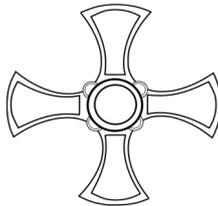


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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

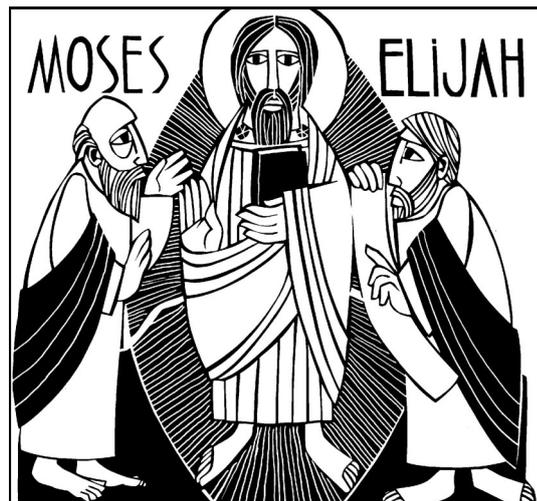
www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

Sunday 28th February 2021 - 2nd Sunday Lent B

If you are always eager and motivated and pro-active, then this isn't for you. If you, on the other hand, suffer from bouts of lethargy, are often paralysed by feelings of fear, anxiety or self-doubt, then today's gospel carries a powerful message of hope.

Most of us probably fall into the second category. We start a project in a flush of excitement and commitment, but when the hard work sets in and success eludes us, we can become discouraged. We take on a big financial commitment thoroughly convinced that we can deal with it, but begin to have sleepless nights, dreading the bills and fearing the bank manager. We enter into new relationships and quickly get disappointed when elements of that relationship demand more of us than we thought. We embark on a challenging career but become fearful and filled with self-doubt. Eventually we lose the hope that had originally driven us.

Take Heart! We are no different from the early disciples. Jesus had been telling his disciples what being the 'Messiah' really meant, and it didn't entail hurling the Romans out on their ear, it entailed dying on a cross. Is it any wonder the disciples were feeling discouraged! Jesus knew that his disciples needed to see beyond the fear. He knew that he needed to re-ignite a vision of the rewards of their work, and he knew that vision needed to stay with them always to motivate them in times when their ministry weighed heavy. In short, Jesus needed to remind them how important their job was, and so he gave them the spiritual experience we now call the 'transfiguration'. This was a vision of himself in a dazzling light flanked by Moses and Elijah and God's voice from the clouds "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."



Like the early disciples, we have to look beyond our fears if we are to work through them. God gave each of us a talent, and with that a talent comes a vision of what we can do and what we can achieve. This is the vision we can call upon when we lose hope. This is the vision that will carry us beyond our fear.

NEWSLETTERS AND MISALLETTES: If you are holding this Newsletter, or a Mass Sheet, as a paper copy in Church on Sunday, please remember that you MUST take it away with you. COVID-19 guidelines state that because you have handled it, you cannot just put it back on the table at the back of Church. Its handy to have a Newsletter at home and good to reflect on today's readings in the Missalette! If you do not wish to keep it, please leave it in your bench and it will be immediately destroyed by those who will tidy and clean the Church after Mass.



At this time of the Church's Year, we are asked to pray for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; Racial Justice; The Unemployed. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery and at this difficult time of Pandemic we pray for all suffering from COVID-19. We pray for all who have died recently; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Father Tom Cunningham

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Father Tom Cunningham died on Wednesday 24th February in the Little Sisters of the Poor. Father Tom was Parish Priest at St Robert of Newminster Morpeth for 16 years from November 1978 until September 1994. Father Tom was a great priest and was loved by so many in all the parishes he served, including St Robert's. Sadly, his Requiem Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, West Monkseaton, will be limited under the coronavirus rules, but we do ask that you keep him in your prayers.



Collections, Standing Orders and BACS Payments

Many thanks to all who are regularly contributing to our collections. You can drop your Offering or Offertory Envelopes at the Presbytery or make an online BACS donation or set up a Standing Order for a regular payment. Copies of the Mandate for setting up a New Standing Order are available on our parish websites. Please contact the Parish Office at Morpeth for more details. Also many thanks to those who continue their regular Standing Orders. Bank Details for BACS or new Standing Orders:

Morpeth

Sort Code 40-34-18
Name of Account "DHN Morpeth St Robert of Newminster"
Account Number 32010755

Bedlington

Sort Code 40-34-18
Name of Account "DHN Bedlington St Bede"
Account Number 81163620

Coronavirus - Please Stay Safe

Welcome back to Sunday Mass! Although the Prime Minister has announced, the Government's "roadmap" to easing restrictions in England, it is important for us to continue to follow the advice to make sure we keep each other safe. At the moment, we are only celebrating the Sunday Masses, ie the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's Church. For the next few weeks, Fr Peter will celebrate the weekday Masses privately. Let us continue to pray for all who are suffering from the coronavirus, especially those who have been admitted into hospital and those recovering; let us remember in our prayers the staff and medical teams in our local surgeries and hospitals, pray for all scientists and biologists studying the virus, and all who are working to prepare the vaccines to keep us safe. We keep everyone in our parish communities in our prayers at this very uncertain time, even though here is a little more light at the end of the tunnel! Stay Safe everyone.

Still following the Covid-Safe advice

Now that we have re-opened for Sunday Mass, we must continue with our "covid-safe" guidelines, following all the Health and Safety advice that has been in place since last year. Social distancing restrictions remain in place for all those who come to Mass, we continue to have only limited spaces available, (36 at St Robert's / 35 at St Bede's ... more, if families/households sit together), we must continue to wear face masks and use the hand gel on entry to and exit from Church. We also ask that you continue to book for Mass, so that we know how many will be attending.

To book your place at Mass at St Robert's Church
Please call St Robert's Presbytery ☎ 01670 513 410
Monday - Friday, 9am - 6pm

To book your place at Mass at St Bede's Church
Please call St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258
any evening from 6.30pm - 8.30pm



Contact Tracing App

Please remember that you can check in to Mass for the Track and Trace system using the QR code we have available. When you come to Church just open the app and scan the code to record your presence.

Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

The above three celebrations are all still subject to the Government restrictions. Baptisms are not currently allowed until at least 17th May, Weddings are a bit of a problem because there are different limitations based on the different steps of the roadmap, probably until the end of June. Funerals continue to follow the same restrictions with still only 30 people allowed at a funeral whether that be in Church, at the grave-side or the Crematorium. We are awaiting further information from the Bishop's Conference on how the "roadmap" will affect us in coming months.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Unfortunately there can be no "normal" Confessions at this time, but confessions is possible so if anyone needs to speak to a priest about anything that is urgent or bothering, please ring and have a chat and speak to Fr Peter and we see what we can do to help those in spiritual need. At all times, Fr Peter is available for those who need to talk!

Holy Week Celebrations

We will be able to celebrate Holy Week and Easter Masses and Services, but only following all the current restrictions. The Vatican has given some guidance on what should be celebrated and we are hoping to have further information from the Bishop's Conference soon, but we already know that it will not be a normal Holy Week or Easter. Seating restrictions for two congregations in shared celebrations and trying to make our liturgies shorter is even more difficult in Holy Week.

Organ Repairs

The organ company, Harrison and Harrison, will be on-site at St Robert's Church on Wednesday and Thursday this week as they continue to rebuild the organ which should be complete this week. Other staff will be present the following week to make sure that the organ plays correctly and that it is in tune. The cost of these repairs is in excess of £24,000 plus VAT. If anyone wishes to make donations towards the cost of this work please contact Fr Peter for further details.



Diocesan Reflections for Lent

The Diocesan Department for Faith and Mission has prepared a series of daily reflections for the whole of the Season of Lent, 46 individual reflections in total. These are available online on the diocesan website, or you can sign up for them to be emailed to you on a daily basis.

Daily Reflection from YMT

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Team have prepared a series of video reflections for Lent. 'Wait a Minute - It's Lent' are daily videos which will be available via YMT's YouTube channel, with reflections from across the Diocese. Watch the trailer on the following link and subscribe to their channel [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVIOoCyoxRWub3zoPjorMhQ].

Lenten Alms

"At St Cuthbert's Care, we provide a very personal and sensitive approach to our care. The pandemic has made this so much more challenging for us. Throughout the past year, we have carefully transformed the delivery of all our frontline services, to ensure residents and service users still enjoy life to the full. Replicating this care to every resident throughout our nursing homes alongside our disability provision and children's homes, has been at a significant cost, and these increased costs look set to continue for some time to come. Circumstances have been difficult for us all this year. For this Lent Appeal, any donation we receive towards our frontline care work, however small, would be deeply appreciated. I now that for some parishioners, financial donations may not be an option and I fully accept this. Thank You. Moira Ashman. If you wish to make a donation please place an offering in an envelope and mark it either "Lenten Alms" or "St Cuthbert's Care" and drop off at the Presbytery.



CAFOD Family Fast Day

The Lent CAFOD Family Fast Day was held on Friday 26th February. If you can make a donation to CAFOD for this special day, please drop off a donation to the Presbytery in a marked envelope, either "CAFOD" or "Family Fast Day", or go online to the CAFOD website and make an online donation.

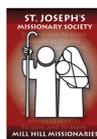


The "BIG WALK FOR WATER"

Abdella is 23 and he has big dreams. He dreams of starting a small business. He dreams of starting a family. He dreams of having his own home. He dreams of the day he won't have to walk ten hours to get water. Abdella lives in Afar, Ethiopia – one of the hottest places on earth. Like hundreds of people in the area, he spends most of the day walking to get water for his family to drink. He knows that if there was water near his home, his family wouldn't have to worry any more about getting enough to stay alive. And he could start on the dreams he has for the rest of his life. "Walk for Water" is a challenge that takes place over Lent. It's a chance for you to transform your life while changing someone else's. Do it your way: 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days. CAFOD are asking you to go the distance so that someone else doesn't have to. We take clean water for granted. We turn on a tap and expect it to be there immediately. Not everyone around the world is as fortunate as we are. Full information of how to get involved with this is to go onto the CAFOD website and register ... www.walk.cafod.org.uk

Novena to St Joseph

The Mill Hill Missionaries invite you to take part in a National Novena to St Joseph which will take place from 10th - 18th March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and also to send in your petitions. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena Prayer leaflet. Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10th - 12th March), at 7.30pm; Saturday 13th March at 10am; Sunday 14th March at 11.00am; Monday - Thursday (15th - 18th March) at 7.30pm. To obtain the Novena leaflet please write to the Novena Director at St Joseph's Missionary Society, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW including a stamped addressed envelope, or email novenamhm@gmail.com. If you would like to send in a petition. Please write your petition along with your name and address, the name of the Parish and the Town. Please indicate if you require a receipt and make cheques payable to "St Joseph's Missionary Society". Send to the address above.



The Northern Catholic Calendar

Copies of The Northern Catholic Calendar are now available. This is the handbook for our diocese and lists all churches, parishes, priests, religious houses and associations in the diocese. If you wish to buy a copy, they are £3 each.

** IMPORTANT NOTE ... Help with Financial Matters **

Fr Peter is seeking help at St Bede's Parish with -
1. **The Gift Aid Scheme.** We need someone who would be willing to take on the preparing of the Parish Collection Envelopes and Boxes; the auditing of all donations that are received through the Gift Aid Scheme and of liaising with the Diocesan Gift Aid Office on these matters and preparing reports.
2. Fr Peter is very grateful to a parishioner from St Robert's Parish who has offered to do the monthly finance report and Annual return on a temporary basis until someone from St Bede's is able and willing to take over.
The Gift Aid role is needed fairly urgently, so if anyone can help, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible, as new envelopes will need to be issued very soon.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

St Robert's Parish now has an online Children's Liturgy of the Word via Zoom, held on a Sunday morning at 10am. Please send an email to the Parish Office (address on the front of this newsletter) to get the zoom link. Pray that it all works correctly!! Grateful thanks to our Children's Liturgy team for arranging this.



Masses Online

Two online services stream Masses throughout the day - www.churchservices.tv and www.mcnmedia.tv Other parishes stream live on YouTube - you just need to search for the parish name, ie "Ampleforth Abbey Liturgy" or "Holy Name, Jesmond" on YouTube to find them. You can also go to <https://mass-online.org> to watch Masses from around the world.

Mass by Telephone



If you are unable to access the internet but still wish to be able to hear Mass, the Diocese of Middlesbrough have a system to allow people who do not have internet access to listen to Mass over the telephone. If you would like to access, the telephone number to call is ☎ 01642 130 120.

Going into Hospital

If you are admitted into Hospital, it is important, if you want the Chaplains to visit you, to remind ward staff of your religion, so that the chaplains can pick this up before they start their visits. More and more often, the catholic chaplains are coming upon catholic patients whose religion is not recorded and there is a possibility you might not see you, because they don't know you're there. Please remember to make sure your religion is recorded when admitted.

Request for Knitters

The Morpeth "Anna Chaplains" have a ministry to the elderly in Morpeth. They are an ecumenical group and would like to distribute knitted Holding Crosses to the residents of the Care Homes, Sheltered Accommodations and the household, perhaps in time for Easter but more likely some time after Easter. They are wondering if the knitters amongst our congregations might like to knit holding crosses for distribution. For more details and a copy of the knitting pattern, please contact Revd. Jeremy Cooper (at JeremyLCooper@aol.com)



Marys Meals

Marys Meals is drawing our attention to the worsening crisis in Ethiopia, and for families in the war-torn Tigray region of Ethiopia. The people there urgently need your help, as millions of people in Tigray have been forced to flee their homes because of ongoing fighting in the region. They are now at imminent risk of starvation, very frightened and without access to proper sanitation or medical care. Across the Tigray region of Ethiopia, brutal fighting has forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes. As a result, millions are now living in fear of starvation. The region's capital, Mekelle, is being overwhelmed by displaced and traumatised people arriving every day. Many are unaccompanied children who have lost their parents. Mary's Meals has been working in Ethiopia for many years and are ready to help those who need it most as this dire situation continues to unfold. In these uncertain times, your generosity is needed more than ever. They need your help to continue this life-saving work. Please give if you can: <https://bit.ly/3a5ITqq>



Northumberland Listening Service

The Northumberland Listening Service has been running for several years, set up by the local catholic parishes in Northumberland. If there is something troubling you, if you feel affected by the difficulties around us with coronavirus, or trying to "get back to normal" or if there is any other issue troubling you that you need to talk to someone about, the number is "Northumberland Listening Service" 07732 980740.

The Wednesday Word



Reflections on the Sunday readings for both adults and children and can be accessed at wednesdayword.org

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 27th February <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		5.30pm Vigil Mass: Tom, Elizabeth & John Coates
Sunday 28th February 2nd Sunday Lent B	9.00am Mass: People of the Parish 11.00am Mass: Sheila Brown	
Monday 1st March <i>St David</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Special Intention AS (DS)	
Tuesday 2nd March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Joan Oliver (AB)	
Wednesday 3rd March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Molly Ruddy	
Thursday 4th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Ann Resteghini (AB)	
Friday 5th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	Mass [celebrated privately]: Freda Davis (AB)	
Saturday 6th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		5.30pm Vigil Mass: Craik & Freel Families
Sunday 7th March 3rd Sunday Lent B	9.00am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for March 2021

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God



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.

Society of St Vincent de Paul - Sudan Appeal

The SVP have received an urgent appeal for the SVP twinning project in Sudan and South Sudan. The situation in Sudan is desperate with inflation above 300%, unemployment has rocketed making many more people destitute and of course the problems are exacerbated by the Covid pandemic. At the same time donations are down because we were not able to have the usual annual appeal at Christmas and there is a severe threat that the funds will not be there to maintain the work. The project involves feeding children, providing medicines and clean water and providing schooling for children. Two short Youtube videos about the work can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dlikjFdcSE> and



<https://youtu.be/YKGzGzLI18U> Leaflets with donation/Gift Aid forms and standing order forms are available from Gerry Harber (tel 517829) or Donald Marr (tel 505573). Alternatively you can donate through the SVP website at: <https://www.svp.org.uk/donate-now> and select "Sudan and South Sudan Appeal". "One-off donations" are very welcome, but if you can set up a Standing Order this would provide the funding necessary throughout the year. Many thanks to those parishioners who are already doing this, and for your generous donations in previous years.

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 pass them on to others.



The North East Catholic Writers' Guild

The Writers Guild are running a literary competition for school children – the theme is: "Compose a hopeful prayer for this difficult time" Maximum 20 lines. Open to 8-10 year-olds. Please include your age, name, address and phone number and send to: Veronica Whitty, Secretary, Catholic Writers' Guild (NE), 51 Queen's Crescent, Wallsend, NE28 8DW, or e-mail: veronicawhitty@hotmail.com Deadline: 8th April 2021 NB: Entries: excludes anyone related to any member of the Guild or related to anyone connected with the Northern Cross.

Women's World Day of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer this year - 5th March - is an online service through their website www.wwdp.org.uk, where there also many other resources to find. The Service has been prepared by Christian women of Vanuatu, entitled, "Build on a Strong Foundation" (Matthew 7). The Service usually holds a collection, but this year is unable to do so, but you can make a donation online or contact Christine Watson or Eileen House at St Robert's Parish. Full details on the website.