

## Masses and Services this week

Sunday 28th January	9.00am Mass	Des McLaughlin	Fourth Sunday of Year B
	11.00am Mass	Rev Ted Walton	
	6.00pm Mass	People of the Parish	
Monday 29th January	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday
Tuesday 30th January	9.15am Mass	Sarah Crosby	Weekday
Wednesday 31st January	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	St John Bosco
Thursday 1st February	9.15am Mass	Maureen Ross	Weekday
Friday 2nd February	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Presentation of the Lord [Candlemas]
Saturday 3rd February	10.00am Mass	Joao dos Santos & Maria de Jesus Batalha and families: Manuel Batiste Ribiero and Virgine de Jesus Saturnino	St Blaise
Sunday 4th February	9.00am Mass	Helen & Douglas Cone	Fifth Sunday of the Year
	11.00am Mass	People of the Parish	
	6.00pm Mass	No Intention	

### 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—12noon	Saturday
Divine Mercy Devotions	7.00pm	Thursday

### Ministries Next Week: 4th February 2018

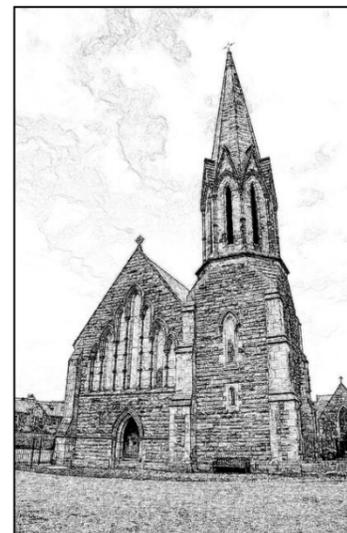
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	A Beattie A Roberts	G Davison E Dixon	G Snaith Chris Smith
Readers	A Gorman K Wilson	J Ratcliffe J McClarence	D Butler S Smith
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	T McLaughlin A Beattie N Givens	R Soulsby D Shearer V Shearer	J Marshall L Cole B Cole
Altar Servers	E Walker-Barras J Golding-Douglass M Watson	A Kinghorn P Glancey	D Dowd F Lawson
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Tricia Companion: Sylvie		

### 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  
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Retired Priest: Father James Doherty  
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Northumberland Listening Service | 07732 980 740

### Sunday 28th January 2018 — Fourth Sunday of the Year

How many people, years after their driving test can still hear their driving instructor loud and clear in their mind's ear every time they take a corner. "Slower.... Slower.... Slower... Whoa! Slow it right down!"

A good teacher is very powerful. The words of a good teacher are with us forever. A good teacher opens up our eyes and helps us to understand. A good teacher adds something to our world and changes us forever.

Today Mark tells us how Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. He tells us how amazed the people were at how he taught and at the authority in his teachings. His authority was powerful enough to expel demons even. You'll notice that Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus taught but only how he taught and the impression he made. He taught in a way that was to change all our lives. It is testament to his skill as a teacher that news of him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

We do not have the benefit of listening first hand to Jesus' teaching, but it is testament to his authority that we still read his words twenty centuries after he spoke them. There are still demons in our lives, and Jesus' teaching still has the authority to drive them out. There are still lessons to be learned for those who believe Jesus can add something to our world and change us forever.





Please pray for: Peace on Earth; Christian Unity: Victims of Human Trafficking: The Sick and those who care for them: The Unemployed. Please pray for those who are sick, especially for Fr Jim Doherty and Fr Ian Hoskins; for all who have died recently; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### Offertory Collections

Sunday 21st January—Total Offertory **£759.96**

#### White Flower Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the SPUC White Flower Appeal recently. **£145.54** was raised.

#### Christmas Crib Collection

The Christmas Crib Collection for the Friends of the Holy Land raised **£430.05**. Very many thanks to everyone for this generous collection, which will support the Christians of the Holy Land.

#### 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](mailto:morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) or drop in a note at the Presbytery.

#### Pilgrimage to Poland 2018

Places are still available on the Pilgrimage to Poland [April 23rd-30th] visiting Krakow, Czestochowa and Auschwitz; direct flights from Newcastle. Booking forms are available from Fr. Peter. Closing date for Bookings is early February.

#### Senior Parishioners Social

The Senior Parishioners Social will be held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 10th February 2018 from 3pm till 6pm for all those eligible (over 70 or thereabouts). The SVP will try to contact those we know of, with invitations but if you are not contacted and would like to come please put your name and phone number on the list in the church porch or the hall, indicating whether you need transport. If you are eligible, please don't be shy because you think you are not old; do not deprive your fellow parishioners of your company! Also, as usual we will be looking for donations for prizes for the raffle. Thank you!

#### Society of St Vincent de Paul Meeting

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 31st January at 7.30pm in the Parish Office. New potential members would be welcome. Why not come along?

#### Journey in Faith

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith group will be held on Thursday 1st February at 7pm in the Presbytery.

#### Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Monday 29th January at 7.00pm in the Church Hall. It will be a Burns Night celebration.

#### Weekday Masses and Services

There will be a Service of Word and Communion on Monday, Wednesday and Friday this week; and Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday

#### 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. *Fr Peter recently approached some members of the parish enquiring if they would come along and be part of the Council together with the existing members. If anyone has responded to Fr Peter's request, please let him know as soon as possible.*

#### Petitions to Lourdes

Fr Peter is going to Lourdes in February to attend the Planning Meeting and Directors Conference for the 2018 Pilgrimages. If anyone wishes to have petitions to Our Lady taken to Lourdes and placed in the box at the Grotto, please hand to Fr Peter over the next two weeks. Also if anyone would like him to light a candle in Lourdes please place a donation in an envelope and hand to Fr Peter and that will be arranged.

#### 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 or a booking form. The Pilgrimage has a Youth Section for all 16-25 year olds. *(Please remember that there is some money left from Fr. Lawrence's time which can only be used to send young people from the parish on pilgrimage ... if anyone is interested please speak to Fr Peter).* The pilgrimage also runs a special section for those who need care and assistance ... please speak to Fr Peter for further details.



#### 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 in the church porch.

#### Baptism Preparation Meetings

The next meeting for Baptism Preparation will be held on Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm. Any parents wishing to organise a Baptism should make an appointment to discuss this with Fr. Peter. For Baptism, one parent of the child to be baptised must be a baptised Catholic. Mass on a Saturday Evening or a Sunday is expected. One of the godparents is also expected to be a practising Catholic. We ask parents also to attend the Baptism Preparation meeting. These meetings alternate between Morpeth and Bedlington. Parents should meet with Fr Peter to complete the paperwork. After the Baptism Course, the parents should speak once again to Fr Peter and make arrangements for an appointment to fix a date for a Baptism. **PLEASE NOTE:** dates are not usually given before the Baptism Preparation meeting.



#### Thank You

The family of Sarah Crosby wish to extend their thanks to the parishioners of St Robert's for their friendship and support during Sarah's long life and also for the continued support and respect at her Requiem Mass. Your generous donations raised £150 for McMillan Cancer Care. Thank you again and may the Lord be with you all.

#### Partnership Youth Coordinator

We have now advertised once again the role of Youth Coordinator for our Partnership and the advert is available on the diocesan website <http://www.rcdhn.uk/papers/diovac.php>. Please pass on this information to anyone you think may be interested. It is important for us to try and appoint someone to this role so that we can support our young people in the development of their faith in Jesus Christ, so please pray for a successful appointment.

#### Life Teen Group Volunteers

We are still unsure as to whether our advert for a Youth Coordinator for the Partnership will be successful, but Fr Peter would like to organise a "core group of adult volunteers" who would be willing to help run a Life Teen Group. Once again and if we appoint a Youth Coordinator to work with that Youth Coordinator on Life Teen. We need to start this again as soon as possible, so that we can support our young people in their faith. A meeting will be held soon. In the meantime, those who are interested are asked to speak to Fr Peter.



#### Partnership YMT Coordinators

Our Partnership has a "Youth Co-workers Group" that helps support and promote the work of the Youth Ministry Team in the Partnership, but we have no-one from St Robert's who is a member of that group. Would anyone like to take on this role and attend the meetings on behalf of the parish. The group meets once every term. If there are two people interested that would be fantastic but one would be great. Please speak to Fr Peter if interested.

#### Ministers of Communion to the Sick & Housebound

Many thanks to those who take Holy Communion out to our sick and housebound parishioners and to those who have recently offered their services to this ministry. It is much appreciated. If any other ministers feel they can be involved with Holy Communion to the Sick and Housebound, please speak to Fr Peter

#### New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

A course to train new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is to be held at St Joseph's, Gateshead, (Walker Terrace, Gateshead, NE8 1LX) on **Monday 19th and 26th February**, 7.00pm-9.00pm and **Saturday 3rd March 2018**, 10.30am-4.00pm with the Commissioning Mass at 3.00pm. We always need more Ministers to help with Holy Communion at Mass and also to the Sick and Housebound, so if anyone is interested, please speak to Fr Peter. **You MUST be able to attend all the dates given here to be commissioned.**

#### The Season of Lent

Lent begins on Wednesday 14th February, Ash Wednesday. There will be a Service of Word and Communion with Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 10am at St Bede's Church, Bedlington and at 12.30pm at St Robert's, Morpeth. Both Services will be led by our Deacon Rev Stephen Boulter. Throughout Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross on a Thursday evening and there will also be extra "Partnership Stations of the Cross" during Lent, to which we invite you to participate and move around the partnership churches. A cup of tea will be served after these Partnership Stations.

There will also be a special evening Service **'No Greater Love Than this'** a meditation in song and picture on the Passion of Jesus Christ, to be held at St Bede's Church, Bedlington on Wednesday 14th March at 7.00pm.



#### Justice and Peace Project, Newcastle

Thank you for your continued donations of food for the destitute asylum seekers who are assisted by the Justice and Peace Project based at Our Lady of Lourdes Deaf Centre in Newcastle. They are now looking for some specific food items, if you can help ... **tins of corned beef, fish, tinned tomatoes and rice, cooking oil sugar and biscuits.** No more clothing can be accepted for the refugee camps abroad, but the Project still needs mens trainers and boots, jackets, sweaters. If you can help with any of the above please leave in the church porch and members of the parish will make sure that these items are transferred to Newcastle as soon as possible. Thank you.

#### Maintenance of the Hall: Blocked Toilets

The newsletters and missalettes and other various pieces of paper that went missing from church a couple of weeks ago, seem to have appeared this week in the drains outside the church hall and presbytery. Unfortunately, it appears that someone has pushed all the papers down the hall toilet, which two weeks later has resulted in a severe blockage. Fortunately we managed to clear the drains without calling out specialist drain cleaners, but it does raise some issues about how long we keep the hall open when it is not being used. At the moment it is open most days, even when there is nothing on, but consideration will be given to keeping the hall closed when it is not in use.



#### Low cost retreat on Holy Island

Do you know someone who would love to go on Retreat, but find them to be too expensive? The Retreat Association has partnered up with Marygate Retreat Centre to offer a retreat on Holy Island from 12th -18th February 2018 for those on low or restricted income. The retreat will be led by the Bishop of Salford, Bishop John Arnold of Salford Diocese. There are up to 17 places available. The normal cost of this retreat would be £315 per person but places will be offered with up to 50% discount on an application basis. If you know of someone who may be interested in applying for a place please contact the Retreats Association (email@retreats.org.uk) for an application form. Please note that the maximum income level quoted on the form has now been set aside – the RA realised they had set it too low! Help with transport from Berwick station would usually be available. Applications close 24 January 2018.

#### Diocesan Vacancies

**Parish secretary**, Our Lady and St Columba, Wallsend, 10 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date 31 January.

**Parish Secretary**, St Mary and St Wilfrid, Bishop Auckland, 10 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contact. Closing date 30 January.

For further information and details of how to apply please visit the diocesan website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk) or contact HR on 0191 243 3301 or [human.resources@dioceshn.org.uk](mailto:human.resources@dioceshn.org.uk)

#### Poverty Lunch

Church Action on Poverty Sunday takes place on Sunday 11th February. To follow up last year's successful fundraiser at Morpeth Methodist Church, a poverty lunch of soup and cake is being held at St Aidan's Church Hall, Stobhill, on Sunday 11th February. Tea and coffee will be available from 12.30pm along with information on the work of the Justice and Peace group and Church Action on Poverty. The lunch will commence at 1pm. This is free but a collection will be taken to raise funds for the charity Church Action on Poverty. So that numbers are known for catering, if you are thinking of attending could you please contact Anne or Tony Woods on 01670 519617 or e-mail [tonywoods57@aol.com](mailto:tonywoods57@aol.com)

#### RC Chaplain Post at HMP Durham

A Chaplaincy job has arisen at HMP Durham providing pastoral and faith specific care to prisoners and staff. The minimum qualification for this post is normally the Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. 37 hour working week – this role requires working regular unsocial hours. Salary £25,920-£29,176. Closing date for application is 30th January 2018. Further details can be found at: <https://justicejobs.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-1/brand-2/candidate/so/pm/1/p/3/opp/15634-15634-Roman-Catholic-Ordained-Priest-Roman-Catholic-Ordained-Deacon-Brother-Sister-Lay-Person/en-GB>