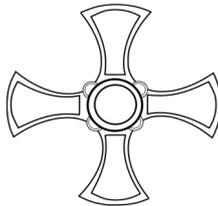


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 20th September 2020 — 25th Sunday Year A

One of the most expensive department stores holds a sale and shoppers form a queue. The most ardent bargain hunters bring sleeping bags and queue overnight. Other shoppers arrive five minutes before the sale. When the store finally opens the doors the queue surges forward in a frenzy. Shoppers 'push in' from every direction greedy for the bargains. Does this make us cross? Of course it does and rightly so. The people who arrived first should get the bargains first. Most of us would agree that that is only fair. The problem comes when we try to use this same sense of 'justice' in earning a place in God's Kingdom. Surprise surprise! Gaining God's grace is not like queuing for bargains, neither has it got anything to do with how many more hours we have worked in a vineyard, nor has it got anything to do with measuring how many years we have served as disciples.

Once again we are reminded that things that count for so much in this world are turned upside down in God's world. We are taught not to think we are worth more as Christians than those who have found Christianity late in life. If we have lived life as God asks from the outset then we should simply count ourselves as lucky. For others, life's paths may have taken more difficult and painful twists.

The employer in today's parable pays his employees exactly the same amount regardless of the time they arrived at the vineyard. Jesus is telling us that there are no 'partial benefits' in God's kingdom. If we have earned a place in heaven we have earned a place, there won't be some places better than others. God's love is God's love. We are each promised the same measure of his grace.



"... So the last will be first and the first will be last." We would be foolish to expect some kind of pecking order at heaven's gates. We would be even more foolish to expect some kind of organised queuing system or loyalty cards for the longest serving. Those who arrive late should certainly not be regarded as somehow cheating the system. We must recognise God's generosity in giving a level field for all and emulate it. We must be happy for the latecomers, especially if we have played a part in attracting them by our shining example!



Please pray for: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Harvest; the Fruits of Human Work; The Reverent use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their families. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; we have a number of parishioners from both parishes who are quite unwell at the moment and we ask you to pray for them; for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery, all suffering from COVID-19; for all who have died recently including **Kenneth Jackson** from Bedlington Station, husband of Rosemary, whose Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday at Whitley Bay Crematorium; for **James Dickinson** of Spelvit Lane, Morpeth, whose Funeral Service takes place on Wednesday at Copwen Crematorium; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

First Holy Communion Celebrations

As it seems unlikely that we going to be able to hold a large communal Mass for First Holy Communion anytime soon, I am inviting parents of these children to speak to me (*ring me at St Robert's Presbytery*) to arrange for a quiet individual celebration of First Holy Communion for their Child over the coming weeks and months. It can be held at one of our weekend Masses, or on a Friday evening Mass at 7pm at St Bede's Church. The children will be able to wear their First Holy Communion clothing, if they wish. Because we have restricted numbers at Mass, we can have one child at the weekend Mass or two together on a Friday evening. Following government guidelines and recently announced restrictions, we ask families to limit the number in their group to 6 people attending per child (*which will be one bench at Mass*). Others who wish to attend can book for Mass in the usual way.

Fr Peter



Special Collections

The Bishop has asked us to take the following special collections ...

- Holy Places of Palestine – weekend of 13th September
- Peter's Pence – weekend of 4th October
- World Mission Sunday – weekend of 18th October

If you are able to make a donation to these collections please use the envelopes in your boxes or use a plain envelope clearly marked with the name of the Collection.

CAFOD Fast Day Collection

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is to be marked on the 9th October. If you can make a donation towards this Fast Day Appeal for CAFOD, please send it in a marked envelope for "CAFOD Fast Day" or go online to cafod.org.uk and make an online donation

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. *A limited number of paper copies are available in both churches, which can be picked up if you come to church.*



Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham



Thursday 24th September marks our National Feast Day of Our Lady, the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham. Let us use this day to ask Our Lady of Walsingham to support our country at this very difficult time

Gift Aid Annual Declarations 2019-2020

Due to churches not yet being fully re-opened as a result of Covid-19, staff at the Diocesan Gift Aid Office have decided that this year they will only provide Gift Aid Declarations when specifically requested by an individual. "This is because it would be unfair to expect our Gift Aid Organisers to distribute the letters when most parishioners are not able to attend Mass as normal. We did consider posting the letters direct to donors but this would be very costly across the Diocese and was not considered a good use of funds in the current circumstances. Taking both of these points into consideration, we have therefore decided it will not be possible to produce letters for everyone this year. If anyone does specifically request confirmation of their donation details however, please direct them to either the Gift Aid Office (gift.aid@diocesehn.org.uk) or Michelle Dixon (michelle.dixon@diocesehn.org.uk) or Andrea Emson (andrea.emson@diocesehn.org.uk) and we will provide confirmation for them on an individual basis."



Mill Hill APF Red Mission Boxes

Mill Hill Mission Boxes can be brought to Church so that the Mission Box representatives can bank the money and send it off to Mill Hill. Because of the Coronavirus, we ask, if you are able, that you sanitise the outside of your mission box and bring it in a bag to Church. We will then leave the boxes for several days before they can be emptied. We will let you know at a later date when these boxes can be collected. Many thanks.



Virtual Gospel Reflection Group

St Aidan's Parish, Ashington is running a Gospel Reflection Group by Zoom conferencing. Each week they read and reflect on the coming Sunday Gospel then share thoughts. It lasts about an hour. There are currently 6 people involved but they are inviting anyone from other parishes who are interested to join them. The Zoom meetings are every Friday 3pm - 4.30pm but people can come or leave as they wish. Anyone interested should contact Margot Mitchell at margotact@gmail.com or on 07837760041



Keeping us updated with your contact information

If you are reading this and realise that you have not updated a recent change of address, telephone number or email address, please send an email to the parish with your updated information. If you have recently moved into the parish and haven't yet given us your details, please let us know your details by email.



Your Church Offering—THANK YOU

Many thanks to everyone who is making regular payments, either by dropping off envelopes at the Presbytery or by Standing Order, or BACS payments. Income received through the Bank during August amounted to **£3,477.92** – Standing orders, single donations, bank payments, etc Thank You! I am very grateful to all those who are continuing to make regular offerings.



Standing Order or BACS Payments

If you wish to set up a Standing Order, **Mandates** are available on our websites. Alternatively, if you wish to make a donation by BACS directly from your own bank account, please use these details.

If you have set up a new Standing Order in the last few months, can you please inform the Parish Office so we can identify your payment on the Bank Statement. If you make or have made an online BACS payment, it would be helpful to let the Parish Office know so that we do not confuse it with a Standing Order.

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

Coming to Mass

Full details of times of Mass this week are on the back page of this newsletter. We ask you to telephone to book your place at Mass, to assist our volunteers who will welcome you into church.

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

To book your place at Mass at St Robert's Church
Please call ☎ 07769 728 325 or 01670 513410
Monday - Friday, 9am - 6pm
If there is no answer, please try later

Bookings are only being taken one week at a time and it is not possible to book Masses weeks ahead in advance.

What is different at Mass?

The main changes at Mass are:

- sanitize your hands on entry at the Church porch;
- check your name off with the stewards;
- Please wait for one of our volunteer stewards to lead you to your seat, please do not go on your own; you must sit in the place shown to you by the stewards, as you cannot choose your own seat.
- Please remain in the seat you have been shown to.
- At St Robert's Church, because of the single aisle, seats are being filled from the front first to avoid people passing one another at close proximity.
- Holy Communion is distributed at the end of Mass. Stewards will let you know when to move to receive Holy Communion;
- Holy Communion is to be received in the Hand only to avoid any possible touching of the tongue and possible cross-contamination;
- please stretch out your hands as far as possible to maintain a social distance with the priest;
- no words are spoken as Holy Communion is distributed in silence; If receiving a blessing this will also be given in silence
- sanitize your hands on the way out of church
- please remember to keep your social distance as you are leaving church and to give space so that others can pass.

What time should I come to Church?

The doors to Church will open for you 15 minutes before Mass begins. The purpose of this is to follow Bishop's Conference guidelines that say that we should **"minimise the time that people are congregated in the church building"**. Government advice also says **"It is advised that the ceremonies and services should be concluded in the shortest reasonable time."**

Test and Trace

It is now mandatory in places of Hospitality - cafes and restaurants etc - for 'Test and Trace' to be practiced. In line with Government and Episcopal recommendation, we too are keeping information for Test and Trace. When booking your seat at Church, we take your information [name / telephone number] and hold it for 21 days.

Please remember Social Distancing

When attending Mass, we ask you to respect the social distancing guidelines. You should only be in close contact with those you live with or those in your "bubble". You shouldn't lean in to talk to fellow parishioners, nor attempt to shake hands or touch others. **It is good to talk to people outside Church after Mass, but please remember that you should keep your two metre distance and away from the church doors to allow others to safely exit church.** Please do not block the church doors by standing in front of them and blocking the access out of church for others who may wish to pass safely. In benches, please also respect this guideline, stay in your own bench, in the seat you have been given, not moving to a different seat; please do not cross through other benches, so that we can avoid cross contamination and try not to touch any benches, other than the one you're sitting in.



Not feeling well ... ?

Please do not attend Mass if you do not feel well, or if you are showing symptoms of the coronavirus.

Face Coverings



We now have to wear face coverings in all places of worship. We ask you to make sure you have a face covering when you come to Mass. Please remember that when receiving Holy Communion, you are supposed to remove the face mask from the ear loops, not by pulling down under your chin!!

Votive Candles

Please note that at the moment we do not have any Votive Candles available for lighting. We are not able to share tapers or lighters and have to avoid all possible occasions of people queueing up to light candles so that we can observe social distancing guidelines.



Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings

When we resume the celebrations of Baptism, Weddings and Funerals, we have to follow all guidelines we have been given, which limits attendances to 30 people in Church, following a "track and trace system" for all attending and a cleaning protocol after every event. There are other specific guidelines for all these celebrations which can all be found on the Bishop's Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk

"Doors Wide Open"

We have to keep doors fully open during Mass, for the circulation of air. You may need warm clothing if sitting near the back of church, especially as we move into Autumn!!

Toilet Facilities

We do not yet have any toilet facilities available at either of our Churches. When circumstances change we will let you know.

The Collection at Mass

We are not allowed to pass around the collection baskets or bags due to possible cross-contamination, but we will have available in both our churches at all Masses, a basket near the back of church in which you can leave any collection envelopes or offerings. These then have to be placed into bags and left for 72 hours before anyone can count the offerings. It is therefore much better for our parishes if you set up a Standing Order or make an online BACS payment if possible.



No Singing, No Hymnbooks, No Mass books

We are not allowed to sing at Mass at the moment, so hymnbooks are not available. We are unable to use Mass books or Missalettes or Mass cards for the text of Mass but if you have your own Daily or Sunday Missals, "Magnificat" or the "Universalis" App on your mobile you can use them for the texts of Mass.

The Changes to Mass and Why?

If anyone is wondering why we are having to make all the changes to Mass due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic, please check the Bishops' Conference website which gives the information and also has the links to the Government's advice for all Places of Worship. The Coronavirus COVID-19 is still with us, as we know too well because of the latest restrictions placed upon us. It seems much more likely that the virus will continue to spread and therefore we need to do all we can to try to keep people safe when they come to Mass.

Coeliac Gluten Free Hosts

Because we are only consecrating hosts needed for each Mass, those who suffer from coeliac disease and need a gluten free host are asked to speak to Fr Peter **before Mass begins**, so that a GF host can be put out for consecration.



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 19th September <i>Weekday / Our Lady's Saturday</i>	10.00am Mass: Bobby Turnbull	5.30pm Vigil Mass: The Nixon Family
Sunday 20th September 25th Sunday Year A	9.00am Mass: Molly McKee 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish <i>[with First Holy Communion of Emily Trebillcock]</i>	
Monday 21st September <i>St Matthew</i>		10.00am Mass: Peter McGarry
Tuesday 22nd September <i>Weekday</i>	10.00am Mass: Helen & Douglas Cone	
Wednesday 23rd September <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina</i>		10.00am Mass: <i>No Intention</i>
Thursday 24th September <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	10.00am Mass: Terry Macy (GS)	
Friday 25th September <i>Weekday</i>		7.00pm Mass: Veronica Johnson
Saturday 26th September <i>SS Cosmas and Damian</i>	10.00am Mass: Marie Davis	5.30pm Vigil: People of the Parish <i>[with First Holy Communion of Liam Kemmish]</i>
Sunday 27th September 26th Sunday Year A	9.00am Mass: Anne Lewington 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for September 2020

Respect for the Planet's Resources:

We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.



Mary's Meals

Mary's Meal is a charity that is focused on one goal – that every child receives a nutritious daily meal in a place of education. Mary's Meals works in 19 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean. Can you support them in their work? With a donation of £15.90, Mary's Meals can provide a child with both education and a meal each day at School for one whole year. You can easily donate online at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/ways-to-give/> Please try to support this wonderful charity.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land—April 2021

After discussion with our Tour Operator, Tangney Tours, it has been decided that because of the Coronavirus, we have postponed our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, planned for November of this year, and hope to travel in April 2021. Tangney Tours have now contacted those who were booked to travel. Unfortunately, some people have cancelled their booking because of the change of date So there are now some spaces if anyone feels they would like to travel. Please contact Gill at Tangney Tours if interested on email - Gill@tangney-tours.com

The Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word website contains reflections on the forthcoming Sunday readings for both adults and children and can be accessed at wednesdayword.org Using this website can be a good way to prepare for Sunday Mass (online) and reflect on the readings.

Parish Websites and Facebook Pages

Our Parish Websites and Facebook pages are updated regularly, and the Parish Newsletter is available on our website each week.



The Northern Cross

This newspaper is currently only available with a digital subscription. If you want to know more, please visit www.northerncross.org.uk

Northumberland Listening Service

The Northumberland Listening Service has been running for several years, set up by the local catholic parishes in Northumberland, and has helped many people during that time. 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.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

For those who are unable to attend Mass at the moment, and therefore unable to receive Holy Communion, this prayer for an Act of Spiritual Communion may be helpful. *My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Confession or An Act of Perfect Contrition

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is now available, but has to be celebrated according to the social distancing guidelines. Six months without the possibility of going to Confession has been very difficult, so its good to have this available again on a request basis. Please contact Fr Peter and we will try to arrange this for those who wish.



For those who are unable to celebrate this Sacrament it is possible at the moment to make an Act of Perfect Contrition, as given in the Catechism [§1452] for these times. To make an act of Perfect Contrition, we simply need to turn to God and be, as it were, overwhelmed by God's mercy, acknowledge our sins, and then express in our own words or in the words of the traditional Act of Contrition, the sorrow we feel for our offences against the goodness of God. When we do that in all sincerity of heart, we may rest assured that God forgives our sins and that we come away from that Act of Perfect Contrition freed from those sins.