

# Masses, Services and Devotions

	St Bede's Church Bedlington	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Holy Innocents	5.00pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.00pm The Rosary <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass: Molly, Owen &amp; Patrick Ruddy</b>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10.00am Mass: Bobby Turnbull</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph		<b>9.00am Mass: Molly McKee</b> <b>11.00am Mass: People of the Parish</b>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b> Sixth Day of the Octave of Christmas	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church <b>10.00am Mass: The Craik &amp; Freel Families</b>	8.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> Seventh Day of the Octave of Christmas	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus <b>9.15am Mass: Michael Lillico</b>
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> January</b> Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God	<b>10.30am Mass: James Chadwick</b>	
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January</b> St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus <b>9.15am Mass: Maurice Atkinson</b> 7.00pm Divine Mercy Devotions
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January</b> The Holy Name of Jesus	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church <b>10.00am Mass: — No Intention —</b>	8.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b> Weekday before Epiphany	5.00pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.00pm The Rosary <b>5.30pm Vigil Mass: Francis McAlroy</b>	9.40am The Rosary <b>10.00am Mass: People of the Parish</b> 10.30am Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 11am - 12noon Confessions
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b> Solemnity of The Epiphany of the Lord	<b>5pm Adoration, Readings and Carols for the Solemnity of the Epiphany</b>	<b>9.00am Mass: Jim McKee</b> <b>11.00am Mass: Intentions of the Cole Family</b>

### The Pope's Intentions December 2019

**The Future of the Very Young:** That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

### The Pope's Intentions January 2020

**Prayer intention for evangelisation - Promotion of World Peace:** We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.

#### A Prayer for Missionaries

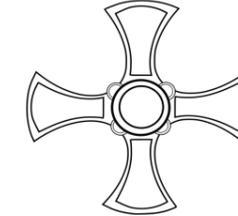
We adore you, Jesus our Shepherd and Saviour, and we praise and thank you for your living among us. We ask you to walk beside your missionaries as they seek to proclaim your Gospel. Cherish, guide, and strengthen them help them to be patient when they meet frustrations, and encourage them when they are disappointed. Lead them, we beseech you, along the path you desire for them. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever. Amen. Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for them; St Joseph, pray for them; St Teresa of the Child Jesus, pray for them; St Francis Xavier, pray for them.

#### A Prayer for Seminarians

We praise you, merciful Father, for sending your Son into the world to free us from sin, and enrich us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. To continue his mission he sent his apostles, the bearers of his love, to proclaim the Gospel to all people, and offer believers new life through Baptism and the Eucharist. Look kindly, Lord, on the men who train for the priesthood, especially in the mission churches. Inspire them with perseverance and courage, so that they may reach their goal of ordination, and continue the work of the apostles in today's world. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**missio**  
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

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

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Tel 01670 513410 | Email morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk | peterjstott@aol.com

#### Parish Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter

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## Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December — The Holy Family (A)

Along the mantelpiece our Christmas cards depict angels and shepherds and the Baby Jesus surrounded by the love of his family. Today however we are given a picture of the Holy Family fleeing to safety from a ruthless and murderous dictator.

Herod, realising the wise men had tricked him was infuriated, and commanded that all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under should be killed. In a dream an angel appears to Joseph, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there, for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him."



In the context of the 'Feast of the Holy Family' we have to admire how promptly Joseph responded to the angel's message and how well he protected his family from the formidable Herod. In the wider context perhaps the main point of the story is that no amount of wickedness or evil could sabotage God's plan. All over the globe people suffer tragedy and loss and terrible injustice, yet still they manage to retain their faith in God. This has to be testimony to the presence of God in our lives, and testimony to the spirit in each of us that abhors evil.

A lot is spoken nowadays of family values, but sadly those values can often be more about becoming successful and making lots of money than becoming good people. The Holy Family reminds us that real family values are about standing up to the 'Herods' in our world and creating a culture of justice and love. Evil only exists if we allow it.



Please pray for: Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers. Please pray for those who are sick, for all who have died recently, including **Paul Digweed** of Castle Close, Morpeth whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's Church at 11.30am on Thursday 9th January; and for **Andrew Shackleton** of Low Stobhill, Morpeth whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Robert's Church on Friday 10th January at 10.30am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Weekly Collection - 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> December**  
St Bede's: £ not available / St Robert's: £901.86

### Christmas Thanks

As I repeat my best wishes to you from last weeks newsletter, wishing you all a very happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year, I would especially like to thank so many people for the cards and gifts and best wishes I received from you. It is quite overwhelming to receive so much and quite humbling, but is also greatly appreciated. Many thanks to you all, God bless you and your families at this very special time, *Father Peter Stott*



### Crib Collection

We have a collection basket at the crib throughout Christmas to support the work of the "Friends of the Holy Land" who work throughout the year to support the Christians who live in the Holy Land. This Christmas Collection offers vital support to our brothers and sisters who live in the land where Jesus was born. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing costs and initiatives.



### Tea and Coffee after Mass

Tea and coffee are available after the Saturday Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and after both the 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday at St Robert's Church Hall and everyone is welcome.

### Newsletter Items

Please drop in a note at the Presbytery or e-mail items for the parish newsletter by 7pm on Wednesday to the parish office email address at St Robert's.

### Advent Alms

Thank you for your donations to the Advent Alms contributions throughout the season of Advent. We will be sending **£573.14** from St Robert's Parish and **£151.50** from St Bede's Parish to St Cuthbert's Care who will use the money to help with their work.

### Holy Hour to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany



This year we are celebrating a Holy Hour, a period of Adoration with Scripture Readings and Carols appropriate to the Feast of the Epiphany. As we commemorate the visit and Adoration of the

Magi, what better way for us than to come together in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to celebrate this wonderful Feast. We hope you will be able to come along at 5pm on Sunday 5th January at St Bede's Church, Bedlington.

### Northern Catholic Calendar 2020

Copies of the 2020 Northern Catholic Calendar are now available in the porch priced £3. Please put money in the slot in the wall.

### Seminarians Mass with Bishop Robert Byrne

On Monday 30th December, Bishop Robert Byrne will celebrate Mass at St Aidan's Church, Ashington, with the Students for the Priesthood of the Diocese also present. Father Shaun Purdy has invited everyone to join them for Mass at 11am at St Aidan's Church.

### Partnership Day of Recollection

As part of our celebrating The Year of the Word, and celebrating the canonisation of Cardinal St John Henry Newman, we are arranging a Day of Recollection for our Partnership on Saturday 1st February. This day is being organised to bring together people from all our five parishes. If you have never experienced a Day of Recollection before, please consider coming along. There will be talks on how we respond to God's call and become active in living out our faith, there will be quiet time for prayer, we will begin the day with Mass at 10am and close the day with Adoration and Benediction, finishing at 3.30pm. Lunch will be provided. All you need to bring is yourself! There is a list on the notice board in both churches ... please sign up if you will be attending so we know numbers for catering.

### St Robert's SVP Meeting

The next meeting of the St Robert's Conference of the SVP will be on Wednesday 8th January at 7.30pm in the upper Church Hall.



### Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on January 16th at 6.30pm at St Bede's Church. Any parents who are looking to have their child Baptized are asked to speak to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen about filling in the Baptism paperwork and attending the Baptism preparation Meeting.

**Reminder:** For Baptism, one parent of the child to be baptised must be a baptised catholic. Mass on a Sunday (or Sat. vigil) is expected. One of the godparents is also expected to be a practising catholic. Attendance at the Baptism Meeting must be completed. Dates for Baptism are not usually given out before the Baptism Meeting is completed. People living outside the Parish will need their own Parish Priests permission to have their child Baptised here.

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

The Pilgrimage to the Holy Land departs on 15th November and it will soon come around. Those who have already booked should have received a letter recently from the Tour Operator with further details of the Pilgrimage, informing you of the flight prices with El Al, the times of the flights from Manchester, the reduced price and possible further reduction if we have over 40 pilgrims. You are asked to contact Tangney Tours with your deposits as soon as possible. *There are still some places available on the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for November 2020, so if you have been thinking about this and now want to join in, collect a booking form from Fr Peter*



### St Robert's Mini - Vinnies

Please remember to save your postage stamps as Mini Vinnies are still collecting stamps for local charities — there is a tub available in the porch at St Robert's Church.

### Choir Practices

We have Choir Practices every Wednesday evening at St Robert's Church from 7pm and the Choir sing at the 11am Mass each Sunday. If you feel you would like to join them and help with the music for our 11am Sunday Mass, please feel free to come along.



### Children's Liturgy Party

Jodi Harrison is organising a party and would like to invite all Children's Liturgy members and any other children interested in joining the group to a Jolly Jamboree Party. This will be held on Friday 3rd January in the church hall, from 11am—1pm. Please pick up an invite at the back of the church for more detail

### 3C's Club

The meetings will continue every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in 2020 commencing 8th January. All are welcome!

### Divine Mercy Devotions

The next Divine Mercy Devotions will be held on Thursday 2nd January at 7pm in the church.

### Church Cleaning Rota

St Robert's Church Cleaning rota for 2020 is now available in the church porch. Please take a copy. Many thanks to all who volunteer for this important role, but we do ask everyone to help keep the church tidy.

### Christmas CD

There are 4 CDs left at St Robert's Church of the Choir of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hexham. The CD called 'GAUDETTE' is available for £10 each. Please drop the money into the Presbytery. The proceeds from the CD are to raise funds for the new Church Organ at Hexham.

### Diocesan Appointments

From 1st January 2020, Bishop Robert has appointed Father Peter Leighton as the new Vicar General for the diocese, replacing Father Martin Stempczyk. He has also appointed Monsignor Andrew Faley from Whitley Bay as the new Episcopal Vicar for Northumberland, replacing Father Ian Hoskins who stands down from this role.

### Journey in Faith

Our Journey in Faith meetings resume on Thursday 9th January at 7pm in St Robert's Presbytery. These meetings are to help our enquirers come to a greater understanding of the Catholic faith and church in advance of them making a decision about being received into Full Communion with the Church. Please keep these people in your prayers.

### Partnership Development Group Meeting

The next Partnership Development Group Meeting will be held on Thursday 16th January at 7pm at Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert Church Hall at Amble.

### Parish Pastoral Council

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 30th January at 7pm. Venue to be confirmed.



### Refurbishing the Upstairs Room in the Church Hall

We have recently had some work done to try and upgrade the upper meeting room in the Hall at St Robert's. The stage has been partitioned off, some electrical work has been completed and there is still a little more to do, carpets are to be fitted in the next couple of weeks and a little decoration is needed where electrical cables have been replaced or removed. We hope that by the end February, this Upper Meeting will be fully functioning and available for hire for those looking for a meeting place. It will certainly be a new venue for all parish groups to be able to use for meetings.

### Deputy Headteacher Vacancy: St Bede's

St Bede's Primary School at Bedlington is seeking to appoint, in April 2020, a Deputy Headteacher and governors are looking for "an exceptional practising Catholic". The closing date for applications is Friday 31st January 2020 at 12 noon and interviews are scheduled for Friday 24th February 2020. Full details of the advertised post are available on the Diocesan Education Service Website as well as the school website.

### Revised Diocesan Academy Policy

The Diocesan Academy Policy has been revised with the aim that our diocesan schools will become academies within one of four Diocesan education trusts by July 2022. Underpinning the Diocesan Academy Policy is the desire and need to ensure the promotion, preservation, protection and future development of Catholic education within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle so that it is fit for the mission of the Church. There are 156 schools in our diocese educating 53,600 children. 45 of our schools are currently academies. The implementation of this policy will happen in two stages:

- **Stage 1:** Consolidation of existing academies and trusts into one base trust
- **Stage 2:** Conversion of voluntary aided schools to academy status within their regional trust

Whenever voluntary aided schools convert to academy status, they will join their single regional trust as equal partners with all schools within the trust. All schools in the region will be included in the process from the outset. In establishing these trust structures and having a single system in our Diocese, we aim to ensure that the children and young people in our schools will continue to receive the very best educational opportunities and life fulfilling experiences, within communities which have the teachings of Christ and his Church at the very centre.

A Catholic trust model where every school has its place, will mean that no individual school will be left isolated or vulnerable in a rapidly changing environment. It will ensure that the uniqueness of each individual school is celebrated and the unique contribution of each is recognised and appreciated.

In order for this policy to be fulfilled, the Bishop expects all schools to continue to work together as a Diocesan family for the good of Catholic education in our Diocese. Through the trust structures the aim is to facilitate greater sharing, adding strength and capacity to our system and ensuring that all schools are supported and included. In this way we will better fulfil the mission of Catholic education within the Church.

### Admissions Appeals Panel Member

The Diocesan Education Department is looking for new Panel members for Admissions Appeals in Diocesan Schools. Further information is available on the Diocesan Website and details of who to contact if you feel you could be of assistance.