

## Masses and Services this week

Sunday 20th August	9.00am Mass	Isobel Walker	20th Sunday of the Year
	11.00am Mass	Kevin O'Malley	
	6.00pm Mass	Jean Frances Clark	
Monday 21st August	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	St Pius X, Pope
Tuesday 22nd August	9.15am Mass	Maureen Owens	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday 23rd August	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday, wk. 20
Thursday 24th August	9.15am Mass	Joseph Foster (AB)	St Bartholomew, Apostle
Friday 25th August	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday, wk. 20
Saturday 26th August	10.00am Mass	Private Intentions	Weekday, wk. 20
Sunday 27th August	9.00am Mass	Ruby Wedding (Angie & Mick Quinn)	21st Sunday of the Year
	11.00am Mass	Jean Frances Clark	
	6.00pm Mass	Charles & Margery Bell	

## Devotions This Week

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)	11am to 12 noon	Saturday Morning
Divine Mercy Devotions	No Devotions until Thursday 31st August	

## Ministries Next Week: 27th August 2017 - 21st Sunday of the Year

	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
<b>Welcomers</b>	K Offen J Offen	V Shearer C Watson	G Snaith Chris. Smith
<b>Readers</b>	A Gorman K Wilson	A Dawes L Flinders	D Oldroyd J Gill
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	A Beattie A Mitchell T McLaughlin	V Shearer D Shearer G Davison	A Smith J Marshall B Rich
<b>Altar Servers</b>	M Laux	P Glancey	J Dowd D Dowd

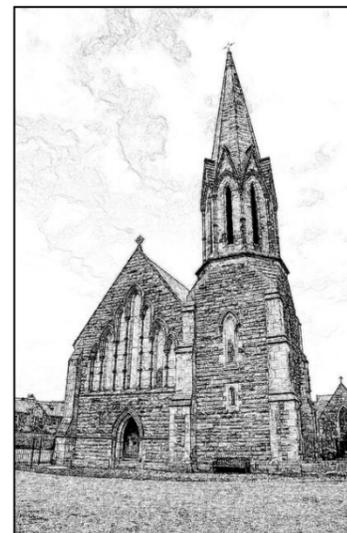
No children's Liturgy this week due to school holidays

### 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 August

That artists of our time, through their ingenuity, may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.



## The Parish of Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth

Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott

peterjstott@aol.com

Retired Priest: Father James Doherty

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## Sunday 20th August 2017 - Twentieth Sunday of the Year

Just when we thought that Jesus' love was all embracing and all compassionate, he shocks us by behaving in a way that can only be described as harsh and unfeeling. In today's gospel Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman, who pesters him to cure her daughter. 'Canaanite' was the name given to the older inhabitants of Israel who were dispossessed as unclean by Jesus' own people. Jesus would not have been expected to fraternise with such a woman. True to expectation, Jesus does not respond to the woman, explaining that he has been sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel ... this woman is therefore not his problem! Could Jesus really have held this harsh opinion, or was he testing his disciples?

The Canaanite woman continues to pester. She has great faith that Jesus will eventually give in and cure her daughter. Again Jesus responds harshly. "It is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs..." In other words, only Jews had a right to be treated as 'children of God'. The Gentiles on the other hand are likened to 'dogs'. This opinion seems even less like the Jesus we know! Much more likely is the notion that Jesus is stretching his disciples' understanding of God's boundaries, or rather, lack of.



When we first read the Bible we get the feeling that God is simply there for the 'Children of Israel' or the Hebrew Nation, but the truth is that God does not limit his promises to just certain categories of people. The story finishes with Jesus rewarding the woman's faith with a cure. At first it might appear that Jesus is giving in to 'pester power', though it is much more likely that Jesus had decided from the very outset that he would help this woman. In awarding a cure, Jesus is showing his disciples and us, that faith has the power to melt boundaries and prejudice. Even today we probably imagine God's salvation is for a select few, but today's story teaches us that salvation is there for anyone and everyone who places their trust in God.



and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Offertory Collections

13th August Total Offertory **£939.35**

### Sunday Morning Tea and Coffee

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

### 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](mailto:marian@marinbell.f2s.com) or you can send an email to the parish office on [morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) or drop a note in at the Presbytery no later than 12pm on a Thursday.

### Mission Box Appeal

New Red Mission Boxes are now ready for collection for all those who signed up for a box at the recent Appeal. There are some spare boxes for anyone else who would like to have one at home.



### Catholic Women's League Mass

The Catholic Women's League St Margaret Clitherow Feast Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 30th August, at 12.05pm in St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle.

### Catholic Women's League Prayer Walk

The CWL Annual Prayer Walk will take place on Saturday 9th September, information to follow.

### "Divine Mercy" Devotion

The next meeting for Divine Mercy Devotions will be held on Thursday 31st August at 7pm in the Church.

### Parish Gift Aid

If you are in the Diocesan Gift Aid scheme, you are asked to collect your Statement from Gerry Harber. Please read it and if there are any changes to your address or tax status or other reason why you are no longer eligible for Gift Aid please advise Gerry (tel 517829) as soon as possible. If you think you are in the Gift Aid scheme but do not receive a letter please contact Gerry to ascertain the reason.

### Baptism Congratulations

Please pray for **Skye Elizabeth Smith-Trowell** who was Baptised at St Robert's last Sunday afternoon, for her parents and godparents at this special time.



Baptism forms should do so as soon as possible please.

### Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st September at St Robert's Church Hall, at 7.30pm. Any parents wishing to organise a Baptism who haven't yet spoken to Fr Peter to complete

### Confessions

Please remember that we have Confessions at St Robert's Church, every Saturday morning from 11am—12noon. Ask yourself how long it is since you were last at Confessions? Is it now time to come along again to ask God for the forgiveness and reconciliation and strength he gives us?

### Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP) will be on Wednesday 6th September at 7.30 pm. We would welcome any prospective new members to join us at this meeting and help us fulfill the mission of Frederick Ozanam and St Vincent de Paul.



### Morpeth "Churches Together"

A service to celebrate what we do together as the churches in Morpeth, with a launch of "Churches Together" will be held in the New Life Church at 7.30pm on Sunday 24th September. It is hoped that as many people as possible will be able to attend who have an interest in working together ecumenically in the ministries to which God calls us. *[please note that the service has been put back to accommodate our 6pm Sunday Mass time for which we are very grateful]*



### Forming a Social Committee

Apart from what is organised by the Catholic Women's League, or the occasional Italian Night, or the regular Sunday morning Coffee, we have very little regular parish social activities, and we need also to think about how we can socialise more with the other parishioners in our Brinkburn Partnership. Fr Peter would therefore like to explore the possibility of having a Parish Social Committee who would organise events, etc. at regular intervals for the parish and the partnership. If you are interested in helping with this please let Fr Peter know.

### Becoming a Catholic

Fr Peter has already met with a few people who have asked to join the Catholic Church and a series of meetings will be held, beginning towards the end of September/beginning of October to help those come to some understanding of the Catholic faith. If there are others interested in joining this group with a possible view to being received into the Church, please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible.

### Partnership Clergy Changes

Bishop Séamus recently appointed Father Shaun Purdy as the new Parish Priest of St Aidan's, Ashington; Father Paul Jenkins is to become the new Associate Priest at St Mary's Cathedral; and Father Stephen Watson will continue to reside at St Aidan's and remain as Hospital Chaplain.

### Partnership Development Group Meeting

The new Partnership Development Group will next meet on Thursday 14th September at St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley at 7pm

### Partnership Finance Group

The new Partnership Finance Committee will meet on Thursday 29th September at St Aidan's, Ashington at 7pm

### Apostleship of the Sea Mass

You are invited by the Apostleship of the Sea, to the celebration of Mass at 12.05pm at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle on Friday 22nd September. It is an opportunity to pray for seafarers and the work of the AoS in ports of your diocese. A reception will follow the Mass. For further information please contact [salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk](mailto:salvina@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk).



### "Day of the Disappeared"

There will be a short ceremony, organised by the Red Cross, at St Robert's Peace Garden on **Wednesday August 30th at 4pm**, when representatives of all religions and none, will gather to remember all the bereaved families at home and abroad who are separated from those they care about most. Refreshments afterwards will be available in the Church Hall.

### Northumberland Area Listening Service

A free, confidential Listening Service for Northumberland is now available for those who wish to talk about issues such as loss & bereavement, stress & anxiety, family & relationship issues, parental difficulties, loneliness or other concerns. Call 07732 980 740 to make an appointment to meet one of the trained listeners

### "Peer Talk" Conference

Are you interested in mental wellbeing and a good listener? PeerTalk, a charity underpinned by the Methodist Church, is looking for volunteers to help run a second peer support group for people living with depression in Newcastle. Training Day is on Saturday 16 September at , The Copthorne Hotel, The Close, Quayside, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3RT, 10am – 4pm. More details at [www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/volunteer](http://www.peertalk.org.uk/index.php/volunteer) or contact [admin@peertalk.org.uk](mailto:admin@peertalk.org.uk)

### Vocation Discernment

For those thinking about or feel they have a vocation to the Priesthood and who are aged 16 and over, evenings of prayer and reflection are organised, with an opportunity to listen to speakers, talk about their own discernment, faith journeys and vocations. Monthly meetings are being held, with the next one on Wednesday 20 September 2017 at St Mary's Cathedral 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Please see poster in the Church porch for further details or contact the Diocesan Vocations Promoter: Fr David Smith, on 0191 2676063, or e-mail him at [stjohnvianeywestdenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnvianeywestdenton@gmail.com)



### Ushaw College Afternoon Tea

Ushaw College now serves Afternoon Tea. available during standard opening hours (Wednesday to Friday, 11am to 5pm) and for groups on Mondays and Tuesdays. Ushaw Cream Tea (serves 2): £18.50 (or £29.50 with Prosecco) Full details of what you can have is available on their website ... [www.ushaw.org](http://www.ushaw.org)

### 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 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.

### "Called to the Supper of the Lamb"

A Day of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, led by Fr Shaun Purdy, is being held at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 9th September from 10.30am - 4.00pm. To attend please book through Lisa in the Parish Office or contact: The Administrator, Department for Liturgy St Vincent's Diocesan Office, St Cuthbert's House, West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. The day costs £7.50 and the parish will cover the costs for those who wish to attend.

### "Come, this is the time" Retreat

A Retreat, led by Fr Chris Thomas and Mrs Pat Kennedy, from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September at Minsteracres Retreat Centre, DH8 9RT. The cost will be £130. For information and bookings please visit [www.minsteracres.org](http://www.minsteracres.org) call 01434 673248 or e-mail [info@minsteracres.org](mailto:info@minsteracres.org)

### "I call you friends"

A course for catechists and teachers involved in sacramental preparation for Reconciliation and First Holy Communion has been arranged on Wednesday 20th September, from 5.00pm - 7.00pm, at St Cuthbert's House, Newcastle. The course costs £25 per person and MUST be booked through the school via the online booking system. The content includes: Supporting children with special needs both pre and post communion; A guide to the programme; Sharing good practice and exploring resources.

### Catechesis in the mission of the Church

A course for catechists and those interested in becoming a catechist involving 18 evening sessions led by a variety of speakers on a range of topics including vocation and identity, theology of the church, and specific instruction on individual sacraments. Time for prayer and reflection will be included in each session. Sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings, 6.00pm - 8.00pm at St Aloysius Parish Hall in Hebburn (final dates to be confirmed). Further details will be sent to parishes shortly. To register your interest, please contact [adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk) or telephone 0191 243313.