

Masses, Services and Devotions

	St Bede's Church Bedlington	St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth
Saturday 23rd March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm—5.20pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of Parish	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Sallie Stokes 10.30am Stations of the Cross 11am - 12noon <i>Confessions</i>
Sunday 24th March 3rd Sunday of Lent C	4.00pm Stations of the Cross	9.00am Mass: Special Intention (TS) 11.00am Mass: Tony Syron
Monday 25th March <i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
Tuesday 26th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Mass: Norman Barker
Wednesday 27th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	LENTEN STATION MASS 7pm at St Aidan's Church, Station Road, Ashington	
Thursday 28th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Mass: Elphin Conroy 7.00pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Divine Mercy Devotions
Friday 29th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	10.00am Requiem Mass: Madelaine Potter	8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion
Saturday 30th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	5.00pm The Rosary 5.00pm—5.20pm <i>Confessions</i> 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Jim Craik / Private Intention	9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Nora Gleghorn 10.30am Stations of the Cross 11am - 12noon <i>Confessions</i>
Sunday 31st March 4th Sunday of Lent. C	4.00pm Stations of the Cross	9.00am Mass: George Beattie 11.00am Mass: People of the Parish

The Pope's Intention March 2019

That Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

Appeals Panel

The Diocesan Department for Education welcomes applications from people willing to serve as lay or non-lay members of appeal panels for school admissions. Suitable people will be appointed to serve on panels hearing appeals for Catholic schools within The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle. People are eligible to be a lay member if they have no personal experience in the management of any school or in the provision of education in any school (disregarding any such experience as a governor or in any other voluntary capacity). People are eligible to be a non-lay member if they have experience in education, are acquainted with educational conditions in the local authority area, or are the parent of registered pupils at school. Application forms can be obtained from our Diocesan website www.edurcdhn.org.uk by emailing education@diocesehn.org.uk or by phone on 0191 2433313. The closing date for applications is **Thursday 18 April 2019**.

Diocesan Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

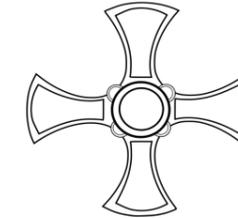
- Administrator, Dept. for Safeguarding – full-time, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 10 April.
- Cleaner, St Mary's, Blackhill – 3 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 28 March.

For further information and details of how to apply please visit the website www.rcdhn.org.uk telephone 0191 243 3301 or email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

Journey In Faith Meeting

The next Journey in Faith Meeting will be held on Thursday 28th March at the slightly later time of 7.30pm, with the theme of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

**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 Stott

St Robert's Presbytery, Collingwood House, Oldgate, Morpeth NE61 1QF
Tel 01670 513410 | Email morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk | peterjstott@aol.com

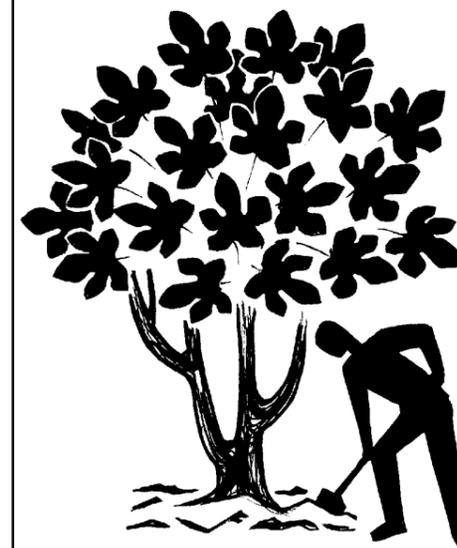
Parish Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter

St Bede's Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS
Tel 01670 823258 | Email bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk

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

Sunday 24th March 2019 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

When people die, especially if it has been in tragic or premature circumstances, we can be left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. Death simply happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice. In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment! But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of us can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die.



At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit therefore the owner of the vineyard commands that it should be cut down. A compassionate gardener asks that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance. For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. Looked at in this way the parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise.... something inspirational!

Lent is a time to address some begging questions. How many years have we spent making the same old mistakes? What must we do to make life different? It sounds obvious, but to achieve different results, we must do something different. We are invited to ask God for help in setting new priorities, and we must achieve results that reflect God's love for us, and our love for God.



Please pray for: Peace on Earth; Christian Unity, The Sick and those who care for them; Victims of Trafficking and those who work to combat it; the Unemployed. Please pray for those who are sick, including Fr Jim Doherty; and Sylvia Thompson; for all who have died recently including Madelaine Potter whose Requiem mass will be celebrated on Friday at 10am at St Bede's Church, followed Cremation at Cowpen Crematorium; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections 16th/17th March
St Bede's: £227.65 / St Robert's: £845.87

Retirement Collection for Bishop Seamus Cunningham
Many thanks to those who contributed to the Retirement Collection for Bishop Seamus. We have been able to send £184 from St Bede's Parish and £479.00 from St Robert's Parish.

Tea and Coffee after Mass

We have tea and coffee available after the Vigil Mass at St Bede's on Saturday evenings and tea and coffee available after the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's on Sunday mornings.

Newsletter Items

Please drop in a note at the Presbytery or e-mail items for the parish newsletter by 7pm on Wednesday to the parish office email address at St Robert's.

Lenten Alms

Throughout Lent we are asked to support St Cuthbert's Care through our Lenten Alms. There will be a box available TO-DAY for donations for Lenten Alms.

CAFOD Emergency Cyclone Idai Appeal

CAFOD have announced an emergency appeal for the people of South Eastern Africa in the wake of the Cyclone disaster. There will be a **RETIRNG COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY**. We ask for you support for this appeal. Your donation will give food, clean water and healthcare to people in desperate need. Gabriel, the CAFOD expert working with the Church in Mozambique at this time, reports: "We know that Idai has wiped out crops and livestock, damaged water supplies and wrecked sanitation facilities, leaving vulnerable families even more exposed. With the support and generosity of the Catholic community, we can reach the people who really need urgent emergency aid."

Stations of the Cross

Please remember that we continue to pray the Stations of the Cross during Lent: St Robert's on Thursdays at 7pm & Saturdays at 10.30am and at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Sunday afternoons at 4pm.

Lenten Lunches

Many thanks to everyone who is supporting the Friday Soup Lunches throughout Lent. We will continue again at 12noon this Friday. Proceeds of these lunches will be split between CAFOD and Marys Meals.

Station Masses in the Partnership

Our Station Masses are proving very popular and I am so pleased to see a good number of parishioners from St Bede's and St Robert's attending these Masses. This week the Station Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday evening at 7pm at St Aidan's Church at Ashington.

Bishop Robert Byrne

This weekend we offer a warm welcome to Bishop Robert Byrne to Hexham and Newcastle Diocese and we keep him in our prayers as he prepares for his Installation on Monday, the Feast of the Annunciation, as the fourteenth Bishop of the Diocese. There will be celebration of Solemn Vespers at St Mary's Cathedral tonight (Sunday) at 4.30pm and all are welcome to that celebration. The Installation Mass is by invite only, due to the large numbers attending. We ask you to keep Bishop Robert Byrne in your prayers this week.



St Vincent de Paul Society

The next meeting of the SVP meeting at St Robert's, will be on Wednesday 27th March at 7.30pm.

Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Monday 25th March, at 7:00pm, in the Church Hall. There will be a talk on 'Science Concerning Life Beyond Earth'. Everyone welcome. Would members please bring any contributions for the Spring Coffee Morning tombola to this meeting. Thank you.

Diocesan Lent Course

The talks on "Gods Gifts of Love and Mercy" continue this week, at St Robert's Church Hall from 7pm - 8pm; and then on 5th April & 12th April also at St Robert's, Morpeth. Everyone welcome to come and along and join the discussions.

"Life Though Death in St John's Gospel"

St Aidan's, Ashington are exploring chapter 18 onwards of the Gospel according to St John. To be held in St Aidan's Parish Hall, Ashington, Tuesday 26th March and Tuesday 2nd April, starting at 2.00pm. All are Welcome!

Partnership Service of Reconciliation for Lent

We will be celebrating a Partnership Service of Reconciliation for Lent on Wednesday 3rd April at 7pm at St Bede's, Bedlington. We hope parishioners will feel able to come along and join in the celebration of Confession.

Christian Aid Spring Evening

The Christian Aid Spring Evening will be held on Saturday 30th March at 7 for 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. The theme this year is Sierra Leone and there will be an African style meal followed by a talk about how Christian Aid is helping to make childbirth safer there. Presently Sierra Leone is one of the most dangerous places in the world to give birth with 10 women dying in childbirth every day. The speaker is Sue Burston and tickets cost £7, available from Gerry Harber (tel 517829).

Vocations Discernment

If you are aged 16 or over and thinking about the priesthood why not come along to one of the Diocesan Vocations Discernment evenings held at Saint Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. These evenings provide an opportunity to listen to speakers talk about their discernment, faith journeys and vocations, and are followed by a meal. Forthcoming dates: Wednesday 27th March; Wednesday 22nd May; Wednesday 26th June. For more information, please contact Fr Christopher Warren, Diocesan Vocations Director.

Mothers Day and Easter Cards

A section of cards for Mother's Day and Easter cards are available on the stand at the back of St Robert's Church.

Young People

For more information on events for Young People, or if you have any questions, please contact Thomas on 07483 347646 or at youth.brinkburnheavenfield@rcdhn.org.uk

Edge

Thursday 28th March: Edge continues for those aged 9-13 at St. Robert's Parish Hall, Morpeth, at 6pm to 7:30pm on Thursday the 28th of March, when we will be continuing to explore how we find our true freedom in Christ with an evening focused on introducing the Ten Commandments. A fun time is sure to be had by all, with the usual games, discussions, and social time

Youth Alpha

Sunday 31st March: Youth Alpha continues for those 14 and over at St. Aidan's Parish Hall, Ashington, at 7pm to 8:30pm on Sunday the 24th of March. Our topic for the evening will be "Spirit: Who is the Holy Spirit, and what does He do?" There will be the usual pizza, social time, video, and discussion, so be sure to come!

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Information sheets are now available from Fr Peter. Most people who are expressing an interest are opting for the longer 10 day pilgrimage, so please keep that in mind. If interested, please collect or if you would like a copy emailed to you, send an email and a copy will be emailed to you.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from 26th July — 2nd August. The Pilgrimage organisers are appealing for Nurses to assist with the Pilgrimage and for all other adult helpers so that that they can take 40 sick pilgrims. There is also a Youth Section for those aged 16-25 for the Youth Section. Those who need Nursing Care can also apply to travel. There are 40 places available for sick pilgrims needing nursing care. Please see Fr Peter for booking forms. Full information is available on the pilgrimage website, which is www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk and on the Facebook page



Lenten Penitential Service

On Monday 1st April at 7pm the Lourdes Hospitalité and Monkwearmouth Partnership invite all to attend a Lenten Penitential Service with the theme, "Happy are the Poor in Spirit" at St Benet's, Sunderland. Please see the poster in the Porch.

New counters

If anyone has time to help with the counting teams at St Robert's, we are looking for a few new people to assist. Please contact Fr Peter if you are able to help or require further information.

Typing the newsletter

Pauline Chisholm has been one of the parishioners who has helped with the compilation and typing of the newsletter but is standing down from this role. We thank Pauline for her work with the newsletter, which has been greatly appreciated. If anyone would like to help with this, please speak to Fr Peter, Marian Bell or Mary Beaton for information on what is involved.

Parish Office Secretaries Holidays

Please note that Pat Bateman, at St Bede's is on holiday this week; and Bernadette Rich at St Robert's is on holiday until 1st April.

St Bede's: Gift Aid & Planned Giving

The planned giving boxes for St Bede's Parish, for the new tax year commencing April 2019 are now available for collection in the Narthex. If there is a change in your circumstances, ie that are no longer a tax payer or should you require to change your method of giving, it is important to let us know as soon as possible. If any details are incorrect i.e. name, address, contact number, etc. or if you are new to the parish or have not had a box of envelopes before and would like one, please let either Fr Peter, Deacon Stephen or Pat Bateman in the Parish Office know.

St Robert's: Gift Aid and Planned Giving

The planned giving boxes for St Robert's Parish for the new tax year commencing in April are available in the church porch. However, there are IMPORTANT CHANGES to this years Envelopes, to assist the counting teams and make it a little easier for recording of amounts received

- **ONLY those who are registered for the Gift Aid scheme will have numbered envelopes.**
- **Boxed sets of un-numbered envelopes available for other parishioners who wish to use them.**
- **As a result, everyone's envelope number will change.**
- Because of this, it is very important that you **DO NOT** use any left-over envelopes from last year: the number will be wrong and this could lead to an error in the claim. **Therefore, any leftover envelopes must be thrown away after Sunday 30th March.**
- **You must ONLY use the new envelopes from the start of April.**

If you are in the Gift Aid scheme but there is not a box for you please contact Gerry Harber (Tel 517829) or Peter Smith (tel 516433), who is taking over as St Robert's Parish Gift Aid Organiser from the start of the new financial year. Anyone who is not currently in the Gift Aid scheme but pays tax and would like to join please take a Gift Aid Declaration form from the plastic pocket on the noticeboard and return it to Peter Smith or hand in to the presbytery. If you are in the Gift Aid scheme but your circumstances have changed so and no longer pay tax, please let Peter know as soon as possible. Similarly, please advise any change of address or other details. Thank you.

Fundraising for Syrian Refugees

The Tandoori Mahal restaurant in Morpeth are holding a fundraising evening on Monday the 1st April for Ruhi a nurse from Morpeth who regularly works in the Syrian refugee camps. The money enables Ruhi to purchase medicines and other essentials to take with her to the camps. Tickets are £20 with £10 going to the restaurant and £10 to the fund. If you fancy a night out with friends for a good meal and a good cause please contact Maura Illingworth at St Roberts or Amanda Gallagher at St. Bede's to get your Tickets.

Music Practices for Holy Week

There will be three practices for Holy Week Music and we invite all singers and musicians to come along to familiarise themselves with the music for Holy Week and Easter TUESDAY 2nd April at St Bede's Church, Bedlington, 7pm Wednesday 10th April at St Robert's Morpeth. 7pm Wednesday 17th April at St Bede's Church Bedlington, 7pm