

Masses and Services this week

Sunday 31st December	9.00am Mass	Dec'd Members O'Neil & McAlister Families	The Holy Family
	11.00am Mass	Intentions of Fr Jim Doherty	
	6.00pm Mass	Molly McKee	
Monday 1st January 2018	12noon Mass	People of the Parish	Mary The Mother of God
Tuesday 2nd January	9.15am Mass	No Intention	St Basil and St Gregory Nazianzen
Wednesday 3rd January	9.15am Mass	Gary McDermott	Holy Name of Jesus
Thursday 4th January	9.15am Mass	Hilary Brind	Weekday before Epiphany
Friday 5th January	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday before Epiphany
Saturday 6th January	10.00am Mass	Intentions of Fr Jim Doherty	Weekday before Epiphany
Sunday 7th January	9.00am Mass	Samuel and Dorothy Dutton	The Epiphany of the Lord
	11.00am Mass	Intentions of Pat McDonald	
	6.00pm Mass	People of the Parish	

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 to 12 noon	Saturday Morning
Divine Mercy Devotions	7.00pm	Thursday

Ministries Next Week: 7th January 2018

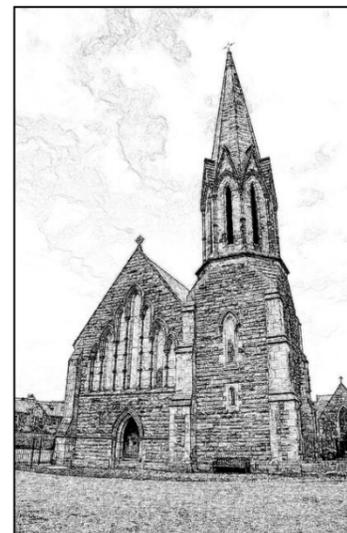
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	A Beattie A Roberts	R Soulsby C Watson	G Snaith S Matthews
Readers	H Lewington N McCole	A Dawes J Ratcliffe	L Cole B Cole
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	T Walker J Conroy M Bell	E Dixon Cath Smith M Beaton	B Rich J Marshall Chris Smith
Altar Servers	E Walker Barras I Golding Douglass M Watson	A Kinghorn L Kinghorn	D Dowd F Lawson
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 January

Evangelization: Religious Minorities in Asia That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.



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

(Tel) 01670 513 410

(Email) morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk

www.strobertsmorpeth.com | Facebook: St Robert of Newminster
Northumberland Listening Service | 07732 980 740

Sunday 31st December 2017—The Holy Family

We know so little about the Holy Family. The gospels give us tantalising glimpses during Mary's pregnancy and in the early stages of Jesus' life. But apart from the time a 12 year old Jesus got lost in the Temple, the pages are blank until a young man reappears to be baptised by his cousin.

It would be nice to know more but it doesn't really matter. The purpose of the Holy Family feast is not to take out Mary and Joseph's family album and browse nostalgically through it. It's more about learning to imitate the values which the family must have shown.

What was it like to begin your family life surrounded by scandal? A child on the way when not yet married ... visions and dreams ... giving birth in a farmyard ... on the run as refugees ... returning home to face family and friends ... All of this to be followed by family ridicule when Jesus started preaching, and the final ignominy of a public trial and execution.



The missing years were about respect, about allowing a family the right to be themselves without forcing them into being what we want: Joseph when told of Mary's vision with the angel; Mary when Joseph wanted to flee to Egypt; Jesus' family letting him preach when all around were ridiculing him. Their love for each other in difficult circumstances is evident in the gospels. And all of this was done without pretention. Mary and Joseph did not become stage-struck. They saw it all as their way of co-operating with God. And if this ordinary, humble family could do it, then we too are capable of rising to their heights.



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 and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time

Offertory Collections
Sunday 24th December—Total Offertory £ 805.50
Christmas Midnight and 10am Mass Offerings— £ 1243.73

Advent Alms

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to Advents Alms for the work of St Cuthbert's Care.

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 12noon on Thursdays to the parish office email address on morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk or drop in a note at the Presbytery.

Christmas Crib Collections

There is a basket placed in front of the crib to support the work of the "Friends of the Holy Land" during the Christmas Season. All donations will be used by the "Friends of the Holy Land" to support the Christians who live in the Holy Land.

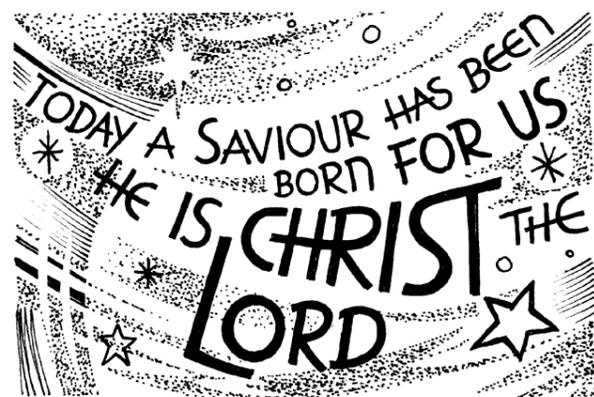
New Years' Day Mass

Mass on Monday 1st January 2018, New Years Day and the Feast of Mary the Mother of God, will be celebrated here at St Robert's at 12noon. Fr Peter will be celebrating a 10am Mass at St Bede's also.

Epiphany Carol Service

There will be a Carol Service on Friday 5th January at St Robert's Church at 6.30pm, to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Church Hall. All welcome.

Appeal to our Young People: Would you like to be a king or a young reader for the Epiphany Carol Service? Please contact Clive Rich on 01670 511623 or sign up on the sheet at the back of church.



Pilgrimage to Poland

There are several places still available on the Pilgrimage to Poland from April 23rd - 30th 2018, visiting Krakow, Czestochowa and Auschwitz. Direct flights from Newcastle to Krakow have been booked, guided tours are included, centrally located hotels with half board en-suite accommodation, a full spiritual programme is organised visiting the Shrine of Our Lady at Czestochowa, St Faustina's Shrine and Divine Mercy Basilica, and Pope St John Paul's Shrine in Krakow. Booking Forms are available from Fr Peter.

Parish History Books

Copies of the new Parish History book, and a book about the Statues in the Church are available from the Parish Office. We have also been able to have a video of the church professionally produced. This video with regional TV and Radio presenter Peter Grant introducing, explains many of the significant historical monuments of our church and includes some wonderful drone camera forage of the outside of the church. This is now available on the Parish website (History Section) and Facebook page.

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.



Partnership Meetings

Partnership Spirituality Network Meeting: Friday 12th January at 10.30am at St Bede's, Bedlington.

Partnership Finance Meeting: Wednesday 18th January at 7pm at St Bede's, Bedlington

Partnership Development Group: Wednesday 24th January at 7pm at St Bede's, Bedlington

Baptism Preparation Meeting

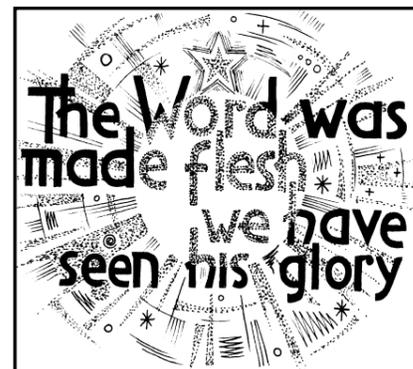
The next Meeting for Baptism preparation will be held on Thursday 18th January at St Bede's Church Hall, Bedlington. Parents requesting Baptism will be expected to attend one of these meetings. Any parents wishing to organise a Baptism should make an appointment to discuss this with Fr Peter.

SVP South Sudan Appeal

Many thanks to those who have already contributed to this appeal, £310 has been sent off so far but further donations or standing orders will still be very welcome. A further supply of the forms is on the church notice-board 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.

Society of St Vincent de Paul Meeting

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 3rd January at 7.30pm in the Presbytery. New members would be welcome. Why not come along?



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.

Liturgy and Worship Group

The next meeting of the Liturgy and Worship group will be held on Thursday 4th January at 7pm in the Church Hall

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.

Justice and Peace Project

The Justice and Peace Project based at Our Lady of Lourdes Deaf Centre in Newcastle helps over 400 asylum seekers every week, giving them £5 and a bag of essential items including clothes and shoes. Once the asylum seekers 'Leave to Stay' has been refused (often through lack of legal help) they lose their homes and all government funding. They are effectively made destitute. Our parish is among those who have supported the project for several years. The number of asylum seekers has risen by over 20% in 2017, so they Project desperately needs our help. Could you include a food item for them in your weekly shopping and then bring along to place in the box in the porch? The Justice and Peace project would like to thank all who support them and wish everyone a very happy Christmas [see card in porch].. Thank you.

Parish Secretary

Mrs Bernadette Rich will begin work as our new Parish Secretary on Monday 8th January.



National Eucharistic Congress 2018

"Adoremus", the National Eucharistic Congress takes place in Liverpool from 7th - 9th September 2018. Our diocesan organiser has to submit all delegates names to the national organisers by the middle of January, so if anyone is interested you are asked to let Fr Peter know by this weekend please.

Coat Stand Wanted

Does anyone have a coat stand they no longer use? Fr Peter is looking for one for use in the Sacristy.

Journey in Faith

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith Group will be on Thursday 4th January at 7pm in the Presbytery.

Ministers of Communion to the Sick and Housebound

We have a few Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who are taking Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound, but need a few more ministers willing and able to go on a list so that we contact when we need to find someone to take communion, sometimes on an ad hoc basis, sometimes more regularly. Can all ministers who visit the sick keep Fr Peter up to date with the names and addresses of those they visit regularly with Holy Communion.



Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next Parish Pastoral Council Meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 31st January. If anyone has items they would like to be discussed please contact Fr Peter or the Council Secretary, Stevie Matthews.

Consultation on 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 RC 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