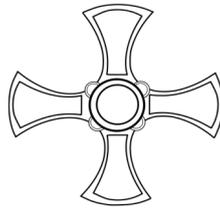


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**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
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www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

Sunday 19th September 2021 - 25th Sunday of the Year

If you took a survey out onto the street asking, "Which people would we regard as the most successful?" celebrities like Bill Gates or Simon Cowell might figure highly on the list. Favourite pop idols, film stars, sports people and royalty might be up there too. It seems that we measure success in terms of popularity, glamour, money and power. Even in our own not so famous circles, we strive for status and job promotion. With promotion comes extra responsibility and with that extra responsibility, increased power to our elbow.

The disciples may well have been feeling bemused in today's gospel story. Jesus tells them that man will hand him over to his death. The disciples were probably wondering why Jesus should succumb to this kind of ignominy. After all, wasn't he the Son of God? Couldn't he exercise some power? Who knows, perhaps it was this idea that prompted their conversation on the way to Capernaum. We are told that the disciples were discussing amongst each other, which of them was the greatest. They must have known deep down, that Jesus would not approve of this discussion, because when Jesus asks them what they were talking about, they fall silent with shame.

Jesus places a small child in their midst to teach them a lesson. He is asking them, and us, to accept the child's world as our own. We are asked to accept a world of vulnerability and absence of status. We are asked to take stock. Who do we look up to in our society? Do we look down on those who appear to lack ambition or position? Today we remember that Jesus' way is not of pomp and circumstance, but of servitude and humility. We have to learn that success is not about what we have, but about who we are.





At this time of the Church's year, we are asked to pray for: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work; and the reverent use of creation; Justice and Peace in the world; all victims of war; Young People; Prisoners and their Families. Please pray for those we know who are unwell, as well as the many who have no one to pray for them; for those in hospital, recovering from or awaiting surgery; and at this difficult time of the coronavirus we pray for all suffering from COVID-19; for all who have died recently including **Dan McLaughlin** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday at St Robert of Newminster Church; for **Ted Lewington** [Bedlington] whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Church on Monday 27th September at 12noon; for **Bridget Wasylofski** [Guidepost] whose Funeral Service will be celebrated at 11am on Friday 1st October at St Bede's Church; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections

Thank you to all who are regularly contributing to our collections at Mass each week. Alternatively you can 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 and Standing Order forms are available by ringing the Parish Office. Further information on any of the above is available from Fr Peter.



Diocesan COVID-19 Restrictions

Following information received this week, there is very little change to our restrictions. We have been asked to maintain the one metre social distancing in Church, use of hand gel and face coverings. You must still book to come to Mass for a Saturday Vigil or Sunday Mass. These restrictions will be reviewed in early November. Two changes now allow us to sing (wearing face coverings) and we can also take the collection once again.

Thanks to Stewards

Once again, I wish to offer a very sincere thank you to all our stewards, for their assistance since our churches reopened. We could not have reopened without our stewards' offer of help. Their cleaning of our Church after each and every Mass or service is also important and appreciated. This help will now have to continue as our covid-19 restrictions remain in place. I am hoping that stewards will be able to remain in place for the coming months, but if not, please let Fr Peter know. Thank also to Sandra at St Bede's for accepting the telephone bookings there each week. Many thanks to everyone involved.

Can you help?

Are you able to become one of our stewards. At Bedlington we only have 9 stewards and 16 at Morpeth, so we could do with extra help at both churches. Please contact Fr Peter via email this week (a new rota will be produced before the end of the month) indicating which Church you are volunteering for, if you are able to offer help

New Altar Servers

If anyone is willing to join our team at St Bede's or at St Robert's, please contact Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen.

Bonus Ball at St Robert's

We will be running the Bonus Ball from October for 10 weeks. There are about 20 numbers still available. If you wish to play, please put £10.00, your name and telephone number into an envelope marked 'Bonus Ball' and leave it at St Robert's Presbytery before the end of this month. This will cover the ten weeks Bonus Ball from the National Lotto Draw on Saturday 2nd October until 4th December. Unfortunately, you will not be able to choose your number - they will be allocated and you will be phoned with your lucky number. The weekly winner will receive £25.



Booking for Mass

You should continue to book for Sunday Mass, until further notice.

To book your place at the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church, Please call St Bede's Presbytery ' 01670 823 258

Monday - Friday, 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

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
9.30am - 12noon**

Limited Numbers for Baptisms and Funerals

Please note that as our covid restrictions continue, this will also affect the people attending Baptisms and Funerals in coming weeks, as we have limited seating available (18 benches, with 516 adult seats) and as we encourage all in church to wear face coverings. If unsure, please speak to Fr Peter.

Contact Tracing App

Latest guidelines from the diocese inform us that there is no longer any need to check in using the QR code. COVID-19 has not gone away and people are still contracting it. Please remember that if you have any symptoms of Covid-19 you should not attend Church.

Annual Mass Count

It seems a little unusual, especially when we are not back to normal, but we are asked to take our Annual Mass Count over four Sundays, beginning on the weekend of 18th / 19th September.

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 print and pass them on to others.



Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Our partnership parishes [Ashington, Amble, Bedlington, Longhorsley and Morpeth] need some adult catechists to help prepare our young people for the Sacrament of Confirmation. No one has yet come forward, although we know people have done this previously. Whether you have been involved before and wish to do so again or wish to get involved for the first time, please let Fr Peter know so that your name can be passed on to those who are coordinating this.

Do you want to be Confirmed?

If you are a young person in Year 9 and above at St Benet Biscop or King Edward VI Schools or equivalent, and wish to be take part in the preparation and then receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Fr Peter, or Deacon Stephen and we will pass on an application form which should be returned as soon as possible.

Opening our Halls

The latest guidelines concerning the covid-19 virus, reminds us that our Church Halls cannot be opened unless there has been a covid safe Risk Assessment. This can carried out by a company called PBI at a cost of £300 for each Hall or if there is a willing volunteer, an online course can be undertaken to allow that person to carry a Risk Assessment, and this costs £170 per person. If you are a willing volunteer and would be able to do this, please let Fr Peter know. If you are in a parish group and eager to start meeting safely once again, following all covid safe restrictions, please let Fr Peter know. Its no good opening up, if there no current need.

Becoming a Catholic

If anyone is interested in becoming a Catholic, please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible. This will help decide whether there is a need to have a Journey in Faith Group this year.

Preparing for Baptism

Parents requesting Baptism for a child are asked to contact us to make arrangements to attend this Baptism Preparation Meeting. Once parents have attended this preparation meeting, they are asked to meet with Fr Peter (or Deacon Stephen if for St Bede's Church) to make arrangements and set a date for the Baptism. Please note that one parent must be a baptised catholic for Baptism in the Catholic Church and it is also hoped that the catholic parent or even the whole family has been to Mass recently, especially as at the Baptism the parents will be promising to bring their child up "in the practice of the faith".



The Wednesday Word

"Wednesday Word" Reflections on the Sunday readings, for both adults and children can be accessed at wednesdayword.org. This is a wonderful resource to help focus on our Sunday Readings. Edited by Dom Henry Wansborough OSB of Ampleforth Abbey, it is a wonderful resource for both parishes and for Schools to help focus on the forthcoming Sunday readings.



First Steps – Exploring the Catholic Faith Online

The Diocese is offering an online course Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start? Join an online journey this Autumn and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. This will meet weekly via Zoom and you are invited to come along to find out more. Starts Wednesday 22nd September at 7pm. If you are interested to find out more, you can enquire/register by email to adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk



Food Donations

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Group need donations of Food and Toiletries to support refugees and asylum seekers. The SVP is the local contact with the Justice and Peace Group and will be delivering to the base in Newcastle. We are now collecting once again for the following items ...

Tinned Tomatoes; Chickpeas; Tinned Fish (e.g. tuna); Biscuits (Single packets are easier for us to distribute than tins or biscuit collections.) **Rice** (Preferably not microwave rice, as not all our clients will have access to a microwave. Standard sized rice bags ideally). **Sugar** (Please continue to collect. Standard 1kg size bags ideally). **Sweet Treats; Toilet Roll, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, and Toothbrushes.**

Items can be left at either St Robert's Church or St Bede's Church, but they can only be left when the Church is open at Mass times. Boxes are available.

Diocesan E-Newsletter

The latest edition of the Diocesan E-Newsletter has lots of information about what's going on in and around the diocese. Check it out on the diocesan website www.rcdhn.org.uk

Change of Mass

Please note that there are no Masses on Tuesday - Saturday this week. Some services will be held at St Bede's Church at Bedlington.

Diocesan Days of Recollection

- Breaking the Word: A Day of Reflection for Readers at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 9th October 2021 from 10.30am - 3.30pm
- Called to the Supper of the Lamb: A Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 16th October 2021 10.30am - 3.30pm

These days are only optional and it is not obligatory for anyone to book on them at the moment.

Diocesan Year of the Eucharist

Bishop Robert has announced a "Year of the Eucharist" will be celebrated in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and will be launched during Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday 17th October 2021, simultaneously with the launch of the 2023 Synod of Bishops, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission."



The aims of the Year of the Eucharist are:

- To celebrate the Eucharist at the heart of the life and mission of the Church and to gather people back.
- To grow as a Diocese in our love and appreciation of the Eucharist.
- To deepen our appreciation of the liturgical celebration of the Eucharist through the rites.
- To revitalise and renew our faith through a deepening prayer and devotion of the Eucharist.
- To go out and serve the world through the nourishment of the Eucharist.

The Year of the Eucharist will be celebrated in Episcopal Areas, Partnerships, Parishes and Schools and will provide a framework of prayer for the Diocese's participation in the first stage of the Synod. (*more Synod Information on cbcew.org.uk*)

Vatican Synod 2023

The Vatican recently released a preparatory document and handbook for the 2023 Synod on Synodality, to be reviewed by all Catholic dioceses in the world over the next six months. There is the 22-page preparatory document, "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," and the 42-page vademecum, or handbook, for the diocesan phase of the synod. The handbook includes prayers, a description of synodality, the objectives of the synodal process, and the main questions to which the local Catholic communities are asked to give feedback. It underlines that dioceses should focus on "maximum inclusion and participation" among baptized Catholics in the diocesan synod process. The preparatory document has been released for a period of "pre-synodal discernment" that will influence a second draft of the text to be published before June 2023. According to the Vatican, the preparatory document is "a tool to facilitate the first phase of listening to and consulting the People of God in the particular Churches" for the diocesan phase of the synod. During the diocesan phase, each bishop is asked to undertake a consultation process with the local Church from Oct. 17, 2021, to April 2022. The handbook says that dioceses should organize local gatherings for "synodal consultation," and also enable individuals to give their feedback directly to the diocese. There was a zoom meeting recently for all Partnership Deans and Chairs from throughout the Diocese, and information will be released very soon from the Dept of Faith and Mission on the way forward for Hexham and Newcastle, but access to these documents is now available on the Vatican website.



Northumberland Listening Service

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

Sycamore Course

The Sycamore Course is designed to help people develop their faith and Fr Peter is wondering about starting this course to help people in our parishes deepen their faith and come together, once our covid restrictions come to an end. Would there be any interest from members of the parish to come together to take part in this course? Please contact Fr Peter to let him know if you are interested.

Masses and Intentions this week

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
Saturday 18th September <i>Weekday</i>	10am Mass: 10.30am: Adoration and Confessions	5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 19th September 25th Sunday Yr B	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Molly McKee 12.30pm Baptism: Harry Wood	
Monday 20th September <i>The Korean Martyrs</i>	10am Requiem Mass: Dan McLaughlin	
Tuesday 21st September <i>St Matthew</i>		10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 22nd September <i>Weekday</i>		
Thursday 23rd September <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)</i>		10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 24th September <i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>		10am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 25th September <i>Weekday</i>		5pm - 5.20pm: Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: <i>No Intention</i>
Sunday 26th September 26th Sunday Yr B	9am Mass: Vera and Vic Edwards 11am Mass: People of the Parish 12.30pm Baptism: Elijah Albie Sayer	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for September 2021

An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle: We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.



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.

Livestreaming Mass from St Robert of Newminster Church

Masses at St Robert of Newminster Church can now be viewed on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/StRobert>. Masses are streamed live at 9am on Sunday, 10am on Tuesday and 10am Thursday, or as a recording on the above Parish YOUTUBE site anytime. If anyone else wishes to be involved in controlling the livestream during Mass on a Sunday or at either of the weekday Masses, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible



University Catholic Chaplaincy

For our younger parishioners heading out to different universities, don't forget to check out the catholic chaplaincy, wherever it may be. Most universities have a chaplaincy, and they can be a real home from home, which is important if you are feeling out on a limb. They are places where you can pop in for a cup of tea, talk to other students and talk to the chaplain. A good chaplaincy will also organise social events, and will of course offer daily Mass. Many chaplaincies have a Website or a Facebook presence, so you can easily look it up before you actually go. This website www.catholicsatuniversity.org.uk may be helpful if you don't know where to start.



CATHOLICS AT UNIVERSITY

Use this site to find your Catholic Chaplaincy

Extraordinary Ministers Renewal of Commitment

On the weekend of 2nd / 3rd October, all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion throughout the Diocese are asked to renew their Commitment. This will take place at all three Masses - the Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church and the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's Church. Ministers are asked wherever possible, to be present, as this was missed last year. *Please remember that you will have to book to attend Mass.*



Piety Stall at St Bede's Church

Would anyone like to take on the role of looking after the Piety Stall at St Bede's? There hasn't been one for many years, but experience tells us that it is good for a parish to have some piety goods - cards, rosaries, gifts, available for parishioners to purchase throughout the year and especially at various celebrations in the parish. If you think you could help, please let Father Peter know.