank Lisa for her contribution at work at St Robert's School and also her volunteering with the Children's Liturgy and the occasional musical interlude on the keyboard. We wish them all well in their move north to St Andrews.

### Preparing for Baptism

The next meeting takes place in September at St Bede's Church and the next meeting at St Robert's Church will be in October. Parents requesting Baptism for a child are asked to contact us to make arrangements for these Baptism Preparation Meetings. Once parents have attended a preparation meeting, they are asked to meet with Fr Peter to make arrangements and set a date for the Baptism. Please note that one parent must be a baptised catholic for Baptism in the Catholic Church and it is also hoped that the catholic parent or even the whole family has been to Mass recently, especially as at the Baptism the parents will be promising to bring their child up "in the practice of the faith".





### New Altar Servers

We are always looking for and encouraging new young people to join our team of altar servers in both parishes. If anyone is willing to join our team at St Bede's or at St Robert's, please contact Fr Peter.

### Reopening our Kitchen and Church Halls

As we have been told to retain our covid protocols until at least the end of August, it seems pointless in cleaning our Kitchens and Hall until closer to the time that we are able to officially open them.

### Young Peoples Prayer Group

A Prayer Group for Young People, in the local area of Bedlington and Morpeth and surrounding areas, aged 16 - 25+ years, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, and ending with Benediction, as well as some quiet time for private prayer, and even an opportunity for Confession, will be held at 7.30pm in St Robert's Church on the following dates ...



Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	

### Rebuilding our Teams of Catechists

One of the important focuses for trying to get back to 'normal', or indeed just rebuilding our parishes, is to re-establish our team of catechists, groups of people who are willing to help pass on their faith to others and prepare people for the sacraments. We already have many catechists but we also encourage more people to come forward to assist with Baptism preparation, First Confession and Holy Communion preparation, (especially if there are children not in Catholic school) Confirmation preparation, Marriage Preparation with Marriage Care, Journey in Faith for Adults. The Diocese is setting up new structures for training of catechists in the coming year and hopefully, those in our parishes should try to join in with any diocesan preparation, both to refresh and renew those currently involved and to assist other parishioners who are eager to get involved. Please contact Father Peter for more information.

### World Day of Prayer for Grandparents

Next Sunday, 25th July, is the First World Day of Prayer for Grandparents. The Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life has produced some documents to celebrate this Day and these are available now on the diocesan website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

### Counting Teams

In coming weeks we will be aiming to resume our Counting Teams. Diocesan guidance informs us that there should be 3 to 4 counters every time, for the security, safety and protection of all involved. If you are already a counter and willing to continue, or you are a new person willing to help your parish, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible.

### "Sing along Live Hymns Old and New"

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Village are hosting this event at Allensford on Sunday 15th August. There will be a BBQ, Quiz, sing-along; a day outdoors to reconnect with others. More details to follow soon.



### The Wednesday Word

"Wednesday Word" Reflections on the Sunday readings, for both adults and children can be accessed at [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) This is a wonderful resource to help focus on our Sunday Readings. Edited by Dom Henry Wansborough OSB of Ampleforth Abbey, it is a wonderful resource for both parishes and for Schools to help focus on the forthcoming Sunday readings.



### Organ Fund

Many thanks to everyone who has made a donation towards the repairs of the organ at St Robert's Church, which was undertaken in January and February of this year. We are very grateful for your generosity. Donations can be handed in any time. For payments via BACS please contact the Parish Office for details.

### Catholic Awards for Young People

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle offers our young people the opportunity to witness to their faith in their local and parish Communities by participating in two award schemes. Young people aged 10-18 years old (Year 6 - 13) can take part in the **Faith in Action Award** through their school, parish or organisation. The Faith in Action Award is accessible to, and inclusive of, all young people, regardless of academic ability. The **Pope St John Paul II Award** is a faith achievement award for young people between the age of 16 and 18. It is non-competitive, inclusive, flexible and voluntary. The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society. It enables young people become more aware of the teaching and role of the Catholic Church in the world and to engage at a deep level with Christ. The Award was created to commemorate the late Pope Saint John Paul II who was so committed to young people and who had such belief and confidence in them. Further information from Fr Peter if interested.

### Red Mission Boxes

Many thanks to those who have contributed. We have banked a further £118.00 from St Bede's Parish

### Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals regularly asks us to support them with funds for their work, and all that we donate helps them tremendously. However, they also know that they can't do without our prayers and they are aware that many people support their mission through prayer. They would like to invite you to receive their monthly prayer email 'Loaves and Fishes', which focuses on the different ways we can reflect on and pray for their work. To sign up to their mailing list, visit - [marysmeals.org.uk/prayer](http://marysmeals.org.uk/prayer) - and sign up to receive the email



### Food Donations

As you are unable to leave donations in Church, due to the Diocesan Health and Safety restrictions, there is still a great need for this food. The most useful items are: tinned fish, tinned tomatoes, tinned chickpeas, biscuits, rice, sugars and toilet rolls. Toiletries such as shampoo, shower gel, deodorant and toothpaste are also very useful. Please do not donate tinned meat or baked beans. All donations can be left with Donald Marr at 3 Cottingvale, Morpeth. Please phone ☎ 01670 505 573 before, to arrange a drop off time, and leave a message if there is no reply. Alternatively, you could leave donations with Gerry and Eileen Harber, 22, Dacre Street, Morpeth Please phone ☎ 01670 517 829. Thankyou.



### "CAFOD Hexham and Newcastle" are hiring

Could you inspire Catholics to participate in the Church's mission, working to overcome poverty and injustice? Do you want to work for CAFOD and encourage support and partnership within the Church? CAFOD are looking for a Community Participation Coordinator to work in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. Closing date 11 July 2021. More information on CAFOD Careers ([changeworknow.co.uk](http://changeworknow.co.uk)) Martin Brown, Community Participation Manager, North East – CAFOD, ☎ 07796 941 884



### Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies 2021-2022

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The CCRS course programme is now available for 2021-2022 and there is a short presentation shown on the Diocesan website: [www.edurcdhn.org.uk/courses/courses\\_ccrs.php](http://www.edurcdhn.org.uk/courses/courses_ccrs.php) If anyone would like further information, please contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email [education@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:education@diocesehn.org.uk)



# Masses and Intentions this week

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b> <i>Weekday</i>	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> Deceased Members of Monaghan family	<i>St Bede, Bedlington</i> <i>St Bede, Bedlington</i>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Year B</b>	<b>9.00am Mass:</b> Jean & William White <b>11.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish	<i>St Robert, Morpeth</i> <i>St Robert, Morpeth</i>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b> <i>Weekday</i>	<b>11.30am Requiem Mass</b> Jack Johnson	<i>St Robert, Morpeth</i>
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b> <i>Weekday</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Thomas Foster Beattie (DD)	<i>St Robert, Morpeth</i>
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b> <i>Weekday</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Intentions of Eddie & Ellen Nixon (CP)	<i>St Bede, Bedlington</i>
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b> <i>St Mary Magdalene</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Deceased Friends (AB)	<i>St Robert, Morpeth</i>
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July</b> <i>St Bridget of Sweden</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Brian Gregory	<i>St Bede, Bedlington</i>
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July</b> <i>The Martyrs of the Diocese</i>	5.00pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> Private Intention (PS)	<i>St Bede, Bedlington</i> <i>St Bede, Bedlington</i>
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July</b> <b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year B</b>	<b>9.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11.00am Mass:</b> Paul Kelly (C&AO)	<i>St Robert, Morpeth</i> <i>St Robert, Morpeth</i>



## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for July 2021

Social Friendship: We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship



## The Year of St Joseph



Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

### Livestreaming Mass from St Robert of Newminster Church

Masses at St Robert of Newminster Church can now be viewed on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/StRobert>  
Masses are streamed live at 9am on Sunday, 10am on Tuesday and 10am Thursday, or as a recording on the above Parish YOUTUBE site anytime.



#### Diocesan Vacancies



A vacancy has arisen for the appointment of a Diocesan Communications and Marketing Officer, based in Newcastle. Closing date for applications is Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The Diocese is also advertising for the Parish Secretary Job at St Bede's at Bedlington. Please see visit the diocesan website at <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/hr/diovac.php> for all information on these jobs.

#### Ongoing Faith Witness Against Hassockfield

In October, the Home Office plans to open an Immigration Removal Centre at Hassockfield on the site of the former Medomsley Detention Centre. This will be for 80 women seeking asylum in the UK. The proposal is inhumane, unjust and incompatible with our faith which calls us to recognise the intrinsic dignity of each person. These women are people like ourselves who have the right to a place of safety and to be treated with respect and compassion. A monthly prayer vigil will be held at the barrier to Hassockfield on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm starting on Sunday 1st August. This will last for about 30 minutes and will incorporate a time of silent witness. Please support this with your prayer and, if at all possible, come along. For further information, please contact: [lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com)

#### Consent for the Live streaming

Please note: we are obliged to make everyone aware that Livestreaming is taking place at St Robert's Church. As some people may appear on screen during Mass we have to inform you that if you are a Reader, an Altar Server, or even a Minister of Holy Communion, and you appear on screen you must be informed that that is happening in St Robert's Church because "If a person is potentially identifiable from their image being captured on a recording / stream at Mass, this is possibly personal data and Data Protection regulations apply". Posters in church display this information also.

#### "Sunday – It is our Day" - news from our Bishops

"We are mindful of the certain fact that the Covid-19 virus is still circulating in society. Vaccines provide genuine protection against the worst effects of the virus, yet we recognise the legitimate fear on the part of some who otherwise desire to gather for Holy Mass. It is our continuing judgement, therefore, that it is not possible at the present time for all of the faithful to attend Mass on a Sunday thus fulfilling their duty to God. It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church."