





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; we ask your prayers also for Sr Shelagh Doherty who has died and for Fr Lee Barrett's father Dale who died last week; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### Offertory Collection – 26th November Total Offertory £ 817.31

#### 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

Very many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Clergy Training fund over the last 4 weeks. The amount raised was £309.52

#### 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 12 noon on Thursdays to Pauline (paulinemc2012@gmail.com), to the parish office (morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) or drop in a note at the Presbytery.

#### Bonus Ball

The 8th draw of the Bonus Ball was number 8 and the lucky winners receiving £25 were Gillian Snaith and Betty Dymond. Congratulations to them both.

#### Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards will be on sale once more today. 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.

#### 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.



#### 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. **For those travelling on the coach, it will pick-up at Bedlington at 5.30pm and here at St Roberts at 5.45pm to begin the journey to Hexham.**

#### 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, today at 2:00pm in the Church. Refreshments will be served after the service, in the Church Hall. Everyone welcome..



#### Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Monday 4th December, at 7.00pm, in the Church Hall. This will be a business meeting, which will start with prayers.

#### 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

There are still copies of Advent Extra available at the back of church for those who want to benefit from some Advent reading and reflections. All copies of other booklets seem to have gone, but further copies of My Day by Day have been ordered.

#### 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.

#### Society of St Vincent de Paul: South Sudan Appeal

The SVP operates 13 "Baby-Feeding Centres" in South Sudan and very urgently need money to continue running them to feed babies and young children who would otherwise be malnourished. If you can help this would make a real difference to their young lives. Please see the notice in the church porch to understand how important this work is and how urgent the need for funds to continue running it. There are forms available for you to gift aid a single donation or better still to set up a standing order to secure the work for the longer term. Alternatively cash donations may be handed to any SVP member clearly identified for this purpose. Please help if you can. Thank you.



#### Parish Secretary

Our Parish Secretary, Lisa Mills, has been offered a new job working closer to home and term time only and will finish working in the Parish Office on 22nd December. So that leaves us looking for a new secretary. The advert and relevant information is available on the diocesan website and open until 11th December for applications.

#### Next meeting of the SVP

Wednesday 13th December 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.

#### Pilgrimage to Poland

There are 24 bookings received for the Pilgrimage to Poland, so we have several places still available for those who were on the reserve list or who have just made up their mind to go. Booking forms available from the Parish Office, Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 12.30pm.

#### Parish History Books

Copies of the new Parish History book, are available from the Parish Office. Today we also have another booklet to hand out on the Statues of St Robert's Church, written by Mr Ken Wilson. These 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.

#### 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.

#### Morpeth Justice and Peace Group

The next meeting of the Morpeth J and P Group will be held at St. Aidan's Church, Stobhill, from 11am to 1pm on Friday 8th December and 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. Contact morpethjandp@gmail.com.

#### Wansbeck Valley Foodbank

If you can help, the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank is constantly looking for donations of non-perishable food. Donations can be left in the box at the back of Church.

#### Message from Bishop Séamus

The Bishops of England and Wales are asking us to support them in urging the Government to review their admission cap on new faith based schools, a policy which the government has already admitted is discriminatory. This "admissions cap" prevents some new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend and states that there must be a certain percentage of non-Catholic children attending the school. Visit [www.catholicnews.org.uk/](http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/) or write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy.

#### Weekday Masses

We take this opportunity to express our thanks to our Lay Leaders who have led Services of Word and Holy Communion during the week for the last seven months. It has been a real opportunity for us to be able to come together for these Services and to benefit from the ministry of our Lay Leaders. From tomorrow onwards, we are going to be able to celebrate Mass once again on Mondays and Wednesdays here at St Robert's. Fr Peter Etterley will be here this week, and then after that, Fr Hoskins has rearranged his diary so that he will celebrate a weekly Mass here at St Robert's on Monday and Wednesday mornings at 9.15am. Friday mornings remain unchanged with a Service of Word and Communion at 9.15am.

#### Partnership Newsletter

A newsletter has been provided for the Brinkburn Partnership. It is the first edition, mainly focusing on introducing the Partnership and giving all the Partnership Mass times for Christmas.

#### 2018 Northern Catholic Calendar

The 2018 edition of The Northern Catholic Calendar is now available. The price is £3.00 for Flat Bound or £3.50 for ring bound editions. This book gives contact details for all parishes, priests, communities and associations in the diocese.

#### Reverse Advent Calendar

"Changing Lives" is the new operating name of what was known as The Cyrenians. They work with people who are or have been experiencing homelessness, are recovering from addiction or are moving on from offending. These services are delivered in many different ways including being delivered in our own projects, by working in partnership with others and through specialist outreach teams in our communities. They support 21,000 people each year. Their **Reverse Advent Calendar** is simple .... Over 25 days you are asked to donate one item per day that will benefit those who they support. They need clothing for men, women and children ... unwrapped gifts for all ages, toiletries for men and women ... shampoo, conditioner, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, perfume etc., gloves, slippers, scarves, hats and socks. **NO FOOD, NO ALCOHOL.** Please do not wrap the gifts. For security reasons you are asked to hand these items into the Parish office any morning from 9.30am—12.30pm.

#### Refugee Worker 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](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk) or contact us 0191 243 3301, email [human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk)

#### The "Summits"

The Summits is an adult version of "The Source"... an evening of Praise, Worship, Teaching & Testimony. The first of these will be held on Tuesday 5th December at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle NE1 5HH at 7pm. All Welcome.