



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** and **Sr Shelagh Doherty**, Fr Jim's sister, who is seriously ill at the moment; for all who have died recently including Tony Kolodziej and for Fr Lee Barrett's father Dale who died this week; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collection – 19th November Total Offertory £ 885.65.

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 closes today. If anyone wishes to make a donation please do so this weekend.

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.

Bonus Ball

The 7th draw of the Bonus Ball was number 11 and the lucky winners receiving £25 were Ann Smith and Ann McCormack. Congratulations to them both.

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.

LEPRA Coffee Morning

Many thanks for all the support for the LEPRA coffee morning. Last Saturday morning. £246.00 was realised, which is a great result.

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.



Journey in Faith Meeting

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



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 Sacrament 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.



First Confessions

Please pray for all our young people in both St Bede's and St Robert's Parishes. The children will be celebrating their First Confessions – St Bede's on Wednesday 6th December at 6pm and St Robert's on Thursday 7th December at 6pm. It is an incredibly important moment for these children as they begin a wonderful relationship with God which revolves around love and forgiveness.



Catholic Women's League Advent Service

The Catholic Women's League will be holding an Advent Service, on Sunday 3rd December, at 2:00pm in the church. Refreshments will be served after the service. Everyone welcome.



Advent Service of Reconciliation

The Partnership Parishes will be celebrating an Advent Service of Reconciliation and all priests of the partnership will be present to celebrate this. It will be held at St Aidan's Church, Ashington on Friday 15th December at 7pm. You are encouraged to come along and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Reflecting on Advent . Booklets available

To help with prayer and scripture reflection during the Season of Advent which begins next Sunday, we have some booklets available to help you ... "Bible Alive", "Walk With Me", "My Day by Day" and "Advent Extra" are all available at the back of church today. Each one is slightly different but they all give a wonderful opportunity to use Advent as this special time of preparation before we rush into singing carols

Advent Alms

Throughout Advent it is customary for us to support our local diocesan Charity, St Cuthbert's Care. They do great work in local communities throughout the diocese, supporting the elderly, the disabled, families and running day care centres, drop-ins, the Alan Shearer Centre and St Catherine's Care Home in Newcastle and Holy Cross Home in Sunderland. If you can support the work of St Cuthbert's Care in the weeks of Advent, please use a St Cuthbert's Care envelope, but if you cannot find one of them, place in an ordinary envelope making it clear that it is for Advent Alms: St Cuthbert's Care.

Torchlight Procession at Hexham

A Torchlight Procession will be held on Friday 8th December at Hexham 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. Meet at the Bandstand at Beaumont Park then process to St Mary's Church. All welcome.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 29th November at 7.30 p.m. in the presbytery. New members would be welcome. Why not come along?

Hall Committee Meeting

The next Hall Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday 7th December at 10am.

Christmas Fayre - Saturday 2nd December

Our Parish Christmas Fayre will be held **NEXT SATURDAY** from 10am. As usual we rely on the members of the Parish **Christmas Fayre** to come along and support those who have arranged to set up and run stalls. There are posters at the back of Church if you can promote the Fayre. There is still time to donate items for the many different stalls SVP need more bottles and prizes for a Raffle also needed ... which can be dropped off at the presbytery during Office hours of 9.30am—12.30pm. The Fayre will be spread across both the School Hall and the Church Hall, and 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! 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 ☎ 512281. Thank you.

Christmas Fayre – Piety Stall

Does anyone have piety items for the stall at the Christmas Fayre? We had very little donated last year... Things like statues, rosaries, religious books, prayer cards etc. Even broken things are welcome, some people enjoy restoring them.

Parish History Books

As a result of a lot of hard work, we have a new Parish History Book, written by one of our parishioners, Philip Tallon, before he died last year. Sadly he was not able to see the finished article, but the draft text was all approved before he died. Philip was a historian and he put a lot of work into putting together this new Parish History. Thanks to Matt Boyle and Ken Wilson and all concerned with the Heritage Lottery Funding, we have been able to produce this new book, all provided by the Heritage Lottery Funding. These books are going to be distributed this weekend and there will also be a new booklet about the Statues of the Church by Ken Wilson as well as a leaflet on the Church for children. They are excellent books which we hope you will enjoy.

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

Vocation Discernment

For those thinking about Priesthood (aged 16 and over), The next meeting will be on Tuesday 19 December 2017 (Christmas event) at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle between 6.30pm - 8.30pm, an evening of prayer and reflection with an opportunity to listen to speakers talk about their own discernment, faith journeys and vocations. Further details are available on the poster in Church or from the Diocesan Vocations Promoter: Fr. David Smith, contact him on Telephone 0191 267 6063.

Vacancy

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancy: Refugee Project Worker, Newcastle upon Tyne - 18 hours per week. Closing date: 6 December. For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us 0191 243 3301, email human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk

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.

Advance Notice: Children's Liturgy Study Day

The Diocesan Department for Liturgy have arranged a Study Day for Catechists on Saturday 3rd February from 10.30am – 3.30pm at St Hilda's Resource Centre in Newcastle. Booking is essential and because these places usually fill up very quickly. The Parish Office has the Booking Form if anyone is interested in attending. But be quick to let us know if you wish to go.

Some Quiet time before Mass

Pope Francis recently 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.

Message from Bishop Séamus.

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing new Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith based schools. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy.

Morpeth Justice and Peace Group

Morpeth Justice and Peace Group wish to thank all who responded to the leaflet about the Real Living Wage project which the Group launched recently. The next meeting of the Group is open to everyone. There will be readings, prayers, poems and hymns on the theme of justice and peace, followed by a shared lunch and a chance to find out more about the work of the Group. It will be held at St. Aidan's church, Stobhill, from 11am to 1pm on Friday 8 December. Interested? Contact morpethjandp@gmail.com.

The Summits

You are most welcome to an evening of Praise, Worship, Teaching & Testimony December 5th 2017 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle NE1 5HH at 7pm. For further information contact Amy on 0191 2433236 adult.format@diocesehn.org.uk