

**Offertory Collection**  
4th March £198.55



**Lenten Alms:** Donations for Lenten Alms can be placed in the box in the wall, supporting the work of St Cuthbert's Care

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

This service for Women's World Day of Prayer has been re-scheduled for Friday 16th March at Stakeford Methodist Church. All are welcome.

**Stations of the Cross & Benediction**

We will celebrate Stations of the Cross followed by Benediction, every Sunday afternoon during Lent here at St Bede's at 4.00pm. Stations of the Cross are also celebrated at St Robert's Church at Morpeth, every Thursday evening at 7.00pm and Saturday morning at 10.30am, immediately after the 10am Mass.



**Meditation on the Passion of Christ**

There will be a special evening Service 'No Greater Love Than This' a meditation in song and picture, on the Passion of Jesus Christ, to be held here at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Wednesday 14th March at 7.00pm.

**Partnership Stations of the Cross**

Throughout Lent, we have celebrated "Partnership Stations of the Cross". The last of these will take place on Thursday 22nd March at 7.00pm at St. Robert of Newminster, Morpeth.

**Churches Together Lenten Lunches**

Bedlington Churches Together are serving Lenten lunches each Thursday at 12 noon during Lent at **Trinity Church**. Please come along and support us. [Soup and a bun will be provided by churches as follows: 8th March by Bedlington Christian Fellowship; 15th March and 22nd March by Trinity Church.



**Lenten Lunches at St Robert's.**

Lenten Lunches are served each Friday during the Season of Lent at St Robert's Church, Morpeth at 12noon. All welcome. All funds raised will go to CAFOD and Mary's Meals.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

We have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on a Friday morning before Mass and it is a wonderful time for quiet prayer. Please come along if you are able to. [It is important when coming into the Narthex on a Friday morning not to talk too loudly as your voices are easily heard in Church].

**Service of Reconciliation**

There will be a Partnership Service of Reconciliation, with several priests available for Confession, on Friday 23rd March at 7pm here at St Bede's, Bedlington. This is a good opportunity for people from across the partnership to come together and to join in this special service seeking forgiveness and peace from the Lord.

**Marriage Preparation Course**

A Marriage Preparation Course is being held at St Robert's on Saturday 17th March from 10am to 5pm. This will be led by Lyn and Ben Cole from St Robert's who have recently undergone extensive training with Marriage Care. It costs £50 per couple for the Marriage Preparation, and the parish will cover the costs of the day, as well as a Buffet Lunch, for those from the parish. Those getting married this year are asked to confirm their attendance at this meeting.

**Rosary on the Coast**

We have signed our Partnership up to take part in "Rosary on the Coast". This is being held on Sunday 29th April around the British coast. Our Partnership will meet at St Bartholomew's Anglican Church at Church Point, Newbiggin, but the Rosary will be prayed together outside, as an Act of Witness. Many thanks to the Churchwardens at St Bartholomew's for allowing use of their Church. You can find full details of this initiative on the website [www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk](http://www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk) and why we are doing this in the UK. We hope you will feel able to join in this great act of witness,



**Life Teen Group Volunteers**

Fr Peter would like to organise a "core group of adult volunteers", especially some young adults, who would be willing to help run a Life Teen Group for year 9 and above and also some catechesis for Years 5, 6, 7 and 8. We need parishioners who are able to share their faith with our young teenagers and present the material from Life Teen, and to support the work of our new Youth Coordinator on Life Teen. We need to start this as soon as possible, so that we can support our young people in their faith. A meeting will be held on Monday 19th March at 7pm at St Robert's. In the meantime, if you are interested please speak to Fr Peter.

**Opportunity for Confession during Lent**

We have Confessions regularly on a Saturday evening from 5pm—5.20pm. Have you thought of making that extra effort during Lent to go to Confession? Have you asked yourself when was the last time you were at Confession? Is it more than six months? Is it more than a year ago? Are you a young member of the Parish who hasn't been to Confession for some time? Confessions are also available on a Saturday morning between 11am and 12 noon at St Robert's Church, Morpeth .... Why not come along and experience God's love for us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**Chrism Mass**

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11am on Holy Thursday. At this Mass the Bishop gathers with his priests and the priests renew their Priestly Promises of Ordination. The Bishop also blesses the three Oils that are used in the Sacraments—Oil of Catechumens, Oil of Chrism and Oil of the Sick. Everyone welcome to attend the Mass.



**Hymn Book Amnesty**

Do you have a green hymn book from Church at home? Can you return it as soon as possible, as we need all our hymn books for our Easter Masses and Services.



**Mass Intention Envelopes**

It is very difficult receiving Offerings for Masses without an envelope. When requesting Mass Intentions please use the brown envelopes available in the Narthex and ensure the offerings are sealed inside. Thank you.

**Altar Servers for Holy Week**

Altar Servers are asked to let Deacon Stephen or Fr Peter know if they are able to serve any of the Holy Week Masses and Services.



**Holy Week and Easter**

This year we will be sharing our celebrations with the people from St Robert's Parish, Morpeth.

- The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7pm at St Robert's Church Morpeth and we encourage parishioners from St Bede's, Bedlington to go to Morpeth to join in the celebration there.
- Good Friday Services at 3pm will be held in both St Robert's and St Bede's Churches and both Fr Peter and Deacon Stephen will be able to lead these services.
- The Easter Vigil will be celebrated at St Bede's, Bedlington at 8pm and the parishioners from St Robert's are encouraged to attend the Vigil Mass at Bedlington.
- There will be only the 9am and 11am Masses on Easter Sunday at St Robert's. No 6pm Mass.



**Holy Week**

**Preparing for Holy Week and Easter**

Many thanks to those who attended the meeting to discuss practical preparations for Holy Week and Easter. We will be putting up a list of the various "jobs" that need to be done at our Masses. For those people who would like to get involved as musicians or in helping to lead the singing, there will be some practices for the music ...

- Wednesday 14th March, 7pm at St Roberts Church.
- Wednesday 21st March, 7pm practice at St Bede's Church with all singers attending (with organist)
- Tuesday 27th March, 7pm practice at St Bede's Church with all singers, organist and instrumentalists attending in preparation for Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Masses.

**Justice and Peace Refugee Project**

The Justice and Peace Project in Newcastle is helping many asylum seekers and refugees and is seeking support in terms of food items and men's clothing. Food items needed are: tinned corned beef, fish, tinned tomatoes, chick peas, rice, cooking oil, sugar, biscuits. Men's clothing, trainers, boots, jackets, sweaters. Please leave donations in the bin labelled 'Justice and Peace donations' in the Narthex. Many thanks.

**Northern Men's Pilgrimage**

The annual Northern Men's Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham will take place on Friday and Saturday the 29th / 30th June and Sunday 1st July. The cost which includes coach travel, bed, breakfast and evening meals plus a traditional Sunday lunch before the return home is £150. A deposit of £50 is needed to secure a place. For details contact John Ross Tel 0191 4404391 or John Robertson Tel 0191 4877790.

**Novena to St Joseph for Mill Hill Missionaries**

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th—18th March 2018 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask God's blessing for their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email: [novena@m@gmail.com](mailto:novena@m@gmail.com)

**Baptism Preparation**

The next meeting for Baptism Preparation will be held on Thursday 19th April at 6.30pm. Any parents wishing to organise a Baptism should make an appointment to discuss this with Fr. Peter. For Baptism, one parent of the child to be baptised must be a baptised Catholic. Mass on a Saturday Evening or a Sunday is expected. One of the godparents is also expected to be a practising Catholic. We ask parents also to attend the Baptism Preparation meeting. These meetings alternate between Morpeth and Bedlington. Parents should meet with Fr Peter to complete the paperwork. After the Baptism Course, the parents should then make an appointment to fix a date for a Baptism. PLEASE NOTE: dates are not usually given before the Baptism Preparation Meeting.



**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

Booking forms for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes are now available from the Parish Office. The Pilgrimage is from 27th July to 3rd August, with a direct flight from Newcastle Airport. 2018 marks the 160th Anniversary of the Apparitions in Lourdes to St Bernadette. See Fr Peter for further details or for a Booking Form. The pilgrimage has a Youth Section for all 15 to 25 year olds. The pilgrimage also runs a special section for those who need care and assistance. Please speak to Fr Peter for further details.



**Helping our young people**

A conference will take place on Saturday 12th May at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn to help parishes and partnerships engage with young people in their communities. The keynote speaker is Fr Dominic Howarth, responsible for Youth Services in Brentwood Diocese, and the programme includes 12 workshops. The conference is for everyone who is concerned about our young people, for all catechists, and will offer inspiring examples of good practice. The conference fee is £10 and includes lunch. Further details are in the booking forms available in parishes, downloadable from [www.ymt.org](http://www.ymt.org) or contact [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org)

**SPUC Petition**

SPUC has launched a petition calling on the Prime Minister not to give parliamentary support to moves to decriminalise abortion. Such an action will take away from the unborn any remaining legal protection from abortion. A petition form is now in the Narthex... will you support this please?

## Masses and Services Times and Intentions

Saturday 10th March	5.30pm Mass	Ralph Simpson	<b>4th Sunday Lent</b>
Sunday 11th March	4.00pm	Stations of the Cross and Benediction	
Monday 12th March	10.00am Mass	Sylvia Blackburn	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Tuesday 13th March	10.00am Service	<i>Service of Word &amp; Communion</i>	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Wednesday 14th March	10.00am Mass	James & Alice Devlin	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Thursday 15th March	10.00am Service	<i>Service of Word &amp; Communion</i>	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Friday 16th March	<b>9.45am Mass</b>	<b>Requiem Mass:</b> Rosemary McCafferty	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Saturday 17th March	5.30pm Mass	John & Sarah Sutherland	<b>5th Sunday Lent</b>

## Devotions this week

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Friday	9.20am - 9.50am
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Saturday	5.00pm - 5.15pm
The Rosary	Saturday	5.00pm
Stations of the Cross and Benediction	Sunday	4.00pm

### Please pray for:

- all who are sick, especially the housebound and those in hospital,
- all who have died, including Rose McCafferty and John Farrell
- and all whose anniversaries occur at this time



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for March 2018

Formation in Spiritual Discernment: That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.

### "Immortal Diamond" Group

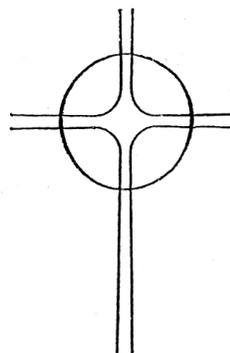
We are offering a series of sessions of group reflection and sharing based on Richard Rohr's book "Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self" (required reading). The group will explore new themes each session, through contemplation, reflection and sharing. Group meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, beginning on 25 April; at Our Lady and St Joseph's Parish House New Hartley. If you are interested in this course, please contact; Mary McCullough on ☎ 01665 712247 or mary.mccullough@yahoo.co.uk

### Northumberland Catholic Schools Governors Meeting

Governors and Headteachers of all Northumberland Catholic Schools will be holding a meeting here at St Bede's Hall on Wednesday 21st March at 6.30pm. At their recent meetings the headteachers in the Northumberland Catholic Partnership of Schools have been discussing how Catholic Education can be sustained for future generations in Northumberland. There have been discussions around closer partnership working and the possible creation of a Multi Academy Trust that would serve much of Northumberland. The Headteachers now wish to meet the governors of the schools to share information and air any questions/queries that governors may have.

### Keeping our Parish Hall Clean

We have received some new bookings recently for our Parish Hall and it is hired regularly by several groups. With this in mind, we now have a cleaner coming in once a week to keep the Toilets, Kitchen and Hall in clean condition. If we are hiring out our building and receiving rent from those using it, we have to keep the place at a certain level and standard of cleanliness and this will enable us to do this. If you see Rose around on a Friday say HELLO and make her feel welcome.



# ST BEDE'S BEDLINGTON

Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS Tel: 01670 823258

Email: [bedebedlington@live.co.uk](mailto:bedebedlington@live.co.uk)

Parish Website: [www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk](http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Stott

Tel 01670 513410 Email: [peterjstott@aol.com](mailto:peterjstott@aol.com)

Parish Deacon: Rev Stephen Boulter

From the minute we open our eyes in the morning, we are faced with choices. By the end of the day we have made hundreds of choices and not all of them good. In fact, we probably fail to choose God in a hundred and one different ways, yet God still loves us. How do we know?

We know because every time we look at a Crucifix we are reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made out of love for us. Just as Moses held up a bronze snake on a pole to remind the Israelites of God's love, so we look to the Crucifix as a reminder that God doesn't condemn us for our mistakes, but offers us a second chance of salvation.



Too often we take God's love for granted. How could we make ourselves more deserving? We could begin by looking at all those choices we make on a daily basis. Do we choose to fritter our lives away in inconsequential activities, or do we choose to make the world a better place? Do we choose to bury our heads in the sand when we see someone bullied at work, or do we make a brave stand? Do we determine to look after ailing family members or do we put it off until we are less busy? Do we shroud our decisions in darkness and secrecy or do we walk in the light with our heads held high?

But how do we start making good choices when we have spent so much time making poor ones? This is the beauty of reconciliation; our mistakes are part and parcel of making better choices from now on. We remember how it felt to make a bad choice and we don't want to go there again. Knowing what we are about is also a part of making good choices. Jesus knew what he was about and so must we. There's no better time than Lent to sit down and think about who we want to be. Lastly, once we have decided what choices we are going to make, we mustn't procrastinate. The Bible never tires of telling us that time is of the essence.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent - 11th March 2018