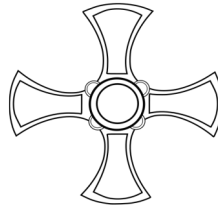


**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



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

Parishes of the St Benet Biscop Partnership, Northumberland

Parish Priest: Reverend Father Peter J Stott

St Robert's Presbytery, Collingwood House, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF
☎ 01670 513 410 | ✉ strobertainewminster.morpeth@diocesehn.org.uk | ✉ peter.stott@diocesehn.org.uk

St Bede's Church and Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS
☎ 01670 823 258 | ✉ stbede.bedlington@diocesehn.org.uk

Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter | ✉ stephen.boulter@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mary Carter

Office Hours This Week: Tuesday at St Robert's, 9.30am—3.30pm | Wednesday at St Bede's, 9am – 5.30pm

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

Second Sunday of the Year – Sunday 19th January 2025

If you were in Jesus' shoes and you were about to grab the world's attention with your first miracle, what might that first miracle be? Might you reverse global warming or end poverty? Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. To many it seems a frivolous kind of miracle something akin to a party trick, but John relates the miracle with good reason. John's gospel is quite different in character from the other three. It's written in a very symbolic style, and it doesn't follow the same order, or record the same stories as the others.

St John is concerned in showing us signs, which gradually reveal the glory of God through Jesus. The author seems to be mainly interested in the significance of the deeds of Jesus. So what is the significance of this miracle? John writes, "This is written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." Suddenly confronted with enough wine to swim in, the disciples had no choice but to begin to believe in who Jesus really was. Neither would the symbolism have been lost on the people of the time. It was the people's belief that at the time of salvation God would provide a table for feasting for his servants and a cup that would never run dry. In short, the substance of the sign was of no consequence at all; it was the message the sign conveyed that was all-important.



The symbolism we read in this first miracle speaks of an old religion bogged down with oppressive rules and laws liberated by a new faith governed by love, compassion, joy, generosity, and abundance. Being a Christian is a very serious business, and as Christians we are asked to address life and death issues, but that doesn't mean we should trudge around with long pious faces. Jesus frequently likens the Kingdom of God to a feast, so smile.... the changing of water to wine is a sign of better things to come.



2025 | A Year of Jubilee | "Pilgrims of Hope"





In this time leading up to Lent, we are invited 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; the Unemployed. 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 and for all undergoing treatment for serious illnesses. We pray for all who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collection: 11th / 12th January 2025
St Bede's Church **£79.80** / St Robert's Church: **£571.84**

December Standing Orders: St Bede's Parish: £1,183.33

Christmas Crib Collections

The Christmas Crib collection at St Bede's Church raised **£406.15** and **£307.78** at St Robert's Church. **Thank You for your generosity.** This money will be sent to the Friends of the Holy Land for use amongst the people of the Holy Land. Christians make up only 2% of the population in the Holy Land, or 400,000 people.



Tea and Coffee After Mass

Tea and Coffee is available on a Saturday evening after Mass at St Bede's Church Hall and after the 9am Sunday Mass in St Robert's Church Hall.



White Flower Appeal

The Annual White Flower Appeal will take place this weekend, 18th / 19th January. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children exists to radically transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes truly unthinkable. SPUC is involved in politics, education, legislation and culture and seeks to restore a respect for the sanctity of human life in our society. This year's postcards call on the Government to adhere to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. If able please take a SPUC postcard and send off asap to SPUC. There will be collection TO-
DAY to help their costs.



Society for the **Protection** of Unborn Children

Journey in Faith Group

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith Group will be held on Thursday 23rd January at 7pm in St Robert's Presbytery, looking at "The Sacrament of The Eucharist".



Baptism

If you wish to organise a baptism, please discuss this with Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen. Please be aware that one parent must be a Catholic and you should be living in the parish. If you do not live within our parish you will be asked to speak to your own parish priest. The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on February 6th at 6.30pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington. We ask parents to contact Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen so we can arrange to meet and record baby/parent/godparent details BEFORE the meeting. Please do not just turn up for the meeting, without speaking to us beforehand.



St Robert's Parish Finance Committee

The next meeting of St Robert's Parish Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday 22nd January at 6pm in St Robert's Presbytery.

St Robert's Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting of St Robert's Parish Pastoral Council Meeting will be held on Monday 20th January at 7pm in the upstairs Meeting Room at St Robert's Church Hall.

The Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word website explores the Sunday Scripture readings for children, parents, schools, parishes and parishioners. Before Covid hit us, we used to print off the parish version, but so many more people today have access to the internet through smartphones and tablets. Check out their website <https://wednesdayword.org/> and see what they have to may even wish to use it in your own private or family prayers.



St Robert's SVP

The next meeting of then St Robert's Conference of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be on Wednesday 22nd January at 7.30pm in the upper meeting room of St Robert's Church Hall.

Visit from the SVP Membership Support Officer

Deacon Patrick Rutherford is the Membership Support Officer for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in the diocese. He will be at St Robert's Church for both the 9am and 11am Masses on the 26th January to talk about the SVP and its role in the local area. He will also hold a follow up information meeting in the church hall on Thursday 30th January at 6.30pm for those interested in learning more and who might consider joining the SVP. Deacon Patrick can be contacted about any SVP related questions, or if anyone is interested, but unable to attend the information meeting, on patrickr@svp.org.uk or 07557562715.



Marriage & Family Life Mass 2025

Bishop Stephen Wright will be presiding at the Mass to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage and the graces received in Family Life, which will take place on Saturday 8th February 2025, from 12pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. All married couples are invited, with particular focus on those celebrating a significant anniversary together with bereaved spouses, separated individuals and families experiencing or have experienced domestic difficulties.

Getting Married in 2025

If you are thinking about getting married in 2025 and haven't yet spoken to Fr Peter or Deacon Stephen to make sure that a Church wedding is possible, please contact them as soon as you can. At least six months notice is usually needed to give enough time to arrange all paperwork, especially if overseas contacts are necessary. A Marriage Preparation date with Marriage Care is already fixed and we would need to make sure there would be enough availability for you to attend that course.

Sixth 'Sunday of the Word of God'

Sunday 26th January is the Sunday of the Word of God and is a profoundly pastoral initiative with which Pope Francis wants to make it clear how important it is in the daily life of the Church and our communities to refer to the Word of God, a Word that is not confined to a book, but which remains ever alive and becomes a concrete and tangible sign. The motto chosen by the Holy Father for the 2025 edition, within the Jubilee Year, is a verse from Psalm 119, "I hope in your Word". It is a cry of hope: man, in a moment of anguish, tribulation, and confusion, cries out to God and puts all his hope in him. A special Pastoral Handbook, prepared for this Day, is intended to help and be offered to parish communities and those gathered for Sunday's Eucharistic celebration, so that this Sunday may be resolutely lived. This handbook is available as a download on the Vatican website ... <http://www.evangelizatio.va/> and follow the link for the Sunday of the Word of God.



Presentation of St Luke's Gospel



Next weekend, to mark the Sunday of the Word of God, we will make a presentation of St Luke's Gospel to the First Holy Communion Children.

From the Family of Pat Fanning

The family of Pat Fanning would like to thank the parishioners for their support following the sudden death of Pat. She would have been delighted and humbled by the number in attendance at her Requiem Mass, as were we. £550 raised in the collection has been sent to CAFOD in her memory and we know further private donations have meant the overall sum exceeds £700 which is tremendous. Thank you also for the many masses celebrated and scheduled both here in St Robert's and in other places around the country. Your kindness, love and many prayers have helped so much at this difficult time.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th January until 25th January every year. Please pray during this time for all the members of the other Christian communities in our local area. Local Services will be held in Morpeth on the following dates

- Monday 20th January, 6pm at Morpeth Methodist Church
- Tuesday 21st January, 6pm at St James Church
- Wednesday 22nd January, 7pm at St Georges URC Church
- Thursday 23rd January, 6pm at New Life Church
- **Friday 24th January, 6pm at St Robert of Newminster Church**

What can we do for the Jubilee Year?

The Diocese has planned a series of events for the Jubilee Year and they can be viewed on the diocesan website. It is hoped that parishes will take part in some of the events that they organise. Is there anything else either St Bede's Parish or St Robert's Parish can do for the Jubilee Year? Is there anyone at St Bede's with any ideas or skills, willing to organise events to celebrate the Jubilee? We will include this on the Agenda for the next Parish Council on 20th January at St Robert's Parish, but perhaps someone might like to organise events for the jubilee?



The Jubilee Prayer

By praying the official Prayer, we join with our global family, to use the same words to express gratitude to God for the Jubilee experience and request the grace of forgiveness.

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen



Weekday Adoration and Mass

As we begin this Jubilee Year and acknowledge that we are Pilgrims of Hope, can you come along to Adoration in this Jubilee Year? We have Adoration in both St Bede's and St Robert's Churches most days at 9.25am. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament gives us some quiet time in the presence of Our Lord. After Adoration we then have Mass or a Service of Word and Communion, depending on the day and church. The Mass is the source and the summit of everything we do. We have this time set aside to help us spiritually. Please, if you are free and not at work, try and come along. The benefits will be worth it.



School Masses

St Bede's Primary School have asked to have five Masses this term, so will be present with us at St Bede's Church on a Wednesday morning at 10am Mass as follows ...

- Wednesday 29th January - Key Stage 2
- Wednesday 12th February - Early Years and Key Stage 1
- Wednesday 12th March - Key Stage 2
- Wednesday 26th March - Early Years and Key Stage 1
- Wednesday 9th April - End of Term Mass - Whole School

Church Cleaning

Thank you to everyone involved in the weekly cleaning of St Robert's Church. Your involvement is very much appreciated. Some of you will have received the 2025 rota by email, but for those who have not or those who need a hard copy, you will find copies in the Church Porch. Once again thank you for this service to the Parish.

Catholic Women's League

The meeting on Thursday 23rd January will take the form of a Burns Night. Therefore, will we be meeting from 4.30pm until 6.30pm in St Robert's Church Hall. Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes and wear tartan if possible.



Minister of Holy Communion Needed



One of our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be unavailable to fulfill their Ministry to one of the Care Homes soon, for a number of weeks. We are therefore looking for a replacement to cover this period and to take Holy Communion to the you are able to step in and help.

Newsletter Via Email

We now have 58 people receiving this Newsletter via email each week. If you too wish to receive the Newsletter via email, please send an email to the Parish Email address and we will add you to the mailing list.



Rainbows Bereavement Support Great Britain

Rainbows is a well-respected National Charity which supports Children and Young People who have experienced a significant loss through death, relationship breakdown or any other adverse childhood experience. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact Ruth Higginbottom, Rainbows North East Secretary, on ☎ 01670 518546 or rainbows.northeast@btconnect.com

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will travel on Friday 25th July – Friday 1st August 2025. The Lourdes pastoral theme for 2025 is "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope". Full details and online booking is available now on the 'Tangney Tours' Website, the tour operator for the diocesan pilgrimage. Choice of nine hotels, flying direct to Lourdes from Newcastle International Airport. www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-hexham-newcastle



St Robert's Senior Parishioners' Social

The annual social for St Robert's Senior Parishioners will be held on Saturday 15th February from 3pm to 6pm. All parishioners over the age of 70 and their spouses are cordially invited. Those who have come previously will receive a personal invitation, but we cannot know who else is entitled to come so if you are eligible but have not come previously please put your name and phone number on the list at the back of church or on the notice board in the church hall. Please indicate if you would require help with transport. As usual there will be free raffle at the end of the social and we would welcome donations of prizes for this. Please give them to a member of the SVP or leave them in the presbytery clearly marked with what they are for. Also we would be delighted if some people could volunteer to make cakes - again there is a list at the back of church for this. Thank you.

New to The Parish?

There have been a number of new parishioners to both St Bede's Parish and St Robert's Parish in recent months. You are all very welcome and we hope you feel at home in one of our churches. If you are new to our Parish or even if you have just moved house recently please scan this QR code with your mobile or tablet, and complete an online form; or type this link into your search engine https://form.jotform.com/Fr_Peter/new-parishioner--updated-info and complete the form. We will then receive your contact details and put you on our parish register.



Life in the Spirit Seminars

The Life in the Spirit Seminar 2025 is taking place in St Aidan's Church, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne, starting from 16th January and running consecutively every Thursday until the 27th of February from 7.00pm – 8.30pm each evening.

- 23rd January: a talk on Salvation from Amy Cameron and a testimony from Kelechi Dibia.
- 30th January: a talk from John Wheeler, on the New Life and testimony from Cheryl Lucero.
- 6th February: a talk on Receiving God's Gifts from Pat Kennedy and testimony from Christine Dixon.
- 13th February: a talk on Baptism in the Holy Spirit from Fr Shaun O'Neill and testimony from Alun Sunny.
- 20th February: a talk from Deacon Frank O'Neill on Growth and testimony from Susan Picola.
- 27th February: a talk from Bishop Stephen Wright on Transformation in Christ and testimony from Santhosh Joseph.

Holocaust Memorial Day

'For a Better Future' is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2025. This Year will mark the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and the 30th anniversary of the Bosnian genocide. This annual event, open to all, will be held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025, from 7pm in St Mary's Catholic School, Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7PE. The guest speakers are Mr David Gold and Mr Smajo Bešo OBE. Mr David Gold is from the United Hebrew Congregation in Newcastle and he will speak about the escape of his mother and her family from Nazi Germany after anti-Jewish laws were introduced and the family was accepted and able to prosper upon their arrival in Newcastle. Mr Smajo Bešo OBE is a child survivor of the Bosnian genocide who has seen the worst and best of humanity. **Booking is kindly requested to help plan the event. Please book your place by emailing: interreligious.relations@diocesehn.org.uk or call ☎ 0191 243 3316.**



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY

Booking is kindly requested to help plan the event. Please book your place by emailing: interreligious.relations@diocesehn.org.uk or call ☎ 0191 243 3316.



Masses, Intentions and Services This Week



	St Robert of Newminster Church, Morpeth	St Bede's Church, Bedlington
Saturday 18th January 2025 <i>Weekday / Our Blessed Lady</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Peter Rice 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions 12.30pm Baptism: Alex Edwards	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 19th January Second Sunday of the Year	9am Mass: People of the Parish 11am Mass: Deceased Members of the Cole Family	
Monday 20th January <i>Weekday, Year I, Week 1</i>		9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Holy Souls
Tuesday 21st January <i>St Agnes</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Special Intention	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Wednesday 22nd January <i>Weekday / St Vincent, deacon</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: Anthony McGrady
Thursday 23rd January <i>Weekday</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10.00am Mass: Dorothy Marr	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion
Friday 24th January <i>St Francis de Sales</i>	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Service of Word and Communion	9.25am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 10am Mass: George and Ellen Arkle & John Monaghan
Saturday 25th January <i>The Conversion of St Paul</i>	9.40am The Rosary 10am Mass: Eddy Gebhard 10.30am - 11am Adoration and Confessions 12.30pm Baptism: Oliver Benjamin Worrall	5pm - 5.20pm Confessions 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish
Sunday 26th January Third Sunday of the Year	9am Mass: Audrey Finlay 11am Mass: People of the Parish	



The Holy Father Pope Francis' Intentions for January 2025

For The Right To An Education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.



St Robert's Church Ministries	Readers	Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Welcomers
19 th January 9:00am	Donald Marr Joan Offen	Andrew Smith Damian Butler	Anne Beattie Chris Smith
19 th January 11:00am	Gail Swift Lynn Cole	Veronica Shearer Ben Cole	Gillian Davison Elizabeth Dixon
26 th January 9:00am	Heather Lewington Clive Rich	Jodi Harrison Eileen Dutt	Cuthbert Reagan Andrea Mitchell
26 th January 11:00am	Ben Cole Anne Dawes	Lynn Cole Josh Marshall	Gail Swift Christine Watson

St Robert's Counting Teams	21 st January: B McCole, V Shearer, M Beaton	28 th January: G. Snaith, L Hood
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Donation for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Refugee Project is asking for donations. Regular items needed are Toilet Rolls, Individual packets of biscuits, tinned tomatoes, tins of fish and Chickpeas. In addition, they also need ... Pasta, Flour, Table Salt, Cooking oil, Tinned fruit, Tea and Coffee, Porridge and Cereals, Spices & Dried Herbs, Custard or Rice Pudding, Rice (standard size packets), Sugar (standard size packets), Cooking Sauces e.g., pasta sauce, Condiments (Ketchup / Mayo / Jams), Washing-up liquid and Surface & Toilet cleaners, Shampoo and / 2-in-1 Conditioner, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Male & female deodorants, 'Bags for Life' and Nappies. If you can help, please leave in the boxes that are in the entrances of St Bede's and St Robert's Church.

DONATE FOOD HERE



Foodbank Donations

Foodbanks in both Morpeth and Bedlington are appealing for a variety of foods for their clients who are in need. If you can help in any way bring items of food to church and place in the boxes in the Church porches.

Vocations Chat - 16th January ONLINE

For young people (aged 17-30), an online opportunity to find out more about the vocation to religious life and priesthood. There will be input from different Religious, opportunity to chat with other young people who are asking similar questions, & time for a Q&A session.

Register: <https://bit.ly/VocationsChat25>



Donate to your Parish Online

You are now able to make a donation to your parish via the Diocesan Website. Click onto <https://diocesehn.org.uk/> click on DONATE at the top of the page and then scroll down until you come to the parish you wish to donate to and then follow the onscreen instructions.

Gift Aid Scheme

If you are a Tax Payer and you give a donation regularly to our Church you can be in the Gift Aid scheme, with an extra 25% of your donation claimed back through HMRC. *giftaid it* At no extra cost, just a signature on a form, you can help your parish. Please contact Peter Smith at St Robert's Church, or Mary our Parish Secretary, or Fr Peter. Please note that Gift Aid Forms have been updated, and so if setting up a new Gift Aid Donation, your form must be one of these new forms, available from the Parish Office.

Standing Orders or Payments by BACS

Many thanks to all who contribute to the weekly collections by Standing Order or by BACS. This is a very easy way to make a contribution towards parish funds. Our bank details for setting up a Standing Order or BACS payment are included below ...

Morpeth

Sort Code	40-34-18
Account Number	32010755
Name of Account	"DHN Morpeth St Robert of Newminster"

Bedlington

Sort Code	40-34-18
Account Number	81163620
Name of Account	"DHN Bedlington St Bede"

