

**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 | 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

www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

Sunday 3rd May 2020 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

It is not good to hear ourselves described as sheep. Sheep are silly animals that follow each other blindly and do not act or think for themselves. This however is not the imagery intended when Jesus invites us to be 'his flock', rather his is asking us to think of him as our 'good shepherd'.

The voice of Jesus the good shepherd is the one that offers us spiritual sustenance, guidance, love and protection. Jesus wants us to recognise his voice as the one who addresses what we are and what we stand for. Key to a healthy spiritual life is an overriding commitment to hearing the word of God and applying it to one's own life, but in a world of competing values can we always recognise the voice of Jesus?



The trick is to know that Jesus' voice is everywhere that encourages us to impact our world as Christians. Jesus' voice is the voice at work that encourages us to do our best. Jesus is the voice that encourages us to respond to family members and the wider community who are in need. Jesus' voice is the voice that tells us how to vote and how to campaign for those who do not have a voice of their own. The voice of the impostor on the other hand is everywhere that encourages us to act out of self-interest and greed. Sadly, this has to be an oversimplification. What seems to be the right answer for one person might be completely different for someone else. How is it that armies can fight each other, each believing that God is on their side? How is it that so many different denominations can interpret Jesus' words differently, each believing that they have got it right? How, throughout centuries of history, could heads of states have made such bitter and cruel decisions in God's name?



Clearly, recognising the voice of our shepherd isn't an easy task. Recognising the voice of our shepherd takes discernment, practice and continual self-evaluation. Have we all been doing the same things in the same way year in and year out? Is there anything we could be doing better? Recognising the voice of our shepherd relies on what we already know from scripture, and not what we fondly imagine Jesus might be telling us. Most importantly, recognising Jesus must always be rooted securely in the love for each other and in love for our enemies. If we adhere to this important commandment, then surely Jesus will find us, whoever we are. Being part of Jesus' flock is certainly not for the 'sheep'; it's for those with discerning ears.

Masses and Intentions this week

Saturday 2nd May	St Athanasius	Helen and Douglas Cone
Sunday 3rd May	Fourth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish
Monday 4th May	The English Martyrs	Bruce and McGinn Families
Tuesday 5th May	Weekday of Easter	Joyce Gonsalves (AB)
Wednesday 6th May	Weekday of Easter	For those suffering from Coronavirus
Thursday 7th May	St John of Beverley	Joyce Gonsalves (CW)
Friday 8th May	Weekday of Easter	Mirko Kravos (<i>Father of Fr Peter Kravos, Leeds</i>)
Saturday 9th May	Weekday of Easter	Pat Horrax
Sunday 10th May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish

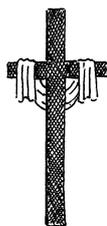


The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for May 2020

For Deacons: We pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church



Our Churches remain CLOSED until further notice for all Masses, Private Prayer, Baptism, Marriages and Funerals. Funerals will only be celebrated either at the Crematorium or at the Graveside.



Please pray for: New Members of the Church; Vocations, especially on the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 4th Sunday of Easter; Human Work, especially on St Joseph the Worker, 1 May; The Right Use of the Media, especially on World Communications Day, 7th Sunday of Easter; The Church, especially on Pentecost Sunday. Please pray for family members, parishioners and those we know who are sick and unwell,

for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery, all suffering from COVID-19; for all who have died recently including **Harry Smith** [Bedlington] whose Funeral Service was held on Thursday; for **Molly Pringle** [Wansbeck Care Home, formerly Stakeford Crescent, Choppington] whose Funeral will be celebrated at Bedlington Cemetery on Thursday 14th May at 10.30am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Websites and Facebook Pages

Our Parish Websites and Facebook pages are updated weekly with further information and suggestions and are hopefully helping with our parish communications. Not everyone however is "online" and therefore we have a number of parishioners not able to see this, but it is the only way of getting our information to you at this time. If you can pass on the news in some way it would be appreciated.

Your Church Offering—THANK YOU

We are very grateful to those who are continuing to make regular donations, but also very aware of the difficulties in doing so at this time. If able, you can drop envelopes off at the Presbytery, or just keep them each week until we meet again in church. You can also make your weekly offering to the Church by setting up a Standing Order so that your donation will be taken out of your bank account on the 6th day of every month. Standing Order Mandates are available on the Parish websites. Alternatively, if you wish to make a donation by BACS directly from your own bank account, please send an email and I will send you the bank details so that you can make a direct contribution. If you pay tax and wish to also join the Gift Aid Scheme please email the Presbytery and a arrangements will be made for a Gift Aid Form to be forwarded to you.



Fr Peter

'Easter Duties'

The obligation to fulfil Easter duties (*Holy Communion and Sacramental Confession*) has been removed this year. The Bishops of England and Wales have dispensed with the Sunday obligation to attend Mass for the time being and also, for this year, the requirement to receive Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Reconciliation at Easter or thereabouts. It is recommended that we all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time, which requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, to acknowledge the love and mercy of God for us, and resolve not to sin again. Let us resolve to celebrate Confession at the first possible opportunity when the sacrament is available once again.

The Little Sisters of the Poor Emergency Appeal

TODAY should have been the Annual Collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor, so instead they have launched a vital fundraising appeal, in response to the increasing pressures faced by St Joseph's Care Home during the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. St Joseph's Care Home in Newcastle has been forced to implement emergency measures to aid efforts to fight the Coronavirus pandemic. All donations will be very gratefully received and make a real difference to the lives of their vulnerable elderly residents. Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' can be sent to; St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, you can make a secure, online donation, by visiting; <https://www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/>.



First Holy Communion Masses

New dates for these Masses will be announced when we know more from the Government about the re-opening of the churches throughout the country. We hope that the children and their parents have continued working through their "I Belong" books even though there have been no classes. We look forward to the day we can celebrate First Holy Communion Masses.



Masses for the Sick and those who care for them

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales recognise that this time of the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting every person in our countries. Those who are sick, and their families, are suffering many hardships of isolation from contact with those they love. Our front-line workers in hospitals and in care homes all over our lands are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with all those who are involved in the ways described above, each week a Bishop will celebrate Mass in their Cathedral which will be live-streamed for people to join.

This will take place every Thursday at 7pm.

- ◆ 7th May, Bishop Marcus Stock, Leeds Cathedral
- ◆ 14th May, Bishop Robert Byrne, Newcastle Cathedral
- ◆ 21st May, Bishop Mark Davies, Shrewsbury Cathedral
- ◆ 28th May, Bishop Terence Drainey, Middlesbrough Cathedral

These Masses will be live-streamed, and can be viewed by visiting the Cathedral webpage, or the Bishops' Conference Webpage (cbcew.org.uk)

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**PRAY FOR
ALL THE
SICK PEOPLE
IN THIS
WORLD**

Vocations Online

"To whom shall we go?" A Seven Session Discernment Programme for Men Considering Priesthood in Hexham & Newcastle Diocese. Could Jesus be calling you to be Catholic Priest? Our online course of reflection and discussion is an opportunity to ask that question. Gathering as an online group, we will discuss what it means to discern a vocation, learn a little about the path to priesthood and enjoy fellowship in the process! The course will take place using ZOOM at 7:15pm on Mondays beginning Monday 11th May. To express interest in joining our sessions, or to find out more, please contact Father Christopher Warren at vocations@rcdhn.org.uk

"A People who Hope in Christ"

The five Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England and Wales have written a letter to all Catholics, reflecting on the difficult situation we are in. A copy of this letter is available on our Parish Website and also available on www.rcdhn.org.uk and www.cbcew.org.uk

Praying together in a time of need

If you can offer some time at prayer, each evening at 6pm, then you will be joining together spiritually with other members of the parish community. You can use this time for quiet prayer, joining in an online Mass, or you can pray the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, the Stations of the Resurrection, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, or Evening Prayer of the Church it actually doesn't matter what we do, as long as we're doing something at the same time as one another and joining together in prayer.



Keeping us updated with your contact information

It is important for the parish to keep good and up-to-date contact information. The last census at St Robert's was in 2011 and the database for St Bede's was created in 2001, so both need a lot of updating. If you think your information may be out of date, if you have moved house or changed your telephone number, or now have an email address, or if you are new to the parish since these databases were put together, please send in your details to the parish email addresses on this newsletter. It is very helpful for us to have up-to-date contact information, but difficult if we don't know your contact details. If I get the chance I will try to prepare a contact information form that can be placed onto both parish websites and completed online.

Newsletter by Email

If you would like to go onto our mailing list for the weekly Newsletter while we are not printing paper copies, please send your email address to Fr Peter at St Robert's and you will be added and the Newsletter will be emailed each weekend.

If you need support

Northumberland Communities Together: 01670 620015 is the County Council's Covid-19 support hub that can get food or supplies out to anyone in need via community volunteers. That is for anyone in Northumberland, no matter how big or small their need. If you are struggling with managing at home and need support for basic things like food, and have been unable to get help from family, friends or local community groups, the council has set up a Community Response Hub as part of "Northumberland Communities Together".

- If you need immediate assistance, you or someone you know should email - northumberlandcommunitiestogether@northumberland.gov.uk or telephone 01670 620015 between 9am to 6pm, seven days a week.
- If you are worried about the immediate welfare (health or well-being) of a child or adult contact OneCall - 01670 536400 - 24 hour service, 365 days a year.
- If you have a medical condition which makes you extremely vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19), you may be eligible for shielding support. Shielding is a measure to protect people who are clinically extremely vulnerable by reducing interaction with others. Full information is available on www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus/Shielding.aspx

Thanks to those who are caring for us

As the situation with the Coronavirus continues, the lockdown situation continues until the Government decides otherwise and social distancing seems to be with us for a long time to come, we continue to pray for the many people who are looking after our needs. There are many doctors, nurses and care workers, as well as other NHS workers and chaplains and others who are working for all the emergency services, in our parishes and amongst our families and friends. Our school staff are keeping our schools open to provide a safe place for our children while their parents are at work. Those who work in our shops and supermarkets are doing a wonderful job and we are relying on so many delivery drivers and those who work for the Royal Mail at this time. We are very proud of everyone who is living the gospel in words and action and doing their best to care for those in need and we pray for them all.

"In so far as you did this to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40)



STAY SAFE EVERYONE - REMEMBER THE ADVICE - STAY HOME.

We need to protect everyone. This virus doesn't move, we move; and when we move the virus can be spread, so the less people we meet each day, the less likely the virus is to spread

Diocesan Justice and Peace Project

As our churches are closed and unable to collect and send essential supplies to this project, the Newcastle centre is appealing for help in the form of monetary donations. Cheques can be made payable to "DHN, Destitute Asylum Fund" and sent to: John Dowling, Asylum Seekers' Manager, Our Lady of Lourdes Centre, 2 Summerhill Grove, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 6EE. Many Thanks.

Northumberland Listening Service

If you are struggling with "lockdown", "self-isolation" or any other issue and need to talk to someone, if there is something bothering you and you need to talk, please remember that we have the Northumberland Listening Service set up by parishes in this area of Northumberland several years ago. The number is "Northumberland Listening Service" 📞 07732 980740.

The Matthew Project

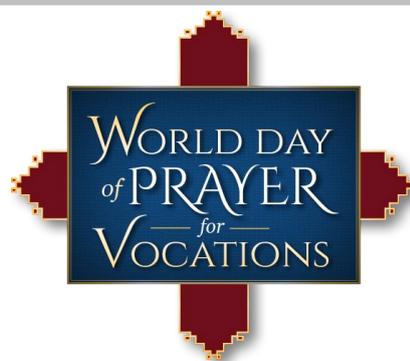
The Matthew Project in Bedlington is grateful to the response to last week's request for donations. The Project is currently running short of the following to include in their foodbank deliveries. If you are able to donate any of these items please drop them off at the church (the Coffin Chapel) opposite the Tesco carpark on any Friday between 10.30am and Noon. Bars of soap, tins of the following: Baked Beans, Carrots, Custard, Fruit. The Matthew Project thanks you for your support.

European Union Citizens

All EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK are required by the government to apply through its Settlement Scheme to continue living, working and accessing services here. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2021. Details and links to the application process can be found at: gov.uk/eusettledstatus. Please bring this to the attention of friends, relatives and fellow parishioners who may need to apply. Assistance for those who may have difficulty applying is available at: gov.uk/help-eu-settlement-scheme. The Catholic Church in England and Wales stands in solidarity with all European citizens who have made their homes here. They are a valued part of our parishes, schools and communities.

Christian Aid

Due to the Covid19 pandemic, this year's house to house collections and other group activities for Christian Aid will not take place. However, Christian Aid Week is not cancelled! Instead, more focus will be given to online and/or telephone donations and individual sponsored activities. Christian Aid thanks you all for your generous support which you have given in the past but needs your help more than ever at the present time because of greater need responding to the pandemic in the countries where Christian Aid works and because of the loss of the main source of income - the house-to-house collection. Donations can be made through the Christian Aid website: christian-aid.org or by telephone on ☎ 020 7523 2493. Thank you.



Rosary for Vocations

Throughout the Month of May we are encouraged to pray the Rosary. We are being asked to use this time also to pray the rosary for vocations. A new resource to help with this is available on the diocesan website.

**PRIESTS, BROTHERS, NUNS.
THEY NEED US.
WE NEED THEM.**

Vocations Are Everybody's Business

May, the Month of our Lady

Pope Francis has written the following to the people of the world ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is ... a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

There is a link to this on our website

Prayer to Our Lady Health of the Sick

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

