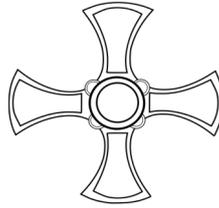


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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 October 2020 — 28th Sunday Year A

Do we fondly imagine that people ought to love us just the way we are? We are told often enough that God loves us warts and all. But do we carry this belief through life with not much thought of betterment?

In today's parable a king invites guests to his son's wedding. When the guests refuse to turn up, the king extends the invitation to a different set of guests, both good and bad. The guests fill the wedding hall, but as they do so, the king notices one man not wearing a wedding robe and he has him bound hand and foot and thrown out into the darkness! The consequences for not wearing the right outfit seem overly harsh as far as this poor guest is concerned, but of course the parable has not really very much to do with wedding receptions and even less to do with wearing the right tie. The overriding theme in this story is to do with standards.



Jesus explains that the Kingdom of God is open to all but that doesn't mean that anyone and everyone can stroll into heaven. Just as guests make an effort to be correctly dressed for a wedding, so too must we put in the preparation and effort to be accepted into God's Kingdom.



The guest who was thrown out of the wedding feast for his cavalier 'accept me just the way I am' attitude presents a warning for us all. Too often we go about our daily routines not feeling any need to live life better. Far too often we look on our Christianity as making choices between good and evil, and we are confident that we rarely choose evil. But Jesus is asking more of us than simply choosing between right and wrong, he is asking us to choose between good and an even greater good. What we imagine is our 'best' very rarely is.

Just as the guest in today's parable did little more than turn up to the wedding, so we live life going through the motions but not much more. Accepting God's invitation to join him is only the first step, it's how we live out that acceptance that really matters.



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 **Jacob Conroy** of Oldgate, Morpeth whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 12th October; and **Ellen Young** of Challoner Gardens, Morpeth whose Funeral Service will be held on Monday 19th October at Cowpen Crematorium (please speak to Fr Peter for further details); and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

CAFOD Fast Day - SURVIVE, REBUILD, HEAL

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day was marked on Friday 9th October. Their focus this year is reaching out to some of the poorest communities throughout the world suffering from Coronavirus, to help them survive, rebuild and heal. If you can make a donation towards this Fast Day Appeal for



CAFOD, please drop off at Mass in a marked envelope for "CAFOD Fast Day" or go online to cafod.org.uk and make an online donation. CAFOD envelopes are available in Church this week and should be used if you wish to "Gift Aid" your donation by completing the declaration on the envelope.

World Mission Sunday



World Mission Sunday will be celebrated on Sunday 18th October. If you are able to make a donation to the special collection on that day, please use the envelopes in your boxes or use a plain envelope clearly marked with the name of the Collection and bring to Mass with you or drop off at the Presbytery.

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

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. Please contact 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 they will arrange for a Declaration to be sent to you.

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.

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 margotcontact@gmail.com or on 07837 760 041



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.



Journey in Faith

The coronavirus pandemic is obviously going to affect this year's Journey in Faith, for anyone wanting to become members of the Catholic Church. If there are any adults seeking to become Catholic by Reception or by Baptism please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible. We will undoubtedly have to think about new ways of communicating our faith, if there is interest. Alternatively the Diocese are holding a "Zoom" Journey in Faith and all details are on the diocesan website.

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 and reflect on the readings.



SVP Donations

The SVP would like to thank those people who have very kindly made donations to the SVP. In the last six months since Mass and the weekly collections were cancelled, this is the only income we have received. If any other people are able and would like to make a donation, please put it in an envelope marked for SVP, and post it through the Presbytery letter box. Thankyou.

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals 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.



RCIA online with the diocese

Our diocese is running an online Journey in Faith programme. Registration remains open for new enquirers wishing to join the programme 2020-21. To register or for more information, please email admin-faith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.

Coming to Mass - You must book your place

As our churches get busier, especially at weekends, for Sunday Mass, I would like to stress the importance of booking your place at Mass. If you do not book, you may not get in. Without a booking and without a seat, and if we are full, you are not supposed to enter the building, according to all the guidelines we have received, so please do not think it possible just to remain in the church porch. This isn't allowed. **PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE.** 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, as this assists 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 St Robert's Presbytery ☎ 01670 513 410
Monday - Friday, 9am - 6pm

If there is no answer, please try later

If you have already booked a place, but then find that you are unable to attend, please try to cancel your booking as soon as possible.

Social Distancing outside Church

There have been several complaints about the lack of social distancing outside both churches after Mass, especially on a Sunday. You are asked not to congregate immediately outside of the Church doors, so that everyone has the opportunity to walk out of church in a socially distanced manner, and still wearing your face coverings until such time that you are not in the vicinity of the church doors. We must be fully compliant with the government advice that we should be limiting our contact with those who are not part of our household, and remembering the government guidance on "The Safe Opening of Places of Worship", which states that "socialising" or "mingling" with others from outside our household should be avoided. The safety of others must be paramount in the way we conduct ourselves during this pandemic.



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What if I need assistance at Church?

If for any reason you want to come to Church and you need assistance getting into Church, or getting to the seat in Church, you should be accompanied by a member of your household or bubble. It is inappropriate to expect our stewards or fellow parishioners to give personal assistance, as they are then putting both you and themselves at risk of spreading the coronavirus. It would be preferable if anyone needing assistance was always accompanied by someone from the same household or bubble during this difficult time when we must try to keep everyone safe.

What time should I come to Church?

The doors to Church will open for you 15 minutes before Mass begins. 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."

Celebrating a Baptism

You are allowed to have six people present at a Baptism outside Mass, but those attending **MUST** be from the same household or bubble and include the baby being baptised. Other guests are not allowed because of this change!! This will obviously cause great problems for those wishing to organise a Baptism. Please speak to Fr Peter if you are a parent wanting to organise a Baptism under these new restrictions.

Wearing a Face Mask

The UK Government guidance on face coverings states that **you are expected to wear a face covering before entering any place of worship and must keep it on until you leave unless there is a reasonable excuse for removing it.** Please do not enter church if you do not have a face mask. The safety of others must be our priority and the wearing of a face covering is compulsory in church. If it is a genuine mistake, we can deal with that, but it is irresponsible to deliberately walk into church knowing that you do not have a face mask. As the coronavirus is spread via aerosol molecules from our breath, via nose or mouth, it is so important for all of us to use a face mask.



Test and Trace and the Contact Tracing App

We are taking information for Test and Trace. When booking your seat at Church, we take your name and contact telephone number and hold it for 21 days. We also have posters around our churches with the QR Code for the new Covid-19 Contact Tracing App. Once you have downloaded the App you can scan the QR code every time you come into church, so you can be traced in case of any possible Covid-19 contamination of someone who was at Mass at the same time as you.



Entry to the Sacristies

Our Sacristies are not large spaces. We ask you therefore to limit coming into the Sacristy either before or after Mass so that we can maintain social distancing for our clergy. *(this does not apply to the volunteers stewards who need access for cleaning materials at St Robert's Church after Mass).*

Funerals in Church

All funerals in church, whether a Funeral Service or a Requiem Mass have to follow Government guidelines. The maximum number allowed to attend is 30 people; and following those guidelines, only those in the same household or bubble are allowed to sit in the same bench. All families organising a funeral are asked to complete a list of those attending for "track and trace" records; and because of the limited number, attendance is limited to those invited by the family. Requiem Masses will be subject to changes at the end of Mass, to allow for safe distribution of Holy Communion.



Less baggage when you come to church

As everyone at Mass receives Holy Communion at the end of Mass and then makes their way out of Church, it is easier if you do not have any bags with you. As you have to carry out your bags and receive Holy Communion, it can sometimes be a little awkward to receive Holy Communion. Please ask yourselves if you really need to bring bags with you to Mass at this time.

Sacramental Preparation online

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, and the recommendations that meeting with people outside of your household must be kept to a minimum, the Vicariate for Faith & Mission is seeking to establish catechist community networks to offer support in engaging with formation online. Several resources will become available for this over the coming months, and the vicariate is available for any questions that arise. It is hoped that we can journey alongside each other at this difficult time, sharing ideas and creating resources where there may be gaps. They are inviting catechists to attend one of the online sessions at 7pm on Wednesday 21st October (Confirmations) and Thursday 22nd October (First Holy Communions). New and experienced catechists are all welcome to take part, share and find out more about sacramental preparation online. To register to attend one of the meetings or for more information, please email adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.

The Great Adventure: Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

"Many people want to read the Bible because they know it is God's Word, but they give up because it seems so complicated. Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible helps you to get the 'big picture' of the Bible by showing how fourteen narrative books of the Bible tell the complete story from Adam and Eve to Christ and the Church." This new, free, online course is starting in the Autumn and will run across 8 sessions during November 2020 and February 2021. To register or for more information, please email adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.

October the Month of the Rosary

On 13th October there will be a 'Rosary Whirlwind' across the British Isles. This will involve people across the country praying the rosary at 8pm. More details on www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk. On the 31st October, the diocese will be taking part in a Rosary Rally, with different dioceses from across the country having a designated time slot to ensure the rosary is prayed continuously throughout the day from 9am to 9pm. For more information register at adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk.



Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 10th October <i>St Paulinus of York</i>	10.00am Mass: Dcd Family & Friends (AF) <i>[with First Holy Communion of Esme Yeowart]</i>	5.30pm Vigil: <i>No Intention</i> <i>[With First Holy Communion of Sean Raja]</i>
Sunday 11th October 28th Sunday Year A	9.00am Mass: Dcd Mbrs McLaughlin Fam. 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	
Monday 12th October <i>St Wilfrid</i>	10.00am Requiem Mass Jacob Conroy <i>[Private Funeral, invited family and friends only]</i>	
Tuesday 13th October <i>St Edward the Confessor</i>	10.00am Mass: Elma Moloney and Cathy Bonner	
Wednesday 14th October <i>St Callistus I</i>		10.00am Mass: Jim Craik (AC)
Thursday 15th October <i>St Teresa of Avila</i>	10.00am Mass: Jacob Conroy (AB)	
Friday 16th October <i>St Margaret Mary Alacoque</i>		7.00pm Mass: Private Intention <i>[with First Holy Communion of Faye Heatley]</i>
Saturday 17th October <i>St Ignatius of Antioch</i>	10.00am Mass: Jim & Molly McKee <i>[with First Holy Communion of Owen Swift and Ben Murdie]</i>	5.30pm Vigil: Francis Reid McElroy (AC)
Sunday 18th October 29th Sunday Year A	9.00am Mass: Sheila Brown 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for October 2020

The Laity's Mission in the Church: We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.



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.



St Robert's Bonus Ball

During the current pandemic we are unable to arrange many fundraising activities. However, we would like try running the Bonus Ball during November and December, just £5.00 for 5 weeks. If you wish to participate, we ask you to put £5.00, your name and telephone number into an envelope, marked "St Robert's Bonus Ball" and leave it at St Robert's Presbytery *[post through letterbox]*. This will cover the five weeks Bonus Ball from the National Lotto Draw on Saturday 7th November until 5th December. Unfortunately, this time around, you will not be able to choose your number, but you will be allocated a number and you will receive a telephone call with your lucky number. The weekly winner will receive £25. Don't forget that you have to be in it to win it. Good Luck.



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.*

Going to Confession

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 it is good to have this available again on a request basis. Please contact Fr Peter and he will try to arrange this for those who wish.

An Act of Perfect Contrition

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.

The Northern Cross Appeal for Support

"The lockdown and church closures have caused our sales at weekend Mass to cease. We have reached a "Northern Crossroads". A new approach is **northern-cross** needed - as is a price increase - if the newspaper is to survive. We are looking for 2,020 subscribers in 2020 and are asking for people to consider signing up on an annual basis. For £36 subscribers would have the printed newspaper delivered through their door. For £20, subscribers would have access to the digital edition each month. We encourage you to take out a postal print subscription for £36 a year including post and packing costs. If you prefer reading it online, you could sign up for the digital edition at £20 a year. Please email editor.norcross@btconnect.com or call 01325 464008 for more information or visit their website www.northerncross.org.uk/