

Masses and Services this week

Sunday 10th December	9.00am Mass	Des, Mary Ellen & Frank McLaughlin	2nd Sunday of Advent
	11.00am Mass	Mariann Wolwik	
	6.00pm Mass	Dec'd members of the Cole Family	
Monday 11th December	9.15am Mass	Dec'd Syron & Conlon family members	Weekday of Advent
Tuesday 12th December	9.15am Mass	Lady Radcliffe, Thomas Radcliffe & family	Weekday of Advent
Wed 13th December	9.15am Mass	No Intention	St Lucy
Thursday 14th December	9.15am Mass	Cecil Walker	St John of the Cross
Friday 15th December	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday of Advent
Saturday 16th December	10.00am Mass	Evelyn Givens	Weekday of Advent
Sunday 17th December	9.00am Mass	Sheila Brown	3rd Sunday of Advent
	11.00am Mass	People of the Parish	
	6.00pm Mass	Nkiru Onono	

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 — 12 noon	Saturday Morning
Divine Mercy Devotions	7.00pm	Thursday

Ministries Next Week: 17th December 2017 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

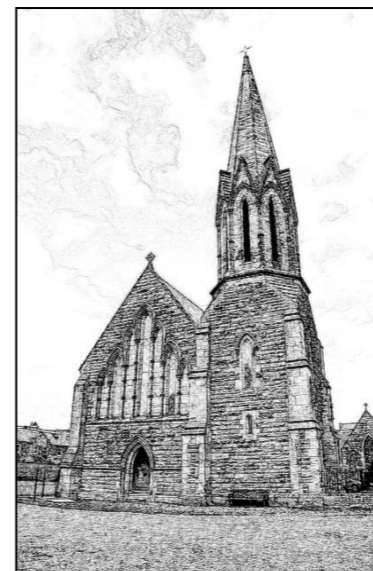
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	K Offen J Offen	C Watson R Soulsby	S Matthews Chris Smith
Readers	K Wilson A Mitchell	C Mills R Hunt	C Rich Chris Smith
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Donaldson A Gorman S Conroy	G Davison A Dawes Cath Smith	B Rich D Butler S Smith
Altar Servers	E Walker-Barras A Shepherd G Sykes	A Kinghorn P Glancey	J Dowd C Bradley
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Amy Companion: Heather		

Neighbouring Parish Telephone Numbers

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

The Pope's Intention for December

The Elderly - That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.



The Parish of Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth In the Brinkburn Partnership, Northumberland

Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott
peterjstott@aol.com

Retired Priest: Father James Doherty
St Robert's Presbytery, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF

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Sunday 10th December 2017 — 2nd Sunday of Advent

How prepared are you? Have you ordered all the presents and put up the tree? Preparation is one of the most important parts of Christmas, but Advent was never supposed to be about fixing the fairy lights. Advent is about spiritual preparation. In all the whirlwind preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we need to prepare a way for the Lord, and this preparation begins with a call from an eccentric man living alone in the desert over two thousand years ago.

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance. Today we might easily dismiss the rantings of a strange man who dressed in camel hair and fed on locusts, but interestingly, people travelled miles into the desert to be baptised by him, so charismatic a man was he, and so important his message. Two thousand years later, his message is just as relevant to those of us who want greater meaning in our lives. The repentance that John teaches means so much more than being sorry for our sins. Repentance means changing the direction of our lives away from poor and ungodly choices. Was the direction of our life decided by what exams we did or didn't pass at the age of seventeen? Has the direction of our life been determined by arbitrary decisions and random circumstances? Advent is a time to decide what sort of a person we would really like to be, and in what direction we would really like to be heading.

“Prepare the way of the Lord,” John tells us, “make straight his paths.” To allow God into our lives, we are asked to remove any obstacles in God's path. How can we open our minds to God's will if our time is consumed in filling the freezer and making Christmas puddings? Advent is an opportunity for us to make some quiet time to contemplate and prioritise. What is it exactly that is preventing God's work in our lives?

“One mightier than I is coming after me,” John tells us, “I have baptised you with water, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.” In the desert of commercialism, we are reminded that the reason for the season is not turkeys and baubles. Preparation is a time of reflection; a little ‘You’ time.





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 all who have died recently and all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Collections

3rd December Total Offertory **£1010.90**; Clergy Training Fund Parish **£782.02** CWL donation **£100**; Youth Ministry **£193.46**.

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.

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.

Catholic Women's League Christmas Lunch

The Christmas Lunch will be on Monday 11th December at the Black and Grey, Please arrive at 1.30 for 2pm lunch.

Bonus Ball

The 9th draw of the Bonus Ball was number 52 and the lucky winners receiving £25 were Graham Cook and Lisa Coen. Congratulations to them both. There's only one draw to go now this year so fingers crossed!"

Christmas Volunteers

There is a list at the back of church for volunteers for Readers, Extraordinary Ministers for the Christmas Masses. If you are able to help, please put your name down where you can. Thank you

Advent Alms

Throughout Advent we support our diocesan Charity, St Cuthbert's Care. They work in local communities, 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 their work, 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.

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.

Parish Confessions

Confessions are available here at St Robert's Church from 11am—12noon on Saturday 16th and 23rd December. There will not be any other opportunities for Confession before Christmas.

Pilgrimage to Poland

We still have several places still available for those who would like to join the Pilgrimage to Poland next April, visiting Czestochowa and Krakow. Booking forms are available from the Parish Office, Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 12.30pm.

Reception into Church

During the 9am Mass this weekend we will celebrate a short service to welcome into the Catholic Church Zenovia Mae Prema Coccalis, who was previously baptised into the Greek Orthodox Church and whose parents ask that she be received into the Catholic Church

Christmas Fayre Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who made this year's Christmas Fayre so successful. To everyone who donated items, baked, made soup, ran stalls or helped on the day. A special thank you to local traders who donated raffle prizes: The Cheese Shop, Tallantynes and Avril's Hairdressing. Thank you to Mr Sutcliffe for letting us use the school hall and finally to every who turned up to support the Fayre; the atmosphere on the day was fantastic and we made **£1,605** which is much more than last year; an amazing effort all round! Thank You.

School Nativity

St Robert's School will be celebrating their School Nativity, 'Lights, Camel, Action', on Thursday 14th December at 2pm and Friday 15th December at 6pm in Church. Doors will open 40 minutes before each show. Mr Sutcliffe and Mrs Callaghan will direct parents to seats. It will not be possible to reserve seats. We ask that Parents and extended family attend only one performance due to limited space within Church

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.

Next meeting of the SVP

The next meeting of the Society of St Vincent de Paul will be held on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. New members would be welcome. Why not come along?

Parish Secretary

Our Parish Secretary, Lisa Mills will finish working in the Parish Office on 22nd December. The advert and relevant information for a replacement secretary is available on the diocesan website and open until Monday 11th December for applications. Interviews for those who are possible candidates will be held on Thursday 21st December.

St Robert's Church Video

When we received the Heritage Lottery Funding to repair the church, we also had to use some of it to promote the heritage and history of the Church. It has therefore been possible for us to have a professionally produced video of the church produced. This is now available on the Parish website (History Section) and Facebook page.



Parish History Books

Through the Heritage Lottery Funding we are delighted to have these two new books available on the history of our parish and church and on the Statues of the Church. Copies of these books are available from the back of church or from the parish office.

Advent Talk

There will be an Advent Talk on Thursday 21st December at 7pm in the Presbytery.

National Eucharistic Congress 2018

"Adoremus", is 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 before 2nd January.

Children's Liturgy Catechists Study Day

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

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.

A Message from Bishop Séamus

The Bishops of England and Wales are asking for our support 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/ or write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy.

2018 Northern Catholic Calendar

The 2018 edition of The Northern Catholic Calendar is now available in the porch. The price is £3.00. This book gives contact details for all parishes, priests, religious 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.

Repairs to the Church Roof

We have been notified that the company that were tendering for repairs to the roof have gone into liquidation. They were also the company that have been working here on the roof and tower over the last couple of years. This means that the work is going to take longer than at first thought. Fr Peter is pushing for the damaged slate tiles to be repaired, but is being told that they will only be repaired after the new stone cross is made and put into place! When we know more we will let you know.

Vocation Discernment

For those thinking about Priesthood (aged 16 and over), the next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th 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.

Consultation on School Admission Arrangements

Where changes to admission arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published. The consultation will run from Monday 4th December 2017 – Monday 22 January 2018.

- **St Robert's R C First School 2019/20**
The policy for consultation for 2019-20 is available on the School Website. A consultation response form is available by request from the school. The governing body will consider all comments received before they determine the arrangements for 2019-20.
- **St. Benet Biscop Catholic Academy 2019/20**
The policy for consultation for 2019-20 is available at <http://www.st-benetbiscop.org.uk/> A consultation response form is available by request from the school by contact Mrs Jane Marriot-Lodge on Tel 01670 822795 or Marriott-Lodgej@pax-christi.co.uk The governing body will consider all comments received before they determine the arrangements for 2019-20.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Booking Forms for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes are now available from the Parish Office. The Pilgrimage is from 27th July—3rd August, with a direct flight from Newcastle Airport. 2018 marks the 160th Anniversary of the Apparitions in Lourdes to St Bernadette. See Fr Peter for further details.

Christmas Crib Collections

We have been asked by the Bishop to support the work of the Friends of the Holy Land during the Christmas Season with a Crib Collection. Baskets will be available at the Church crib for donations which will help the Christians in the Holy Land.



Journey of Faith

The Journey of Faith will meet on Thursday 14th December, and the discussions will focus on The Holy Spirit. 7pm Start until 8.30pm.



Christmas Mass Times

The Christmas Weekend will be a busy one for us as far as coming to Church is concerned..... here are the Masses for St Bede's Bedlington and St Robert of Newminster Morpeth for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day		
4th Sunday of Advent	Saturday 23rd December	530pm Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church, Bedlington
	Sunday 24th December	9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's Church (NO 6pm Evening Mass)
Christmas Masses	Sunday 24th December	6.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass at St Bede's Church
		11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass at St Robert's Church
	Monday 25th December	10.00am Christmas Morning Mass at St Robert's Church
		No Evening Mass