

Masses and Services this week

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|---------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Sunday 23rd July | 9.00am Mass | Des McLaughlin | 16th Sunday of the Year |
| | 11.00am Mass | Carmello Aiello | |
| | 6.00pm Mass | Mr P Onono | |
| Monday 24th July | 12noon Mass | Nuptial Mass Rebecca Ashworth and Jamie Earle | <i>Martyrs of the Diocese</i> |
| Tuesday 25th July | 9.30am Mass | Requiem Mass: Maureen Owens | <i>St James, Apostle</i> |
| Wednesday 26th July | 9.15am Service | <i>Service of Word and Communion</i> | <i>Weekday</i> |
| Thursday 27th July | | No Mass | <i>SS Joachim & Anne</i> |
| Friday 28th July | 9.15am Service | <i>Service of Word and Communion</i> | <i>Weekday</i> |
| Saturday 29th July | 2.00pm Service | NO MORNING MASS Wedding Service: Richard Allon and Katie Rawson | <i>St Martha</i> |
| Sunday 30th July | 9.00am Mass | Mr & Mrs McGough (nee Owens) | 17th Sunday of the Year |
| | 11.00am Mass | Michael Hogan | |
| | 6.00pm Mass | No Intention | |

Devotions This Week

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| Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament | 8.30am — 9.00am 10.30am—12noon | Monday to Friday Saturday |
| The Angelus | 9.00am | Monday to Friday |
| The Rosary | 9.40am | Saturday Morning |
| Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) | | Saturday 11am CANCELLED |
| Divine Mercy Devotions | 7.00pm | Thursday |

Ministries Next Week: 30th July 2017 - 17th Sunday of the Year

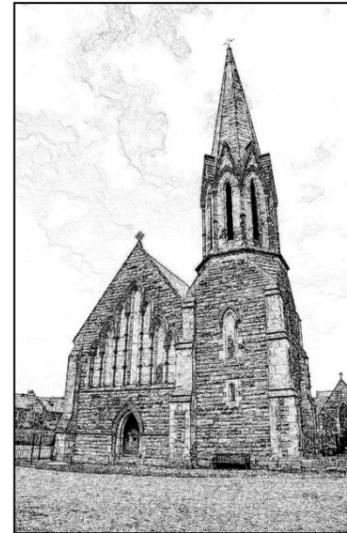
| | 9am Mass | 11am Mass | 6pm Mass |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Welcomers | K Offen J Offen | E Dixon G Davison | G Snaith Chris Smith |
| Readers | J Offen N McCole | R Hunt C Mills | C Rich D Butler |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | T Walker J Conroy M Bell | R Soulsby D Shearer V Shearer | Chris Smith B Rich J Marshall |
| Altar Servers | A Shepherd G Sykes | A Kinghorn | G Butler |

Neighbouring Parish Telephone Numbers

| | |
|--|---|
| Fr Ian Hoskins, Longhorsley 01670 788344 | Fr Stephen Watson, Ashington 01670 812200 |
| Fr Lee Barrett, Cramlington 01670 712476 | Fr Paul Jenkins, Ashington 01670 812200 |
| Fr Oliver Keyes, Alnwick 01665 6020124 | Fr Malcolm Cairns, Amble 01665 710252 |

The Pope's Intention for July

"...That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.



The Parish of Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth

Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott

peterjstott@aol.com

Retired Priest: Father James Doherty

St Robert's Presbytery, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF

(Tel) 01670 513 410

(Email) morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk

www.strobertsmorpeth.com / Facebook: St Robert of Newminster

Sunday 23rd July 2017 - Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field in which the master has sown good seed. In the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds, so when the crop grows it is a mixture of wheat and weed. The servants' instinct is to pull the weeds out, but the master demands that the bad grow alongside the good ... he himself will sort the wheat from the weeds at the final harvest.

It's a typical Palestinian problem, the darnel weed, which looks just like wheat in its early stages is a menace to the harvest. The roots of the darnel weed intertwine with the roots of the wheat. To pull the darnel out can jeopardise the harvest. Similarly just as it's hard to tell the difference between wheat and darnel, so it's not always easy for us to tell the difference between good and evil. A bad person can change and become good, and a seemingly good person might not be as virtuous as we imagine. It's best if we refrain from judging; this job is best left to God.



In films and novels, the good guys always win and the bad guys always get their comeuppance. Happy endings satisfy our human sense of justice, but in reality justice seems strangely elusive. We come up against evil time and time again. Sometimes we get so angry that we want to take justice into our own hands. Sometimes we are incensed that God can allow evil to grow alongside good, but before we get too irate, maybe we need to stop and take a good long look in the mirror. What makes us so sure that we're not weeds too? Where did we get that assurance that we are represented in the parable as the wheat?

Rarely is reality black and white. We all have good and bad inside us. We all need to change, and we all deserve the opportunity to make those changes. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus' advises us to leave the evil to grow alongside the good. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "God's purpose is not wrathful judgement. God's purpose is redemption, and the road to redemption is by way of reconciliation."



Please pray for: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Those who Suffer Persecution; Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Human Life; Seafarers. Please pray for those who are sick, especially for Father Doherty;

who remains in the Whalton Unit; and for all who have died recently including **Maureen Owens** who died during the week and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday at 9.30am, followed by Burial at St Mary's; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections
Total Offertory £1111.90

Sunday Morning Tea and Coffee

Tea and Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the 9am and 11am Masses each Sunday. Everyone welcome.

End of the School Year

Our school closed for its summer break on Friday and we take this opportunity to give thanks for all that has been achieved in our school this last academic year. We thank Mr Sutcliffe and all the staff in school for their work throughout the year. It is also very good that we have at least five members of the school staff who are members of our parish community. It does make a difference! We offer a word of thanks also to the Governors, and associates who give of their time and especially those whose term of office has come to an end and are stepping down. We pray also for all Year 4 who have left St Robert's to move to new schools .. Five different schools in total. we wish them well in all that they do.



Playgroup

The Playgroup, based in the upstairs of the Church Hall permanently closed on Friday. The group will no longer be based in our Hall and St Robert's School will undertake provision for preschool and after school activities. Soon our Hall Committee will begin to look at how to refurbish the upstairs of the Hall so that it can be used for parish groups, meetings and other functions.

Welcome

If you are new to our parish or are a visitor to Morpeth and attending our church this weekend, we hope you feel very welcome amongst us. If you are new, do we have your contact details? Email us with your details of address etc.

Parish Newsletter

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to Marian on marian@marinbell.f2s.com or you can send an email to the parish office on morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk or drop a note in at the Presbytery no later than 12pm on a Thursday.

Nuptial Mass

There will be a Nuptial mass at St Roberts at 12noon on Monday to celebrate the wedding of Rebecca Ashworth and Jamie Earle. There will also be a Wedding Service on Saturday Afternoon for Richard Allon and Katie Rawson. Please keep them all in your prayers.



Baptisms



Your prayers are asked for Aleksander Elliott, Emily Margaret Goddard, Iyla Lawley, John-Paul David Swales who have all been baptised at St Robert's over recent weeks and for Henry McKenna who is to be baptised at 12.30pm today.

Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next preparation meeting will be held on Thursday 21st September at St Robert's Church Hall, Morpeth at 7.30pm. Any parents wishing to organise a Baptism who hasn't yet spoken to Fr Peter to complete Baptism forms should do so as soon as possible please.

Mass Time Changes

Please note that Mass on Tuesday will be a Requiem Mass at 9.30am for Maureen Owens. Also, because of the Lourdes Pilgrimage, there is no Mass on Saturday and no Confessions.

Petitions for Lourdes

If anyone would like petitions taking to Lourdes ... written prayers and requests for prayer, for yourselves, family, friends, world events should be placed into a sealed envelope and they can be handed to Fr Peter who will take them to Lourdes at the end of the month. There are also ten parishioners travelling on the pilgrimage who could also take these petitions. Candles can also be lit in Lourdes for an intention .. money can be placed into an envelope for candles and handed to Fr. Peter, by Wednesday evening at the latest please.



Mission Box Appeal

Next weekend, we will have a Mission Box Appeal on behalf of the Mill Hill Missions and the Association of the Propagation of the Faith. We will welcome Father Dermott Byrne, a Mill Hill Missionary priest. This is not a money appeal, but an appeal to ask you to consider the importance of having a Red Mission Box in your home.



A Day of Reflection for Women

'Encounters with Grace: There is a Crack in Everything, that's How the Light Gets In' (Leonard Cohen). This is a day for women, with Sr Sheila McNamara, on Saturday 16th September 2017 from 10.30am-3.30pm at St Hilda's Diocesan Resource Centre, West Road, Newcastle, NE15 7PY. No charge but booking is essential. Please bring a packed lunch. Attendance at events can be booked online, by email or Tel. 0191 243 3313. 016973 45623 or 07516 075896.

Wansbeck Valley Foodbank

From the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank website, "Throughout the past year Wansbeck Valley Food Bank has been able to supply something like 9,500 day's-worth of food to local residents. And if that figure is difficult to grasp then imagine that every day in 2016 twenty people received a full days supply of food which adds up to almost 30,000 meals! And what's more since January 2017 the increase in demand continues and currently we are on course to provide something like 36,000 meals this year. Now none of this could have been done without your help and generosity of food and funding but now a new and immediate challenge lies ahead. If you can help, they need: Tinned Meat, Long Life Milk, Tinned/Dried Potatoes, Tubs of Butter/Spread, Toilet Rolls, Custard, Cereal, Rice Pudding, Tinned Pasta, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Jars of Jam, Pre-packed Cheese, Tinned Vegetables. Please see box in Church porch for any donations.



Northumberland Area Listening Service

Sometimes we need someone to talk to or someone to listen. A free, confidential Listening Service for Northumberland has been launched. It is for those who wish to talk about issues such as loss & bereavement, stress & anxiety, family & relationship issues, parental difficulties, loneliness or other concerns. If you wish to access the Listening Service in Northumberland call 07732 980 740 to make an appointment to meet one of the trained listeners at various locations across Northumberland. More information is available on the notices available in our churches.

Volunteer Gardeners

We have several parishioners who voluntarily look after parts of our Gardens. Maureen McDougall has decided to stand down from her voluntary role and is hoping that someone else might take over the bits that she looks after. We thank her and all those who look after the little bits of garden that we have. If anyone is interested in helping out, please speak to Fr Peter

Garage Clearance

The garages are to be cleared of what is classed as "rubbish" this week. If you have anything in the garages which isn't "rubbish" you are advised to remove it this weekend.

Songs of Joy and Hope from Around the World

Minsteracres Retreat Centre, near Consett, Co. Durham, DH8 9ET. A weekend retreat from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th September 2017. For information and Bookings call (01434) 673248 or e-mail info@minsteracres.org or see poster on Notice Board

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 26th July at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

A message from Fr Jim's Family

"Fr Jim's Family and Fr Jim would like to say a very big but belated, thank you to all who sent him recent birthday wishes, he had a good day with more visitors and cards than the staff at the Whalton Unit have ever seen before. He continues to make very slow, but steady progress in his recovery from the accident and we are all hoping and praying that in time his recovery will be complete enough to return him to his old self and to us here at St Robert's. Please continue to pray for him and if you have a spare half hour do visit him in the Whalton Unit situated on the site of the old Morpeth Cottage hospital, visiting is at anytime all day everyday. Fr Jim may not remember you straight away, but he needs to feel connected to his old life in order to aid his recovery, just a five minute hello and a signature in his visitors book will be enough to keep him in touch with reality. Thank you all once again for your kind wishes, prayers and thoughts. God Bless, Fr Jim's Extended Family."

Reminder to all Ministers

Following the meeting earlier in the year, about what to do when coming forward onto the Sanctuary, it was said that there is no need for Ministers to kneel down prior to receiving Holy Communion both on Sundays and weekdays.... Simply come forward and stand alongside the altar and then receive Holy Communion.



Refugee Stall

Many thanks for helping to support Ruhi Loren in her work for the refugees in Greece. That stall on Sunday made £114. If anyone wanted to contribute to her charity, it is Refugee Biriyan and Bananas (she's hoping to take £5000 to Greece in August)

1st Morpeth Brownies

Spaces are available with 1st Morpeth Brownies, based at St Robert's Church Hall, for September. To register/join the waiting list; just log onto www.girlguiding.org.uk and click on parents, register your daughter then select 1st Morpeth Brownies, Brownies meets on Tuesday evenings from 6pm— 7.15pm. The cost is £15 per full term. For any queries please contact Sarah Watson on Morpeth1sttawnyowl@outlook.com