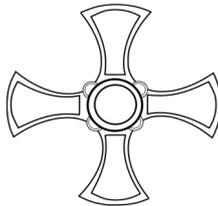


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**Saint Robert of Newminster
Catholic Church**
Oldgate
MORPETH
NE61 1QF

PARISHES OF THE BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND

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Sunday 28th June 2020 — Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul

Those of us who have been Christians since childhood take Peter and Paul for granted. They are like one piece of the same jigsaw. Even their names seem to go together like Laurel and Hardy or Marks and Spencer. We have to stop in our tracks for a while to remind ourselves that Peter and Paul each had to find out who they really were before they could become powerful agents in the service of Christ.

Peter was not always Peter. He came out of Simon, the rock out of the jelly. Today we celebrate him as the strong leader of the early Church; we recall him as being steadfast as a rock, the choice upon which Jesus would build his Church. But we remember that he was far from steady. He was the headstrong, volatile one who was told by Jesus to get behind him like Satan. He was the one full of promises which he broke as soon as the going got tough, the lover turned deserter. Yet Jesus knew this. That is why he invited him to discover his real self: not the Simon with all his limitations, but the Peter who in Christ would accomplish much.

Paul was not always Paul. He came out of Saul, the lamb out of the wolf. We recall the zealous Jew whose very life was consumed in tracking down Christians and having them persecuted. We remember the man whose understanding of religion was such that he considered Christianity to be abhorrent to God. Yet for some reason he was not to remain so blinkered. He saw the light. He was blinded by the reality of Christ's teachings and deep in his heart he was no longer Saul the persecutor, but Paul the fearless preacher and teacher of the faith. When he became Paul he could be used by God to the fullest.



In every one of us there is both Simon and Saul. We do not have to look hard to see our imperfections or seek very far before finding our own fickleness or presumptuousness. The good news, though, is that we are not condemned to live out this self-destructing role. At our baptism we are called to a greatness that we cannot achieve by ourselves. Our new name is that of "Christian", and we agree to be living witnesses to the new life offered in Christ. In a sense our Christian life is a journey of discovery into who and what we are called to be. The more we know our true selves before God, the more God can use us in the service of the gospel. God, of course, did use Simon and Saul. But when they faced up to who they really were, they could become Peter and Paul: far richer and more effective preachers of the gospel. Do you know who God is asking you to be?

Please pray for: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who suffer Persecution, Oppression, and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell, for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery, all suffering from COVID-19; for all who have died recently; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Reopening our churches for prayer

St Bede's Church, Bedlington: Father Peter has been given permission by the Bishop to open St Bede's Church for private prayer only. We still do not have permission to celebrate a public Mass, nor any Baptisms, Funerals or Weddings in Church. We are to undergo a Health and Safety Assessment on Wednesday 1st July and then we need to be able to prove that we can provide a team of Stewards to assist when the Church might be open, and also a team of people who will be able to clean the church in preparation for opening and also for cleaning after every opening, of the benches where people have been sitting. Unless we can provide these volunteers we are not allowed to open, so we need a regular commitment from parishioner volunteers. Please contact Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen with your availability (It is important that those in the team of volunteers should not be drawn from those instructed to shield themselves, nor, as a general rule, from groups considered more vulnerable to coronavirus).

On Friday afternoon the Diocesan Chief Operating Officer sent to all parishes two new documents for Volunteers ... A volunteer form and a safeguarding form, both of which must be completed by all volunteers. Anyone who wishes to volunteer to help with the above is asked to contact Fr Peter and a copy of these forms will be sent to you. Please remember, we need you to volunteer, otherwise we cannot open the church.

St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth: Further maintenance will take place from the middle of July, through August. We will then await permission from Bishop Robert for the opening of the Church for private prayer only. At the moment we are still unable to celebrate a public Mass, Baptisms, Funerals or Weddings in our Church. When we do open, because of strict social distancing guidelines, we may only be allowed to have up to 28 people in church at any one time.

St Aidan's Church, Ashington: open - Sunday 1pm - 4pm; Tuesday 1pm - 4pm; Thursday 1pm - 4pm; last entry at 3.30pm. [Please note ... no toilet facilities]

Websites and Facebook Pages

Our Parish Websites and Facebook pages are updated regularly, and the Parish Newsletter is available on our website each week. Please remember also that the diocesan website www.rcdhn.org.uk and the Bishops' Conference website www.cbcew.org.uk contain many useful links that may be helpful to you at this time.



Newsletter by Email

If you would like to go onto our mailing list for the weekly Newsletter, as we are not printing paper copies, please send your email address to Fr Peter at St Robert's and you will be added and the Newsletter will be emailed each weekend.



Celebrating the Priesthood

I would like to ask your prayers this weekend for Father Michael Humble (Sunderland), Father Nicholas Jennings (Crook), Father Paul McCourt (UK Forces Chaplain) and myself, as we celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our Ordination to the Priesthood. We were all ordained together at St Mary's Cathedral on the evening of 29th June in 1990. There were several other priests ordained in the same year who are also celebrating in the coming weeks and months. I'm sure that none of us could have thought that we would be celebrating our anniversaries in the middle of a coronavirus pandemic. As we are unable to celebrate a public Mass and have "a bit of a do", I will be offering Mass on Monday on my own, for a special intention 'In Thanksgiving' and I hope you will join me in prayer, and pray for me on that day, giving thanks to God for the gift of the priesthood, the Mass and the Sacraments.



Streaming Masses from the Diocese

St Charles Church, Gosforth is now streaming Mass on churchservices.tv; St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle, Holy Name at Jesmond, St Patrick's at Consett, Our Lady Immaculate and St Cuthbert Church at Crook, St Elizabeth's Church at Minsteracres, St Mary's Sunderland and St Mary's Hexham are all streaming on YouTube Channels. There are also several Masses streamed on Facebook, details of which can be found on the diocesan website. The "churchservices.tv" site and "mcnmedia.tv" site both host many churches in Ireland and the UK for the broadcast of Mass.



Listen to Mass over the Telephone

If you don't have access to the Internet and would like to listen to Mass you could use the service provided by the Middlesbrough Diocese. The number to call is ☎ 01642 130120. Calls are charged at local rate and free if in your included minutes. You can call at any time and will find yourself listening to Mass from the beginning.

Masses for the Sick and those who care for them

On Thursday evenings the following Masses will be celebrated at 7pm on the named online channels and offered for those who are affected by the Covid-19 Coronavirus - the sick and their families, NHS workers and all other keyworkers.

- ◆ 2nd July, Archbishop John Wilson, St George's Cathedral, Southwark (London), YouTube Channel
- ◆ 9th July, Bishop Tom Williams, Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, YouTube Channel

We continue to pray for all who are trying to keep us safe and look after us, because this virus has not yet disappeared. These Masses and our prayers support all NHS Staff, in hospitals and surgeries, Chaplains, Care workers in Nursing Homes, shop staff, members of Royal Mail and all delivery drivers and all our clergy who continue to celebrate Mass for each one of us.

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.



**STAY
ALERT** 

**CONTROL
THE VIRUS**

 **SAVE
LIVES**

Praying together in a time of need

Since the beginning of "lockdown" we have been encouraging you to pray at the same time as other parishioners. While we are still not able to come together, it is important that we all try to pray each day, to pray for ourselves, for one another and for all who need our prayers at this time of uncertainly.

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 try to send an email to the parish with you updated information. If you have recently moved into the parish and haven't yet given us your details, please let us know your details.

Rainbows Bereavement support for children

Would you consider donating the "coffee" money you have saved while social distancing to Rainbows Bereavement Support? We expect to be very busy once schools return and need financial help to support children who have experienced a significant loss in their lives. Thank You!



You can make donations by BACS to:

Rainbows Bereavement SupportGB to:
HSBC Sort code: 40-39-15
Account 21395785

By cheque to;

"Rainbows Bereavement Support GB "and posted to:
The Chair of Trustees, Rainbows Bereavement SupportGB, Hall Lane, Magull, Liverpool L31 3DZ

OR through their website at:

<http://www.rainbowsgb.org/support-our-work>

Or if you have cash, please give it to Ruth Higginbottom (518546), when you can.

Northumberland Listening Service

If you are struggling with "lockdown", "shielding", "self-isolation" or any other issue and need to talk to someone? If there is something bothering you and you need to talk, please remember that we have the Northumberland Listening Service set up by parishes in this area of Northumberland several years ago. The number is "Northumberland Listening Service" 07732 980740.

Keep 'Kitkat' Fairtrade

'Nestlé' have announced that 'KitKats' will no longer be Fairtrade. From October they will stop buying from cocoa and sugar farmers in Cote d'Ivoire, Fiji and Malawi on Fairtrade terms. That means ripping away around £2 million of annual Fairtrade Premium payments, in the middle of a huge health and economic crisis. Farmers will be getting less for their hard work and have less control over how they spend their money. Further information is available at this link and there is an online petition www.change.org/p/ulf-mark-schneider-nestle-global-eco-keep-kitkat-fairtrade



Appeal for the Diocesan Justice and Peace Group

In normal times many parishioners have been very generous in donating food to the refugee project based at the Deaf Centre in Newcastle. Unfortunately the project has had to close temporarily because of the nature of the premises and the difficulty of social distancing. However, the destitute clients are now getting a digital voucher on their phone which they can spend at Tesco or Asda. This new system is expensive for the charity as each client receives £30 a month. If you are in a position to help, it would be much appreciated if you could support the charity. Bank transfers can be sent to HSBC DHN Destitute Asylum Fund, Sort Code 40-34-18, Account No 52854058. Cheques made payable to "DHN Destitute Asylum Fund" and sent to Justice and Peace refugee project c/o Fr. Adrian Tuckwell, St Anne's Presbytery, Half Fields Road, Winlaton, NE21 5RW.

If you need support

Northumberland Communities Together: 01670 620015 is the County Council's Covid-19 support hub that can get food or supplies out to anyone in need via community volunteers. That is for anyone in Northumberland, no matter how big or small their need. If you are struggling with managing at home and need support for basic things like food, and have been unable to get help from family, friends or local community groups, the council has set up a Community Response Hub as part of "Northumberland Communities Together".



If you need immediate assistance, you or someone you know should email - northumberlandcommunitiestogether@northumberland.gov.uk or telephone 01670 620015 between 9am to 6pm, seven days a week.

If you are worried about the immediate welfare (health or well-being) of a child or adult contact Onecall - 01670 536400 - 24 hour service, 365 days a year.

If you have a medical condition which makes you extremely vulnerable to coronavirus (COVID-19), you may be eligible for shielding support. Shielding is a measure to protect people who are clinically extremely vulnerable by reducing interaction with others. Full information is available on www.northumberland.gov.uk/coronavirus/Shielding.aspx

Prayer to Our Lady Health of the Sick

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross

you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection,

O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



Masses and Intentions this week

Saturday 27th June	Weekday	Bryan McGurk (<i>Catenian Association</i>)
Sunday 28th June	Solemnity of St Peter and St Paul	People of the Parish
Monday 29th June	Weekday	Fr Peter's Intentions In Thanksgiving - Stott and O'Connor Families
Tuesday 30th June	<i>First Martyrs of Rome</i>	Special Intention (NA)
Wednesday 1st July	<i>St Oliver Plunkett</i>	Jim Craik
Thursday 2nd July	Weekday	Muriel O'Dwyer
Friday 3rd July	<i>St Thomas</i>	Craik and Freel Families
Saturday 4th July	Weekday	Douglas & Helen Cone
Sunday 5th July	14th Sunday of the Year	People of the Parish



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for July 2020

Our Families: We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.



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. These are difficult times for many people, and I am very grateful to all those who are continuing to make regular offerings. 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 ...



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

Prayer For those who miss going to church

God of the last supper,
who knew real presence:
*a beloved one reclining into you,
holding dusty feet as you poured water over them,
the tug at the hem of your garment,*
touch us now,
unable to receive your risen body in church,
Unable to gather as your body;
touch us with your word,
*handed on from your mouth, from memory,
written down, broken and shared over centuries
from the pulpit, the kitchen table;*
touch us with the glimpses we can see of spring,
of our vulnerable brothers and sisters,
of your presence within. Raymond Friel

An Act of Spiritual Communion

When we are unable to receive Holy Communion, it has long been the catholic tradition to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. St. Thomas Aquinas defined a Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament [in Communion] and lovingly embracing Him as if we had actually received Him." One composed by St Alphonsus Ligouri in 1870 is ..
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.

An Act of Perfect Contrition

It is difficult not being able to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time and go to Confession. The Catholic Church provides an Act of Perfect Contrition [Catholic Catechism §1452] for these times. Cardinal Vincent Nichols recently spoke these words, "What the Church teaches us, is that God in His mercy, forgives our sins when we are truly sorry for them. And when we turn to Him and express our sorrow in an Act of Contrition, it's called an Act of Perfect Contrition when its focus is on the mercy and the love of God rather than on the burden of our guilt. So to make an act of Perfect Contrition, we simply need to turn to God and be, as it were, overwhelmed by God's mercy, 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. And, as I say, the only thing we have to remember is, when it is possible to make a Confession again, that we mention the grievous sins which were forgiven by this Perfect Act of Contrition."

**We can
help control
the virus
if we all
STAY ALERT**

- Stay at home as much as possible
- Work from home if you can
- Limit contact with other people
- Keep your distance if you go out (2 metres apart where possible)
- Wash your hands regularly