

Masses and Services this week

Sunday 17th December	9.00am Mass	Sheila Brown	3rd Sunday of Advent
	11.00am Mass	People of the Parish	
	6.00pm Mass	Nkiru Onono	
Monday 18th December	9.15am Mass	Eileen O'Connor	Weekday of Advent
Tuesday 19th December	9.15am Mass	Dec'd members of the Wright Family	Weekday of Advent
Wednesday 20th December	9.15am Mass	Dorothy Marr	Weekday of Advent
Thursday 21st December	9.15am Mass	Paul McCole	Weekday of Advent
Friday 22nd December	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday of Advent
Saturday 23rd December	10.00am Mass	George Beattie & Family	Weekday of Advent
Sunday 24th December	9.00am Mass	Des McLaughlin	4th Sunday of Advent
	11.00am Mass	Dec'd & Sick Members of the CWL	
		No Sunday Evening Mass at St Robert's	

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 28th December

Ministries Next Week: 24th December 2017 – 4th Sunday of Advent

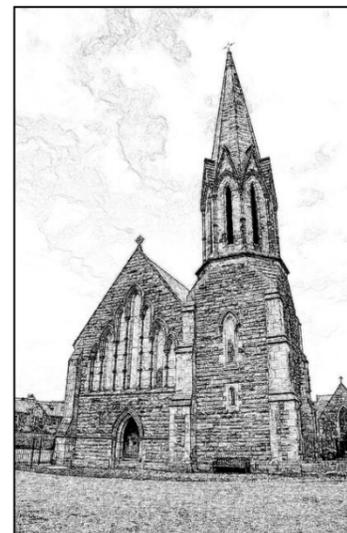
	9am Mass	11am Mass	No 6pm MASS
Welcomers	A Beattie A Roberts	E Dixon V Shearer E Dixon	
Readers	T Walker D Marr	D Shearer V Shearer	
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Mitchell A Beattie T McLaughlin	M Beaton R Soulsby E Dixon	
Altar Servers	M Laux I Golding Douglass	P Glancey L Kinghorn	
Children's Liturgy	Leader:	Companion:	

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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Northumberland Listening Service | 07732 980 740

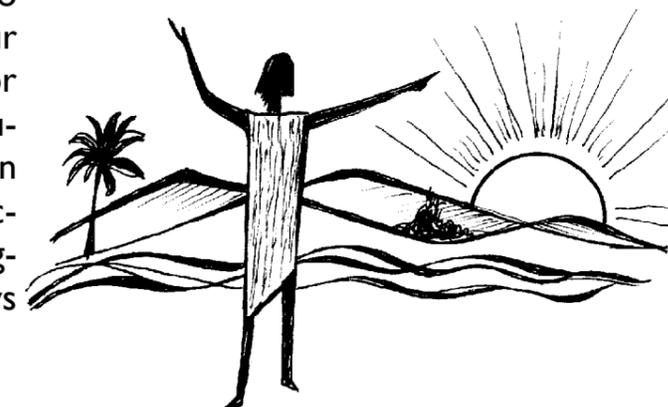
Sunday 17th December 2017 — 3rd Sunday of Advent

If we were still using the Latin Mass, one of the first words we would have heard this Sunday would have been 'Gaudete' meaning 'rejoice'. The third Sunday of Advent, otherwise known as 'Gaudete Sunday' is a day upon which we are invited to rejoice. But what if we don't feel as though there is much to rejoice about? Should we pretend? Should we put on a smile and thank God for our blessings with a joy that we don't honestly feel in our hearts?

There's a well know saying that goes "Every cloud has a silver lining." The old adage is telling us to look for good in every circumstance, but in truth it's not always easy to believe in silver linings or know how to find them. Our lives can sometimes feel like a pointless spiral of problems, and finding joy can be elusive.

In the days of John the Baptist, the Jewish people had been praying for a messiah who would come in great power like a regal warrior to restore Israel. They were unable to recognise Jesus as the answer to their problems, because he was just the humble son of a poor carpenter. They didn't recognise him because he wasn't what they were expecting. They were unable to embrace their 'silver lining'.

Today it is easy to recognise Jesus in our lives when things are going well, but in our suffering Jesus' presence can be harder to recognise. God's agenda is hardly ever our own agenda. The solutions we yearn for and pray for are probably not God's solutions. Today's challenge is to rejoice in God's presence in all of life's circumstances both good and bad. We need to recognise God when he comes to us in ways we do not expect.





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 including Dorothy Devitt of Fenwick Grove who died during the week and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on **Friday 29th December** at 10am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time

**Offertory Collection – 10th December
Total Offertory £ 842.19**



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 the parish office e-mail address (morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) or drop in a note at the Presbytery.

Divine Mercy Devotion

The next Divine Mercy Devotions will be held on Thursday 28th December at 7pm in the church.

Christmas Clean

Anyone who would like to help with the big church clean on Monday 18th December are all welcome. Meet in church after morning Mass.

Bonus Ball

The 10th draw of the Bonus Ball was number 19 and the lucky winners receiving £25 were Alan Smith and Donald Marr. Congratulations to them both. This is our final draw for now and the CWL would like to thank you for all your enthusiastic support which raised **£685.00** for St Robert's Restoration. Congratulations to the winners. Will there be another chance for you next year?

Fr Peter would also like to thank the CWL for organising this throughout the year and helping to raise funds for the parish.

School Mass

St Robert's First School will be joining us for Mass on Thursday at 9.15am. We look forward to welcoming them and celebrating with them before the holidays begin.



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. Many thanks to those who have already made donations There will be a basket on the way out today for Advent Alms.

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.



Pilgrimage to Poland

There are several places still available on the Pilgrimage to Poland from April 23rd - 30th 2018, visiting Krakow, Czestochowa and Auschwitz. Booking forms available from the Parish Office, Monday – Friday, 9.30am – 12.30pm.

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.**

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.

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.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you to all who have made contributions for the Reverse Advent Calendar for "Changing Lives", who work with people who are or have been experiencing homelessness, are recovering from addiction or are moving on from offending. There has been a very good response. **Donations can still be accepted until Thursday 21st December.** 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..

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.

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 video of the church professionally 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.

Parish Confessions

Confessions are available here at St Robert's Church from 11am—12noon on Saturday 23rd December. Confession is always available on request to the priest if you call at the Presbytery but there will be no other Confessions in Church after next Saturday.

2018 Northern Catholic Calendar

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

Message from the Doherty/Devitt Family

Your prayers are asked for the repose of the soul of Dorothy Devitt (nee Doherty) who died at home on Tuesday 12th December. Sadly her sister, Sr Shelagh Doherty, also died on 26th November and their brother Fr Jim Doherty continues to struggle with his injuries. Keep in your thoughts and prayers the wider family, their siblings Moira and Michael, Dorothy's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.



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