



Please pray for: The spread of the Gospel; Harvest; The fruits of Human Work; The reverent use of creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and their Families. Please pray for those who are sick, especially for Fr Jim Doherty; for all who have died recently, especially Tony Kolodziej, whose funeral service takes place at Cowpen Crematorium on Thursday, and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collection – 12th November
Total Offertory £888.73.

Sunday Morning Tea and Coffee

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

Clergy Training Fund

The Clergy Training Fund remains open until 26th November. Gift Aid envelopes are available for those who wish to use them for donations if you are a taxpayer.

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 to the parish, do we have your contact details? Email us with your details of address etc.

Parish Newsletter

Please e-mail items for the parish newsletter, by 12noon on Thursdays to Marian (marian@marianbell.f2s.com), to the parish office (morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) or drop in a note at the Presbytery.

Some Quiet time before Mass

This week Pope Francis remarked, "And when we go to Mass, maybe we come five minutes before and we start to chat with those beside us. However, it is not time to talk, it is the moment of silence to prepare ourselves for dialogue. It is time for the heart to collect itself in order to prepare for the encounter with Jesus. Silence is so important! Remember what I said last week: the Mass is not a show, but a place where we go to meet with the Lord and silence prepares us and accompanies us. Stay silent together with Jesus. And from the mysterious silence of God comes his Word that resounds in our heart. Jesus himself teaches us how it is really possible to "stay" with the Father and demonstrate it with his prayer." There have been some comments that our Church is far too noisy before Mass. We could do well to follow this recommendation of the Holy Father and have some very quiet time before Mass to speak to God, and then to everyone else afterwards.



First World Day of the Poor: 19th November 2017

In his message for the first World Day of the Poor, which we mark today, Pope Francis issues an invitation to: "...the whole Church, and men and women of good will everywhere, to turn their gaze on this day to all those who stretch out their hands and plead for our help and solidarity. They are our brothers and sisters, created and loved by the one Heavenly Father. This Day is meant, above all, to encourage believers to react against a culture of discard and waste, and to embrace the culture of encounter. At the same time, everyone, independent of religious affiliation, is invited to openness and sharing with the poor through concrete signs of solidarity and fraternity. God created the heavens and the earth for all; yet sadly some have erected barriers, walls and fences, betraying the original gift meant for all humanity, with none excluded."



Baptism Preparation

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting scheduled for Thursday evening has been cancelled. The next meeting takes place in January. Any parents wishing to have a child baptised should speak to Fr Peter. Parents are also expected to be coming to Mass regularly.

Prayers for the Faithful Departed.

Envelopes are available throughout the month of November for you to pray for the Holy Souls. Place an offering and names of deceased person(s) in an envelope and place in the basket which will be brought forward at Mass each day.

Rosary and Blessing of Graves

One of the corporal works of mercy is to bury the dead and one of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the living and the dead. Many thanks to all who came along to St Mary's Cemetery last Sunday afternoon to pray for deceased relatives, friends and parishioners. Fr Peter invites you to join him once again this afternoon (Sunday 19th November) at 3pm at Fairmoor Cemetery to pray the Rosary for our deceased Relatives, Friends and Parishioners, followed by the blessing of family graves.



Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards will be on sale once more on **December 3rd**. There will be a wide selection of cards, diaries, calendars and Christmas items on sale. Thanks to Bernadette Rich for organising this for the Parish.

Bonus Ball

The 6th draw of the Bonus Ball was number 54 and the lucky winners receiving £25 were Rita Jackson and John Holyoak. Congratulations to them both

Bonus Ball Donation

We are very grateful to the members of the Catholic Women's League for organising and running the Bonus Ball competition. As a result of their time and effort arranging this, they have been able to make a donation to parish funds of **£685** to Parish Funds. Many thanks to everyone concerned and to all who support what they do.

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Nicky Adair for her 18 years of service working in the Presbytery here at St Robert's and for looking after not just the needs of the priests of the parish, but also the many visitors to the Presbytery over all those years. Visitors to the Presbytery were always met with a wonderful welcome. We hope that she is now able to take a well-earned rest and enjoy time with Patrick and all her family. Thank you Nicky.

Fr Peter

Torchlight Procession at Hexham

A coach is being organised to go to Hexham for the Torchlight Procession on Friday 8th December at 7pm in honour of Our Lady. This day is actually the Feast of the Immaculate Conception so a great way to celebrate the day. If you wish to go on the coach – cost will be calculated once we know how many are going – please sign the list at the back of Church. The list will be there until next weekend.



World Gifts Catalogue

Are you struggling what to buy your best friend for Christmas? Does your dad want more socks that he doesn't need? Does your mum want more chocolates that she probably doesn't really want? We have received a number of World Gifts Catalogues from CAFOD. This gives you the opportunity to give a World Gift in the name of a family member or friend, while at the same time providing something that is much needed in more struggling parts of the world. For example you could gift, "a goat that gives", for £28; a solar lamp for £32; water for a family for £32; or chirpy chicken for £20. These are just some of the gifts that you can choose from. Please take a catalogue and think about what you can do to help someone else this year.



First Holy Communion preparation

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered to be a Prayer Sponsor for one of the children preparing to receive the Sacraments this year. It is a great way for the Parish to support the children. If you haven't yet put your name down and wish to do this, please sign the list at the back of Church. The next preparation meeting for the children takes place on Sunday 3rd December at 10am. The children will be celebrating their First Confession on Thursday 7th December.



Catholic Women's League Meeting

The next CWL meeting will be on Monday 20th November, at 7:00pm, in the Church Hall. There will be a talk on 'Foreign Devils on the Silk Road'. Would members please bring items for the Tombola for the CWL Mini Christmas Fair to this meeting. Cakes and items for the Raffle are to be brought to the Church Hall on Saturday 25th November, before 10:00am. Thank you.



Catholic Women's League Mini Christmas Fair

The Catholic Women's League will be having a Mini Christmas Fair on Saturday 25th November, in the Church Hall from 10am—12noon. There will be a Raffle, Tombola, Cake Stall and Craft Stall. Everybody Welcome.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Wednesday 22nd November at 7pm in the Presbytery. Any items that parishioners would like raising concerning all pastoral matters of the parish should be addressed to Michael Quincy (Chair), Stevie Matthews (Secretary) or Fr Peter as Parish Priest.

Catenian Mass

On Thursday 23rd November there will be a Mass at 7pm in Church for the Deceased Members of the Catenian Association, remembering especially those from the Morpeth Circle who have died. Mass is open to anyone who wishes to attend.



National Eucharistic Congress 2018

"Adoremus", the National Eucharistic Congress takes place in Liverpool from 7th – 9th September 2018. It is hoped that there will be representatives from parishes throughout the country. In Hexham and Newcastle diocese, each partnership has been allocated 17 places. For us, that means 17 places shared between the people of our five parishes. If anyone wishes to go, the cost is £40 per delegate per day, not including transport or accommodation. As a Partnership we have to submit names as soon as possible. If you wish to put your name forward for one of the places available, please speak to Fr Peter.

RedWednesday

This autumn **Aid to the Church in Need** is asking us to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians and all who suffer for their peacefully held beliefs. They will be holding a week of events from 19 – 26 November with #RedWednesday as the highlight on Wednesday 22nd November. Red is the Christian colour of martyrdom. Christians are the most persecuted faith group in today's world and #RedWednesday will honour all Christians who suffer and die for their faithfulness to Christ's message of peace and love. #RedWednesday will shine a light on Christian persecution but also highlight the injustices perpetrated against other faith groups. Their campaign calls for respect and tolerance for people of faith and between different faith traditions. Get involved this #REDWEDNESDAY by wearing red, lighting buildings or landmarks red (with permission and if they are already floodlit) and holding peaceful prayer events, the UK and the world will take notice. ACN want their second annual #RedWednesday to be a bigger and better opportunity for Christians and others around the UK to show solidarity for our persecuted brothers and sisters.

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 2nd December in church and school halls

Not long to go now! Your support for the Fayre is greatly needed. It is a great opportunity for parishioners to work together in running the Fayre and also a great chance of parishioners to come along and meet one another at the Fayre. If you can promote publicity of the Fayre, please take one of the flyers or posters from the table in the church porch and display them in prominent places to help advertise our fayre. The Fayre will run from 10am—2pm. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered. There will be a Raffle, Bottle Stall, Cake Stall, Toys and Children's Activities, Craft Stall, Jewellery, Bric a-Brac books, Piety, and Tombola plus refreshments in the morning and Hot Soup at lunch time! Appeal We still need lots of things for all the stalls so please continue to collect and bring them to church from next Sunday. Food items, such as cakes, scones, and mince pies should be brought on the morning of the Fayre. Practical Details ... We will be able to get into the church and school halls from around 5.30 pm on Friday 1st December to start setting up and from 9am on Saturday morning. If you are able to help either with setting up or for an hour or two on the day that would be great. We look forward to seeing you all at our fayre together with all your family and friends! If you have any questions please get in touch with Andrea Mitchell ☎



Christmas Fayre 512281. Thank you.

Christmas Fayre Bottle Stall

The SVP will be running the Bottle Stall at the Christmas Fayre and would welcome donations of bottles. Please either hand them to a member of the SVP or leave them at the Presbytery marked "For the Bottle Stall". Please bring them soon – don't delay. Thank you.

Christmas Fayre – Raffle Prizes

If anyone would like to donate a prize for the raffle (it must be something new!) please see Anne Beattie, Christine Watson or Anne Roberts. Thank you.

Morpeth Christians Together

Morpeth Churches together is going to re-launch under the name Morpeth Christians Together and would like to form a small steering committee of Lay People. It is hoped this will spread the burden. If you are interested in becoming part of such a committee, and be a Parish Representative for St Robert's, please speak to Fr Peter and then contact Val Cowan on e-mail valcowan@mac.com.

Christmas Day Gathering

New Life Morpeth hopes to hold a Christmas Day Gathering. Whether singles or couples, all are welcome. We will gather at 12.30pm for a traditional lunch, followed by entertainment, then the Queen's Speech accompanied by tea and Christmas cake, finishing around 4.30pm. You will be invited to make a voluntary contribution towards the costs (we suggest £5 per person). But we can only do this if we have enough interest from those wishing to attend. We also need volunteer helpers who can assist in advance and on the day by acting as hosts, preparing and serving food, washing up or offering lifts.

Winter Aid – THANKS

Thanks to everybody for the very generous response over the last few weeks. The quantity of winter clothing, push-chairs, etc, donated to tent-dweller refugees abroad was incredible. Nearly 50 boxes were packed by a few generous and willing helpers. The boxes are now on their way to Iraq and Greece.

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

Journey in Faith Meeting

The next Journey in Faith Meeting will be held on Thursday 30th November at 7.00pm in the Presbytery.