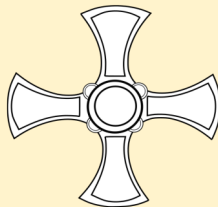


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

PARISHES OF THE BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND

Parish Priest: Father Peter 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
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Sunday 19th April 2020 — Second Sunday of Easter

Feast of Divine Mercy

The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord, yet are asked to believe. So are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening?

In today's gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn't the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn't. He wasn't the sort of person that could pretend that he didn't have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives. There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks. Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap.



For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that doubt isn't the same thing as disbelief. Doubt can be a good thing even. Doubt means that we are still questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use to carve a mature faith. Belief isn't something we either have or haven't got ... belief is a process, and the end product of that process, is one's own spiritual self.

Masses and Intentions this week

Saturday 18th April	Easter Saturday	Ken Shuttleworth
Sunday 19th April	Second Sunday of Easter <i>Feast of Divine Mercy</i>	People of the Parish
Monday 20th April	Weekday of Easter	Joan Keddy
Tuesday 21st April	St Anselm	Molly McKee
Wednesday 22nd April	Weekday of Easter	Father Bernard Swinhoe OSB (CWL)
Thursday 23rd April	St George	Jerome and Sylvia Thompson
Friday 24th April	Weekday of Easter	Maureen Uezzell
Saturday 25th April	St Mark	Leo Horrax
Sunday 26th April	Third Sunday of Easter	People of the Parish

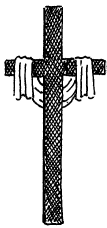


The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for April 2020

Freedom from Addiction: We pray that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.



**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 **Barbara Rice** [Foxton Court, Morpeth] who died on 2nd April, whose Funeral Service will be held at Cowpen Crematorium on Monday 20th April; **Maureen Uezzell** whose Funeral Service was held on Thursday and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Feast of Divine Mercy



Today on this Second Sunday of Easter we celebrate the Feast of Divine Mercy, recalling how the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Sr Faustina Kowalska. This Feast recalls the Divine Mercy of Jesus for the whole world. As "lockdown" in the UK continues for another three weeks, our churches remain closed and as other countries throughout the world

are in similar situations, we are so aware that our world certainly needs His Divine Mercy at this time. Traditionally the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is prayed at 3pm today. We should pray also to St Faustina and Pope St John Paul who promoted this devotion wholeheartedly, for all our intentions as the world struggles through this COVID 19 coronavirus.



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. 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 arrangements will be made for a Gift Aid Form to be forwarded to you.



Fr Peter

Praying together in a time of need

It is important that we continue to pray at this time of national emergency and particularly as a parish community that we try to pray at the same time, even though we are all in different places. Aware that everyone has their own routine, would it be possible for us to pray the Rosary at 6pm each evening or the Stations of the Cross or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy it 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.



'Easter Duties'

Please note that 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. The Bishops have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for his children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again. Let us resolve to celebrate Confession at the first possible opportunity when the sacrament is available once again.

Keeping us updated with your contact information

St Robert's Parish Census was compiled in 2011 and a number of addresses and telephone numbers are now out of date. And of course, since 2011, more people have an email address, which is not listed. If you think your information may be out of date or if you are a new parishioner since 2011, please send in your details to the parish office. Likewise at St Bede's, it is very helpful for us to have up to date contact information and at this time of not seeing people at church it is so important that we try to keep in touch with one another 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 week-end.

Thanks to those who are caring for us

We have 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. We thank them for their care and dedication and for their long hours and we pray for them at this very difficult time for the work that they are doing. We also want to pay tribute to our school staff who have been keeping our schools open to provide a safe place for our children while their parents are at work. The people 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, perhaps without even realizing it, is living the gospel in words and action and doing their best to care for those in need and we pray for them all.



CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY
THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY, WALSINGHAM
Walsingham - "England's Nazareth"

Walsingham Virtual Retreat

In addition to the regular programmes that are live-streamed from Walsingham each day, Monsignor John Armitage will lead an "Eight Day Retreat". This will start after Compline at 8pm on Sunday 19th April and finish on Sunday 26th April. Details of the retreat programme are given on the Shrine website: www.walsingham.org.uk The Shrine is also very grateful to Father Stephen Wang for allowing use of his Sycamore Program. They shall be showing the 20 half hour videos, starting on Monday 27th April. They will be shown at 10.30am and 4.00pm each day.



First Holy Communion Masses

Our celebrations of First Holy Communion in May have been postponed and we will re-arrange new dates for later in the year at both churches.

Supporting the Christian Community of the Holy Land

We have not been able to take the usual **Holy Places Collection** this year, so our support of the Christian Community of the Holy Land is more important than ever. The people in Bethlehem and Jerusalem are facing the same struggles that we are with "lockdown" but their suffering is so much greater because they already live under extreme and difficult circumstances. Please pray for them. The *Friends of the Holy Land* currently have an online appeal as do *The Order of the Holy Sepulchre*, and on our website, there are links and a letter from the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem highlighting some of the issues currently faced by the people there.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, November 2020

Would you like to consider travelling with us and to support those people who live in that special place? Speak to Fr Peter for forms. We currently have 35 people going on this pilgrimage and there are still places available. Perhaps you could look on this pilgrimage as "the light at the end of the tunnel" and something to look forward to.



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

April Edition of 'The Northern Cross'

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will only be a digital edition of 'The Northern Cross' this month and it is free of any charge and is available to read at www.northerncross.org.uk

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.

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.



The Little Sisters of the Poor Emergency Appeal

The Little Sisters of the Poor 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. Unfortunately, along with residential visitations, this also includes cancelling charity events and collections which has had a massive impact on the donations they rely on to help with their increasing running costs and to purchase extra essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, sanitising gel, eye protection, face masks, safety clothing and chemical cleaning products to ensure they can continue to comply with all health and safety regulations. All donations will be very gratefully received and they 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, Westmoreland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA. Alternatively, you can make a secure, online donation, by visiting; <https://www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/>.



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.

"Day by Day"

Arch Publishers, who produce "My Day by Day" scripture reflection booklet, are offering a special 6-month individual subscription for £10.70. We have cancelled our parish order for the time being, but if you wish to order from them you need to phone 01782 213000 and you can pay over the phone and have it delivered to you.

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.

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.

