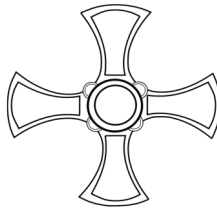


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 11th April 2021 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Happy 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 can be a good thing.

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.

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. The good news is that just as Jesus showed Thomas patience so he will be patient with us too. The good news is that just as Jesus gave Thomas a way to forward his faith so too will we be shown a way forward if we want it enough.

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. It's 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: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media.; The Church; and Human Work. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; including Paul Kelly, husband of Julie, and baby Lucy Ava, great granddaughter of Iris Weatheritt; we pray 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 including **Jill Kelly** [Morpeth, formerly Tranwell] who has died and whose Funeral Service will be held at St Roberts on Wednesday 14th April; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Collections, Standing Orders and BACS Payments

Thank you to all who are regularly contributing to our collections now that Mass has resumed. You can also 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. Also many thanks to those who continue their regular Standing Orders. Bank Details for BACS or new Standing Orders: Standing Orders and BACS payments received during March for St Robert's amounted to **£3,817.92** and Standing orders for St. Bede's was £1,184.00 and loose plate collection was £495.00.



Copies of the Mandates for setting up a New Standing Order are available on our parish websites. Please contact the Parish Office at Morpeth for more details.

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

Organ Fund

If you wish to make a donation towards the costs of the refurbishment of the Organ at St Robert's Church, please use the bank details above. Any contribution towards this will be greatly received. If handing into the Presbytery, or making a BACS donation, please indicate your name and "Organ" somewhere, so that it can be identified. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation please make sure that you have completed a Gift Aid Form so that we can process this with the diocese.

** IMPORTANT NOTE Help with Financial Matters **

Fr Peter is urgently seeking help at St Bede's Parish with the Gift Aid Scheme. The Parish needs someone who would be willing to take on the preparing of the Parish Collection Envelopes and Boxes, the recording 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. The Gift Aid role is needed fairly urgently, so if anyone can help, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible.

Season of Easter

Easter isn't just one day; it's a 'season'. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one "great Sunday". The gospel readings for the first three Sundays recount the appearances of the risen Christ. The readings about the Good Shepherd are assigned to the Fourth Sunday. On the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sundays, there are excerpts from the Lord's discourse and prayer at the last supper. Let us celebrate this special Easter Season with joy.



Booking for Mass

It is getting more difficult to book everyone in for the Sunday Masses. Please remember, that as the Bishops have relaxed the rule for Sunday obligation for the time being, you could come to a weekday Mass at either St Bede's or St Robert's, where there is plenty of spaces available. As more people are vaccinated, more people feel a little more confident to come out of their homes, and especially to come to Church, which is and always has been a 'covid-safe' environment. So if you cannot get in for a Sunday, please remember that you could come to one of the other Masses if able to.



Although we are open, we continue to have only limited spaces available, (36 at St Robert's / 35 at St Bede's; more, if families/households sit together), so we ask that you book for the Vigil/Sunday Mass, so that we know how many will be attending.

To book your place at the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church
Please call St Bede's Presbytery ☎ 01670 823 258
any evening from 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
Monday - Friday, 10.45am - 6pm

Weekday Masses

It has been a long time away from Church for some people, surely you want to come back to Mass? Why not come to a weekday Mass at either St Bede's or St Robert's Churches. There is space, it is safe. Booking is not necessary for weekday Masses, but we ask that you give your details to the steward on arrival - **socially distanced of course** - so that we know how many people are in church.

Contact Tracing App



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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

St Robert's Parish Children's Liturgy of the Word via Zoom is 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. If you have already joined in, it is the same link as previous weeks. Grateful thanks to our Children's Liturgy team for coordinating this.



Technical Issues

Apologies to all our young people and parents last Sunday hoping to join the Children's Liturgy. There was definitely a "technical issue"! Hopefully, the usual link should get you all online together this week and in the future.

Masses Online

If you are unable to attend Mass, 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 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 has 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).

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are possible, in a socially distanced manner, but by appointment only. 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!

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 Wednesday Word



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

Celebrating a Baptism

Since the Prime Minister announced his roadmap out of lockdown, there have been a number of calls and emails about Baptisms. Please note that Baptisms cannot be celebrated until 17th May at the earliest, with 30 people present. Father Peter is not taking any bookings at the moment but will begin discussing this soon with those seeking Baptism.

Celebrating a Funeral

While we are still following the coronavirus restrictions, 30 people are able to attend Funerals in our churches, until Step Four on 21st June, when restrictions are due to be lifted. A list of those attending must also be provided by the family in advance to assist our stewards. The Funeral Director will help with this.

Marys Meals

Marys Meals is now feeding 1,838,859 children in 19 countries! Can you help? Check out their information on Facebook or on their website www.marysmeals.org.uk and you will be able to see what they do and where in the world they are changing the lives of so many young people. This would not be possible without the incredible generosity of their volunteers who give their time to support Mary's Meals – and they would love you to join them. By becoming part of this global volunteering movement, you can use your skills and passion to make a positive difference and help reach more hungry children with life-changing meals in schools. They have a range of fun and fulfilling activities that can be done from the comfort of your home while Covid-19 restrictions are in place, such as holding screenings of their inspiring films for your family and friends. As lockdown eases, other activities might include organising fundraising events and sharing their story with local community groups. Details on all our volunteer roles are available on their website. Please consider signing up and join as a volunteer, who make such a valuable contribution to our beautiful mission of love, hope and joy.



Society of St Vincent de Paul - Sudan Appeal

The SVP have received an urgent appeal for the SVP twinnage project in Sudan and South Sudan. 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.



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.

CAFOD Walk for Water



We offer our congratulations to Mrs Chris Smith in St Robert's Parish who completed her CAFOD Walk for Water during the days of Lent and has raised a tremendous £2,350.00 for CAFOD. Some parishioners did sponsor Chris and we thank them for their support.

Online Vocations Evenings

"The Priest: Servant of God-Servant of All" is the title of a 6-week online discernment course for men discerning a call to the priesthood. There will be a guest speaker each week speaking about important aspects in their ministry and these sessions will explore what is important in discerning a vocation to the priesthood. These begin on Monday 19th April at 7pm. Please email vocations@rcdhn.org.uk to register your interest.



An Evening with Fr Stephen Wang

Father Stephen Wang is the author of Sycamore, a programme that has grown into a resource being used throughout the world. In the Bible, Jesus comes to the town of Jericho. A man called Zacchaeus is so curious about Jesus that he climbs a Sycamore tree to get a better view. When he finally meets him, they begin a conversation, and his life is changed forever. The Sycamore tree seemed to be the perfect image of something that helps others to get a wider perspective on life and faith. The Vicariate for Faith & Mission is pleased to welcome Fr. Stephen to our diocese on Wednesday 21st April 7pm - 8pm for a virtual conversation about how we can make genuine human connections, share our Catholic faith and reach out for a real sense of community with a spirit of friendship. Booking is essential; please register at <https://forms.office.com/r/X42EZKpGKz> or contact Faith & Mission by email adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk or by telephone ☎ 07375 934713

Discernment Weekend for Men

The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th September 2021. It takes place at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales. The weekend is to reach men who are not already in touch with their diocese and is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life. Promoting similar weekends in past years through parish notices proved to be most fruitful, and the results from these weekends are now in the seminaries. Information and registration forms are available at: <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-1>. A poster and flier for the weekend can be downloaded from: <https://bedacollege.org/vocation-promotion>.

Flower Arranging



Would you like to be involved in the Flower Arranging in Church at St Robert's? The group are seeking more volunteers. If you would like to be included in the rota for Flower Arranging, please send an email to the Parish email address (on the front of the Newsletter)

Mass intentions

Some of the Mass Intentions handed in at St Robert's Church are being transferred to be celebrated by Fr Peter at St Bede's Church, so that they can be offered much sooner than waiting for a gap at St Robert's Church. If you have handed in a Mass Intention and prefer for it to be celebrated at St Robert's Church, and not St Bede's, please contact the Parish Office at St Robert's Church as soon as possible.

Envelopes

Many thanks to Peter Smith for arranging to have the envelopes available last Sunday and for distributing the remaining boxes to homes in the parish. If you haven't received your box yet please let us know. At St Bede's, the boxes of envelopes should be available this weekend. Please remember that if your situation changes and you no longer pay tax for Gift Aid purpose or you have moved house, for example, please let us know so that records can be updated as soon as possible.

Diocesan E-Newsletter

The Diocesan E-Newsletter is now available on the Diocesan Website - www.rcdhn.org.uk - containing news and information from around the diocese.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 10th April <i>Saturday in the Easter Octave</i>		5.30pm Vigil: Intns of Ellen & Eddie Nixon
Sunday 11th April 2nd Sunday of Easter	9.00am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 12th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		10.00am Mass: John Monaghan
Tuesday 13th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	10.00am Mass: Leo Horrax	
Wednesday 14th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	2.45pm Funeral Service: Gillian Kelly <i>[Private Funeral]</i>	10.00am Mass: Duncan Flood
Thursday 15th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>	10.00am Mass: Peggy Alsopp	
Friday 16th April <i>St Bernadette</i>		10.00am Mass: Ken and Eileen Percival
Saturday 17th April <i>Weekday of Easter</i>		5.30pm Vigil: People of the Parish
Sunday 18th April 3rd Sunday of Easter	9.00am Mass: People of the Parish 11.00am Mass: Sheila Brown	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for April 2021

Fundamental Rights: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.



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.

Catholic Newspapers

Diocesan Health and Safety guidelines mean you are unable to collect a Catholic Newspaper at Mass, but you can now get it delivered direct to your home every week post free. It is quick and simple to set up - just go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call on ☎ 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange delivery for you.

- Special Offer for 3 months £25.00
- Special Offer for 12 Months £99.00
- Digital Copy for 12 Months £55.00 or
- Digital Copy and Hard Copy £115.00 (Easter Special offer).

All papers are 'covid-safe' and packed in a sterile component.

St Robert's Parish Red Box Donations

In 2020, St Robert of Newminster Parish raised **£1,346.44** through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Communities around the world are so very grateful that people from St Robert's Parish are supporting them through prayer and generous donations. The missionaries and the communities they serve, are living in such difficult circumstances, made harder by COVID-19. They have asked us to pass on their thanks and tell us that they pray for us all. Find out more at mission.org.uk If you wish to have a Red Box for the Missions in your home, please let Fr Peter know.

Friends of the Holy Land

Christian families across the Holy Land who relied on tourism have been plunged into unemployment and poverty during the last year. If their children are to continue attending their Christian schools, many need help to pay the school fees. For students growing up in the small Christian communities of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza and Nazareth, a good school is absolutely vital for their wellbeing now and their future prospects. For those with learning difficulties, there are very few schools with the facilities of the 'School of Joy'. This year's Pentecost Challenge is to walk, cycle, run or swim the 84-mile pilgrimage route from Bethlehem to Nazareth virtually. Take part on your own or as a team. As a bonus to getting fit: you'll discover rarely visited Christian communities, see and hear their stories and our projects as you make your way along the route. We will help you get outdoors and active again as lockdown eases and you can use these efforts to fundraise to keep vulnerable children at the schools they love and support our wider pandemic response across the region. Check out the Friends of the Holy Land Facebook page.

