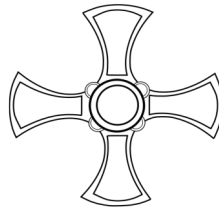


**Saint Bede's  
Catholic Church**  
Catholic Row  
BEDLINGTON  
NE22 6HS



**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](mailto:morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) | [peterjstott@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk)

[www.strobertsmorpeth.com](http://www.strobertsmorpeth.com) | [www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk](http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk) | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021 - Palm Sunday**

When momentous events happen, only a few people are able to grasp their full significance. So when the Berlin wall fell, everyone cheered, but a few knew what problems lay ahead for a unified Germany. When the iron curtain was finally pierced, only a few realised the implications this would have for an enlarged Europe. It takes a perceptive mind to see beyond what's under their eyes and be able to grasp the wider picture.

On Palm Sunday there were only a few in the crowd who had any idea of what the real picture was. The crowd cheered and sang; the children were enjoying every moment of Jesus's entry on a donkey into Jerusalem. It was a colourful pageant and a welcome diversion from the religious duties of the festival period.



But only a few knew that the man on the donkey was no mere rabbi, politician or rebel leader. He was, in fact, God's Son. He was the Messiah sent by God to bring good news to his people and to reveal the sort of God that they had.

Only a few people could see that the cheering crowd would turn before the week was over and, bored once more, would demand a public spectacle again... this time an execution. In this they were representative of the people at large who rejected the message of Jesus.

Most people would have expected him to argue his case and try to defend himself against the charges of treason in order to save his skin. But a few people were convinced that he would remain absolutely faithful to the will of his Father. That's because he knew that his mission depended on this.

And while the vast majority of the crowd thought that the whole thing was something of a damp squib and the fun was over after his death, a few understood that his life and death had a purpose. Though he was innocent he gave his life in sacrifice so that sin, death and evil might no longer have a hold over us. Some people knew that, but not many.



At this time of the Church's Year, we are asked to pray for: Peace on Earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity; The Sick and Those who Care for Them; Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat it; Racial Justice; The Unemployed. Please pray for family members, parishioners, those we know who are unwell; 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 **Father Wilf Elkin** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at Barnard Castle on Wednesday; **Jon Horton** [Morpeth] whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's Church on Wednesday; and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Collections, Standing Orders and BACS Payments

Many thanks 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.

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. Also many thanks to those



who continue their regular Standing Orders. Bank Details for BACS or new Standing Orders:

#### 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

### \*\* 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, as new envelopes will need to be issued very soon for the new financial year. *Fr Peter is very grateful to a parishioner from St Robert's Parish who has offered to do the monthly finance report and annual return, on a temporary basis, until someone from St Bede's is able and willing to take over.*

### Gift Aid and Collection Envelopes

New Envelopes for your collections start next weekend. We hope to have the new envelopes available as soon as possible. There will definitely be a delay in getting these out, especially at St Bede's, as no-one has responded to the appeal above to be the Gift Aid Organiser.

### Holy Places Collection

Every year on Palm Sunday, we are asked to take a collection for the Holy Places. This collection is used for the holy places and people of the Holy Land. If you can make a contribution either today or on Good Friday, please use the special envelopes in the boxes or a separate envelope clearly marked "Holy Places".



### Thanks to the Stewards

I would like to express my thanks once again to all our stewards who make it possible for us to have Mass and Funerals at our churches and who clean the church afterwards, and especially this Holy Week and Easter, that we are able to open our churches for our Masses and Services because of their volunteering. Many Thanks.

### Coronavirus - Please Stay Safe

Let us continue to pray for all who are suffering from the coronavirus, especially those who have been admitted into hospital and those recovering; let us remember in our prayers the staff and medical teams in our local surgeries, hospitals and vaccination centres; pray for all scientists and biologists studying the virus; all who are working to prepare the vaccines to keep us safe and for all the volunteers in the vaccination centres. We keep everyone in our parish communities in our prayers at this very uncertain time, even though there is a little more light at the end of the tunnel, but there is still at least twelve weeks to go before the Government Roadmap ends all restrictions! Stay Safe everyone.

### Booking for Mass

We are open for Mass, but 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

Weekday Masses will begin on Monday 29th March (see back page for details of times and places). Booking will not be 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.

### Booking for Holy Week Services and Masses

We ask that you book if you wish to attend the Holy Thursday Evening Mass, Good Friday Service, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses. Please book from Monday onwards. *[Please note that if booking for St Robert's, Fr Peter will be celebrating Mass at 10am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and has a Funeral at 12noon on Wednesday, so the telephone may not be answered around those times, as there is no one to answer in the Presbytery]. That special virtue of patience will be needed!!*



### 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 and scan the code to record your presence.



### Masses Online

If you are unable to attend Mass, two online services stream Masses throughout the day - [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv) and [www.mcnmedia.tv](http://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 have 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)



### 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 last week. Grateful thanks to our Children's Liturgy team for arranging this.

**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. Its 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.

### 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. The cost of the repairs was £24,000 + VAT so 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.



### Father Ian Hoskins

Father Ian Hoskins has announced his retirement and his last Mass at St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley will be on Easter Sunday. The Parish at Longhorsley is having a collection for him. They have set up a "Justgiving" site - <http://bit.ly/Fr-Ian-Hoskins> - if anyone wishes to make a contribution, or alternatively, cheques should be made payable to "St Thomas of Canterbury" and can be left at St Robert's Presbytery.

### New Parish Priest at Longhorsley

Bishop Robert Byrne has asked Fr Shaun Purdy to take on an extra role as the new Parish Priest of St Thomas of Canterbury at Longhorsley. Father Shaun will remain in position as Parish Priest at St Aidan's, Ashington. This will be effective from Monday of Easter week. Congratulations to Father Shaun on this appointment.

### Diocesan Reflections for Lent



The Diocesan Department for Faith and Mission has prepared a series of daily reflections for the whole of the Season of Lent, 46 individual reflections in total. These are available online on the diocesan website, or you can sign up for them to be emailed to you on a daily basis.

### Daily Reflection from YMT

The Diocesan Youth Ministry Team have prepared a series of video reflections for Lent. 'Wait a Minute – It's Lent' are daily videos which will be available via YMT's YouTube channel, with reflections from across the Diocese. Watch the trailer on the following link and subscribe to their channel [<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVIOoCyoxRWub3zoPJorMhQ>].

### The Wednesday Word

Reflections on the Sunday readings for both adults and children and can be accessed at [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org)



### 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!

### Lenten Alms



St Cuthbert's Care works throughout the North East to help improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable members of our communities including people with profound disabilities, children in care and older people. If you wish to make a donation in this last week of Lent, please place an offering in an envelope and mark it either "Lenten Alms" or "St Cuthbert's Care" and drop off at the Presbytery.

### The "BIG WALK FOR WATER"

"Walk for Water" is a challenge that takes place over Lent and there is only a few days left to go. We take clean water for granted. We turn on a tap and expect it to be there immediately. Not everyone around the world is as fortunate as we are. Full information of how to get involved with this is to go onto the CAFOD website and register ... [www.walk.cafod.org.uk](http://www.walk.cafod.org.uk)



### 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.

### Streaming from St Robert's Church

As announced recently at Mass, we are making arrangements for live streaming to be available from St Robert's Church. The company that looks after our church sound system are arranging this for us, (as they have done already at Holy Name, Jesmond and at the Cathedral) by supplying a camera, laptop and modem and all necessary accessories. It is not cheap and is a bit complicated trying to get licenses set up for streaming, but hopefully all will be in place within the next couple of weeks. It is hoped that once installed we will be able to stream Masses from St Robert's Church.



### Praying for our Sick and housebound

It has been said that we should include the names of our sick and housebound parishioners on our newsletter so that we can include them in our regular prayers. However, we can only include the names of those who give their permission for their name to be included.

If you are sick / housebound and would like to be added to this list, please let Fr Peter know; if you know of someone, please ask them first, to get their consent before submitting their name for inclusion. Please remember that not everyone wants their names or their medical conditions to be made public, so we have to be very careful when we talk about those in our parish who are not well, even when we think we should know or think it would be the right thing to do so we can pray for them. [Further information on Data Protection and Consent needed for this, is given in the Data Protection Guide for Parishes on the Diocesan Web-site.]



### Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals

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. Organising a wedding is a little more complicated ....

- Currently, 6 people can attend a Wedding
- From 12th April, 15 people can attend
- From 17th May, 30 people can attend
- From 21st June, no restrictions on numbers (all dates subject to change)

For Funerals, 30 people are able to attend, until Step 4 on 21st June, when restrictions are due to be lifted.

### 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](http://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.



### 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.

### 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.

### Cleaner Vacancy at Alnwick

A vacancy has arisen for the appointment of a Cleaner at St. Paul's Church in Alnwick. The closing date for applications is Monday 5th April 2021. Please visit the diocesan website at <http://www.rcdhn.org.uk/hr/diovac.php> for further information.



# Masses and Intentions Holy Week 2021

	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth	St Bede's Church Bedlington
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Lent</i>		<b>5.30pm Vigil Mass:</b> Jim Craik
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>9.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11.00am Mass:</b> Ints of Fr Peter (K&BB)	
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Holy Week</i>		<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Jean (Sheila) Craig
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday of Holy Week</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> George Beattie (AB)	
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March</b> <i>Weekday Holy Week</i>	<b>12.00pm Funeral Service:</b> Jon Horton <i>(Private Funeral)</i>	<b>10.00am Mass:</b> Tony Syron
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April</b> <b>Holy Thursday:</b> <i>Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>	<b>7.00pm Mass:</b> John Devitt & Dcd Devitt & Doherty families	
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>3.00pm</b> Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord	<b>3.00pm</b> Commemoration of the Passion of the Lord
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b>		<b>7.00pm Easter Vigil:</b> Private Intention (FS)
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>9.00am Mass:</b> People of the Parish <b>11.00am Mass:</b> Michael Lillico	



## The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for March 2021

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God



## 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](http://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.

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

After much discussion, consultation and prayer I regretfully have made the decision to cancel the official 2021 Hexham and Newcastle Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. I am deeply grateful to those who have supported and advised me during this process of discernment. We will have virtual and, if restrictions allow, Pilgrimage gatherings leading up to and during our Pilgrimage week. If it becomes legally possible and safe individual pilgrims may wish to make a private visit to Lourdes. Government websites and Tangney Tours are available for advice about travel arrangements. We continue through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes to pray for the healing of our world at this time of pandemic.

Fr Stephen Watson, Pilgrimage Director

