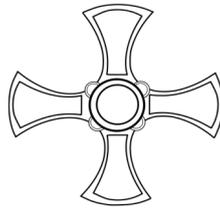


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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 24th October 2021 - 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year**

Have we lost our belief in what we cannot see? Do we start to pray for something but stop mid sentence feeling sure that God can't be listening. Even if he is listening, why on earth would he grant our unimportant prayers? Perhaps we cannot remember a time when a prayer was answered and so lose hope. Perhaps we have had a prayer answered but imagine it was more likely to be some great coincidence or a stroke of luck than God at work.

Today's gospel is a lesson in faith and prayer. The story starts in a place many of our prayers begin, in a place of darkness, desperation and raw need.

Bartimaeus the blind beggar shows us what faith is all about. He knows that Jesus is passing by and knowing that this might be his one and only chance of a cure, seizes his opportunity. He shouts out and keeps shouting despite others telling him to pipe down. He is eager, assertive, and full of hope. Bartimaeus shows us that faith is all about believing that God can do something for us that we cannot do for ourselves; and to persist in asking. It becomes clear that the story is not just about a physical healing but a spiritual awakening. Once Bartimaeus had encountered Jesus, he must surely have embarked upon a life of commitment to Christ.

**LORD  
THAT I  
MAY SEE!**



So it is with our own lives. Once we have understood how Jesus works in our lives, it will become the most natural thing in the world to place Christ at the centre of everything we do.



At this time of the Church's year, we are asked to pray for: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work; and the reverent use of creation; Justice and Peace in the world; all victims of war; Young People; Prisoners and their Families. Please pray for those we know who are unwell, as well as the many who have no one to pray for them; for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery; pray for many people who have COVID-19 at the moment; for all who have died recently, including **Peter Cameron** [Willow Vale, Bedlington] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's on Friday 29th October; for **Ken Offen** [Morpeth] whose Requiem mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on Wednesday 3rd November; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Offertory Collections

Thank you to all who are regularly contributing to our collections at Mass each week. Alternatively you can make an online BACS donation or set up a Standing Order for a regular payment. Also many thanks to those who continue their regular Standing Orders. Bank details and Standing Order forms are available by ringing the Parish Office.



### World Mission Sunday Collection

Today is World Mission Sunday. World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world today with the theme "**We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard**" (Acts 4:20); it is a summons to each of us to 'own' and to bring to others what we bear in our hearts. This mission has always been the hallmark of the Church, for 'she exists to evangelise' (Saint Paul VI, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 14). Mission Sunday supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries build peace and share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church. Missio Envelopes are available at the back of Church. Please call 020 7821 9755 or visit Missio's website to give a single gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation, if possible: [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk) Missio raises funds for the overseas mission of the Church through the APF -Mill Hill Red Boxes which are in around 200,000 Catholic homes. Throughout the year, Missio works in partnership with the Mill Hill Missionaries to raise funds and awareness the work of evangelisation. If you would like a Red Box in your home, please contact us as soon as possible and we will make arrangements through the Organisers to get one for you. Please support the mission of our Church and pray for the work of missionaries.



### Clergy Training Fund

The Clergy Training Fund opens on 31st October until 28th November. This fund is used for training our seminarians/future priests and deacons and also for any member of the clergy who may need assistance for further studies.



### The Wednesday Word

"Wednesday Word" Reflections on the Sunday readings, for both adults and children can be accessed at [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org) It is a wonderful resource for both parishes and for Schools to help focus on the forthcoming Sunday readings.



### Bonus Ball At St Robert's

Congratulations to Margaret Bolam who won £25 for week three of the Bonus Ball with number 22.



### New Members of the Parish Council

Father Peter is looking to recruit some new members to St Robert's Parish Council, not to replace the existing members, but to add to their number. The times ahead, in the light of what we have been through, could be challenging for us all and the same is true for our parishes. And so we need a few more people to come alongside the existing members of the Parish Council to help us rebuild for the future. Could you be the one that could make a difference to what St Robert's Parish Council does? Do you have some insights and thoughts that could help us? Could you help with us moving forward? If interested please have a word with Fr Peter.

### Wedding Congratulations

We offer our prayers and best wishes to Kate Simpson and Jack Kelcher who were married at St Robert of Newminster Church on Saturday. We wish them well for the future and hope and pray that God will bless them throughout their married life together.



### Booking for Sunday Mass

You should continue to book for Sunday Mass, until further notice.

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

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9.30am - 12noon**  
**and Thursday and Friday - 7pm - 9pm**

### Covid Cases in Northumberland

There has been a rise in the numbers of covid cases in Northumberland with 1,831 cases between 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> October, and over 9,000 cases in the North East during the last week. There has also been a lot on TV News and Radio this week, even a Government Press Conference again, about the increase in levels of covid nationally as well as the warnings about the winter flu. This is why we are still following our diocesan restrictions. We maintain the "one metre / 3 feet" social distancing in Church (*families and social groups or bubbles can all sit together*); we encourage use of the hand gel and strongly recommend face coverings. These guidelines are not just to protect the individual but to protect one another. You must still book to come to Mass for a Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass. These restrictions will be reviewed in early November. Two changes now allow us to sing (wearing face coverings) and we can also take the collection once again.

### Limited Numbers for other Church Celebrations

As our covid restrictions continue, this affects those who attend Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings in coming weeks. Funerals are open to all, and although we have limited seating available in both Churches we will make every effort to get people into the spaces available; and everyone attending is also encouraged to wear face coverings. If unsure, please speak to Fr Peter.

### Hand Gel in Church

You are asked to use the Hand Gel as you enter Church. Hand gel is also available in the benches and you are asked to use it, especially just before coming forward to receive Holy Communion..



### St Bede's School Masses

The Head and Deputy Head at St Bede's School have asked about the possibility of bringing children back to a weekday Mass. Obviously with our restrictions, numbers attending would be limited and we would be unable to have a whole school Mass in Church, but it would be possible for smaller groups or individual classes to return to Mass at St Bede's. It would reduce the number of spaces at that weekday Mass for those attending but it does seem possible to do. If anyone has any strong feelings about this, please let Fr Peter know this week.



### Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Our partnership parishes need some adult catechists / helpers to help prepare our young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation. **No one has yet come forward. Last chance to come forward this week!** Whether you have been involved before and wish to do so again or wish to get involved for the first time, please contact Fr Peter with your contact details, so that they can be passed on to those who are coordinating this.

### Do you want to be Confirmed?

Only four people from our two parishes have taken forms for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If there is anyone else in Year 9 and above at St Benet Biscop School or King Edward VI School wishing to be confirmed please contact Fr Peter.

### Preparing for Baptism

Parents requesting Baptism for a child are asked to contact us to make arrangements to attend the next Baptism Preparation Meeting to be held on 18th November at St Bede's Church. Once parents have attended this preparation meeting, they are asked to meet with Fr Peter (or Deacon Stephen if for St Bede's Church) 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".

### Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers

The Diocesan Mass for Altar Servers will be celebrated at 11am on Saturday 20th November at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. Bishop Robert will celebrate the Mass and it is hoped that Altar Servers can come together from across the Diocese.



### Extraordinary Ministers Role

It is now possible for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to resume their ministry of taking Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound, if Ministers feel comfortable resuming this ministry and if the sick and housebound, and their families, and those in Nursing Homes, are comfortable for it to resume. Guidelines suggest that multiple people in separate residences should not be visited in the same morning, to avoid any possible spreading of coronavirus. **Hand Gel and face coverings should be used. Those going into Nursing and Care Homes must also follow the Home's 'covid guidelines' and probably take a lateral flow test before entering.** Please check with the Homes and with those you are visiting, before resuming this.

### Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Lourdes Pilgrimage

Preparations are beginning for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Friday 29th July - Friday 5th August 2022. It is hoped that pilgrims will be able to travel together as a Diocese once more. In order to aid the planning stages, it would be helpful if you could indicate your interest in travelling to Lourdes in July 2022 and state if you would be willing to offer any help or volunteer for any of the roles that support the smooth running of the Pilgrimage. Please contact [lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk) for an 'expression of interest' form or check out the website [www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk)



### Month of the Holy Souls

During the month of November, to help us remember the souls of the Faithful Departed, paper notelets will be available in Church for you to write the names of your loved deceased relatives and friends. A basket or container will be available for you to place these pieces of paper. Holy Souls Envelopes will also be available if you wish to make a donation towards Masses for the Holy Souls. [Please note that these Masses may be handed to other priests who do not have Mass Intentions and may not be celebrated in Morpeth or Bedlington].



### Parish Masses for those who have died

We have been asked by the Bishop to celebrate special Masses for those who have died during 2020 and 2021. We will have two special Masses at which we will remember them ...

- Mass at St Bede's Church at 7pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November
- Mass at St Robert's Church at 10am on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November

We already have lists from our Registers of those whose Funerals were celebrated in our two parishes, **but if there is anyone else you wish to have added to the list please let Fr Peter know this week.**



### Diocesan Mass for all who have died

A Diocesan Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Robert Byrne at 11.00am on Saturday 27th November. Parishioners are invited to attend this Mass.

### Cemetery Rosary

The Rosary will be prayed at Fairmoor Cemetery on Sunday 7th November at 3pm; at Bedlington Cemetery at 3pm on 7th November; and at St Mary's Cemetery on Sunday 14th November at 3pm. All Welcome.



### Food Donations

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Group need donations of Food and Toiletries to support refugees and asylum seekers. The SVP is the local contact with the Justice and Peace Group and will be delivering to Blackfriars in Newcastle. If you can help with any of the following items it would be greatly appreciated ...

**Tinned Tomatoes; Chickpeas; Tinned Fish (e.g. tuna); Biscuits** (Single packets are easier for us to distribute than tins or biscuit collections.) **Rice** (Preferably not microwave rice, as not everyone will have access to a microwave. Standard sized rice bags ideally). **Sugar** (Please continue to collect. Standard 1kg size bags ideally). **Sweet Treats; Toilet Roll, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, and Toothbrushes.** Items can only be left when the Church is open at Mass times. Boxes are available.

### Wansbeck Food Bank and Matthew Project Donations

We now have an extra box [with a red lid] at the back of St Robert's Church for the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank [financial donations can also be made online] and the food bin for the Matthew Project is now back at St Bede's Church. Donations of all non-perishable food items are welcome to be placed into the bins for those less fortunate than ourselves.



### Prayers for Young People

Father Peter will lead a Period of Prayer for the young people of the parish and local area on Monday 1st November at 7.30pm. This is for all young people 16 - 25+ years. Unfortunately no-one turned up for the prayers on the first Mondays of July, August and September. The one in October was not held. We will try again. Do you know any young people for whom a period of quiet prayer might be a help to them. Adoration, Rosary, opportunity for Confession, some quiet time in prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7.30pm - 8.30pm. First Monday of November.



### Golden Jubilee

Father Jim Dunne at Bellingham (formerly Sacred Heart, North Gosforth) is celebrating his Golden Jubilee on Saturday at St Mary's, Hexham. We congratulate Fr Jim and ask God's blessing on his priestly ministry. Please note that as Fr Peter will be attending that Mass at 12noon, there are no Confessions and Adoration on Saturday morning.

### The Sunday Obligation

The Bishop's of England and Wales are hoping to reinstate the Obligation for Mass from the first Sunday of Advent. Are you happy about the Obligation being reinstated? An important question to ask, which is a massive and controversial talking point is, "Do we want the Obligation to be restored?" We have had people coming back to Mass since last year with no obligation. People are coming to Mass now because they want to be present at Mass. What difference would a Sunday obligation make? Is it better to come to Mass because you want to be there, or because you have to be there!!! Bishop Robert Barron, from the USA addresses the issue of returning to Mass. He writes, "I want you to go back to Mass, which is the source and summit of the Christian life. It is the privileged moment of encounter with Jesus Christ, where we hear his Word, where we feast on his Body and Blood, where we come together as the mystical body of Christ joining ourselves to him, our head, to offer praise to the Father. There is nothing more important which is why the Church has made the Mass so central. If you stay away from the source and summit of the Christian life, from this privileged encounter with Jesus Christ, from the moment when you come together with your brothers and sisters to offer praise to the Father, you are missing out on the very source of the spiritual life." Don't wait for the Obligation to be reinstated. Come back now.

### COP26

CAFOD has written a very useful guide to COP26 which you can read at <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/COP26-climate-summit/What-is-COP26>. COP26 is a United Nations Climate Summit. It takes place in Glasgow from 31<sup>st</sup> October-12<sup>th</sup> November 2021. A 'COP' means 'Conference of Parties' and the one being held in Glasgow is the twenty-sixth such meeting. Governments and negotiators from across the world will travel to the meeting to discuss how to keep temperature rises below dangerous levels and prevent the climate crisis from causing even worse catastrophes for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. In the run-up and during the summit, we are invited to pray that the leaders and negotiators work together for positive outcomes for people and for our common home.

### Year of the Eucharist

Bishop Robert opened the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist last Sunday evening with Mass at the Cathedral. The Year of the Eucharist has three phases which pick up the themes of the Synod:

- October - November 2021 - Listening and Belonging to the Father - Communion
- December 2021 - May 2022 - Listening and Belonging to the Son - Participation
- June 2022 - October 2022 - Listening and Belonging to the Spirit - Mission

Each phase will invite us to prayerful participation in the Holy Eucharist in our parishes, schools, and homes. Given the difficulty of meeting in large gatherings, for the moment the Diocese are planning local celebrations rather than big diocesan events. The Association of the Eucharist and other volunteers are busy creating resources, and these will also be available on the diocesan website.

### The Synod 2021 - 2023

The Partnerships in the north of the diocese are asked to respond to some Questions on the Synod at a meeting in Newcastle on 6th November (yes, we know its short notice!!). **These questions are available in "The Road to Emmaus: Journeying Together" pdf booklet on the diocesan website, although there are a few paper copies in Church. The website is [www.rcdhn.org.uk/faithandmission/synod.php](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/faithandmission/synod.php) and the documents are at the bottom of the website page.** If you get the chance please have a read through these questions and answer them if possible and send any replies in to the parish email address by 1st November.



# Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	<b>10am Mass:</b> 10.30am: Adoration and Confessions 1pm Wedding: Kate Simpson and Jack Kelcher	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b> <b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday Yr B</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Douglas Cone <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish 12.30pm Baptism: Leo Shanahan	
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>Weekday</i>		<b>10am Mass:</b> Private Intention (PS)
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>SS Chad and Cedd</i>	<b>10am Mass:</b> Marie Davies and Allan Nixon	
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>Weekday</i>		<b>10am Mass:</b> Tom, Elizabeth & John Coates
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>SS Simon and Jude</i>	<b>10am Mass:</b> John Carter (MC)	
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>Weekday</i>		<b>10.15am Mass:</b> Requiem Mass: Peter Cameron
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>Martyrs of Douai College</i>	<b>10am Mass:</b> Morton Stott (Catenians) Adoration and Confessions CANCELLED today	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> George and Ellen Arkle
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October</b> <b>Solemnity of All Saints</b>	<b>9am Mass:</b> Ken Offen <b>11am Mass:</b> People of the Parish 12.30pm Baptism: Ivy Penelope Payne	



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

Missionary Disciples: We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.



## 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. If anyone else wishes to be involved in controlling the livestream during Mass on a Sunday or at either of the weekday Masses, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible



### Can you help with Livestream?



Are you able to assist with the tablet control and laptop for the Livestream of Masses. If you are able to help at the 9am Mass on a Sunday or at the 10am Mass on a Tuesday or Thursday, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible.

### Diocesan Readers Course

The course will look at the importance of the Word of God in the Liturgy. It will consider the need to reflect on the meaning of the sacred text and provide training to help improve technique in proclaiming it. To be held at St Joseph's Church, Thorneholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm-9pm and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 10am - 3pm (A Commissioning Service will be held at 3.00pm) The cost is £10.00 and participants will need to bring a packed lunch on the Saturday. Places are limited on these courses and are subject to change, depending on the current Government Coronavirus regulations. Please telephone the Vicariate for Faith & Mission on 07375 934713 or email [adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk)

**LECTORS**

The Word of God

**CANCELLED**

### Northumberland Listening Service

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

### "MarriageCare" Relationship Counsellor

One of the many effects of Covid-19 and the consequent restrictions has been the impact on family relationships, particularly strains placed on couples, leading in some cases, to domestic and child abuse and neglect. Support for families is vital by individuals trained in relationship counselling. MarriageCare, a charity in collaboration with our Diocese, is offering a Relationship Counselling Course for our parishioners who feel a vocation to support. Full training will be provided and a Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) will be awarded. Further details and application are available on the contacts shown on the flyer. MarriageCare will be hosting an online CRC Open Event via Zoom on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 1-2pm for anyone who would like to know more about the role, training and MarriageCare. Interested parishioners can contact Rachaelo@marriagecare.org.uk.

### Liturgical Lay Leaders to a Day of Reflection

A Day of Reflection for Lay Liturgical Leaders is planned for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Gateshead. Booking is essential as numbers are strictly limited. Booking will close on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October.