

## Masses and Services this week

|                         |                                  |                                                                          |                                       |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 18th February    | 9.00am Mass                      | The McCafferty family                                                    | First Sunday of Lent                  |
|                         | 11.00am Mass                     | Sarah Crosby                                                             |                                       |
|                         | 6.00pm Mass                      | Jim McKee                                                                |                                       |
| Monday 19th February    | 9.15am Service                   | Service of Word and Communion                                            | Weekday of Lent                       |
| Tuesday 20th February   | 9.15am Mass                      | Sheila Brown                                                             | Weekday of Lent                       |
| Wednesday 21st February | 9.15 Service                     | Service of the Word and Communion                                        | Weekday of Lent                       |
| Thursday 22nd February  | 9.15am Mass<br>11.00am Funeral   | Dec'd members of the Swift family<br><b>Service for Elizabeth Wright</b> | <b>The Chair of St Peter, Apostle</b> |
| Friday 23rd February    | 9.15am Service<br>1.00pm Requiem | Service of Word and Communion<br><b>Mass for Yvonne Simey</b>            | <b>St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr</b>    |
| Saturday 24th February  | 10.00am Mass                     | Andrew Kingwell                                                          | Weekday of Lent                       |
| Sunday 25th February    | 9.00am Mass                      | Sarah Crosby                                                             | Second Sunday of Lent                 |
|                         | 11.00am Mass                     | Tony Syron Anniversary                                                   |                                       |
|                         | 6.00pm Mass                      | Jim McKee                                                                |                                       |

### Devotions This Week

|                                           |                                   |                              |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament       | 8.30am — 9.00am<br>10.30am—12noon | Monday to Friday<br>Saturday |
| The Angelus                               | 9.00am                            | Monday to Friday             |
| The Rosary                                | 9.40am                            | Saturday Morning             |
| Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation) | 11.00 am to noon                  | Saturday Morning             |
| Divine Mercy Devotions                    | 7.00pm                            | Thursday                     |

### Ministries Next Week: 25th February 2018: 2nd Sunday of Lent

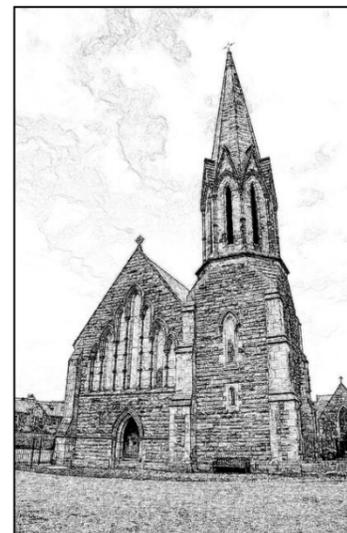
|                                           | 9am Mass                        | 11am Mass                         | 6pm Mass                       |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Welcomers                                 | K Offen<br>J Offen              | E Dixon<br>G Swift                | G Snaith<br>Chris Smith        |
| Readers                                   | M Boyle<br>H Lewington          | C Mills<br>B Cudd                 | J Gill<br>D Oldroyd            |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | E Harber<br>G Harber<br>M Bell  | V Shearer<br>E Dixon<br>G Davison | J Marshall<br>B Rich<br>B Cole |
| Altar Servers                             | M Laux<br>G Sykes<br>A Shepherd | A Kinghorn<br>P Glancey           | J Dowd<br>C Bradley            |
| Children's Liturgy                        | Leader: Clare                   | Companion: Callum                 |                                |

### 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 February

**Say "No" to Corruption:** That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.



## 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 18th February 2018 — 1st Sunday of Lent

Are you trying to give up something for Lent? Chocolates ...social media... smoking ... television ... wine? Perhaps you're trying to do something extra...say more prayers...give more to charitable causes. It's tempting to think that Lent is about saying a few extra prayers and giving up sweets or alcohol, but in truth, we are in serious danger of trivialising Lent.

This forty-day journey with Jesus is so much more than resisting a few bad habits. The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert and he remained there for forty days presumably to sort his priorities out. Whilst he was there, Satan confronted him with all the temptations we lesser mortals are great at falling for .... the promise of wealth, fame, power, and worldly success. Having overcome Satan's temptations, Jesus emerged all the stronger, fortified for proclaiming God's gospel.

This Lent we are invited to share Jesus' wilderness experience. Over the next forty days, we are challenged to retreat into our own wilderness and face our demons. The power of evil seeks us out in our weaknesses. Lent is a time when we can strengthen the areas in our life that show weakness. Lent is a time when we can change our sinful habits, change our minds about the way we live and decide what we are really about. The wilderness is a place where we can be tested, where we can get to know ourselves better and grow in maturity.



The theme of today's gospel is the close link between the preparation by Jesus in the desert and the start of his preaching. Lent has an end result. What end result are we preparing for? In what ways could we emerge all the stronger by the time Easter comes? Could this Lent provide the starting point we need to change the direction in our lives?



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 4th February—Total Offertory **£871.31**

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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

#### 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.

#### Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 28th February at 7.30 p.m. in the presbytery. New potential members would be welcome. Why not come along?

#### Calling all gardeners

When doing your planting could you put in some extra seeds to provide plants for sale at the Christian Aid plant stall on 19th May? Thank you!

#### 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.



#### Journey in Faith

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

#### 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, if you are interested please speak to Fr Peter.

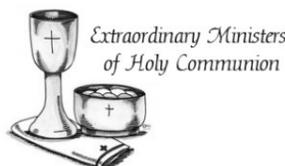


#### Partnership YMT Coordinators

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.

#### 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

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.

#### Partnership Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent, there will be Partnership Stations of the Cross to which we invite you to participate and move around the partnership churches.

These will be held on

- Monday 19th February at 7:00pm at St. Bede, Bedlington
- Friday 2nd March at 7:00pm at St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley
- Wednesday 7th March at 7:00pm at The Sacred Heart & St. Cuthbert, Amble
- Thursday 22nd March at 7:00pm at St. Robert of Newminster, Morpeth

After these Stations there will be Refreshments and a chance to catch up with friends from around the Partnership.

#### Lent Booklets

A selection of booklets for Lent are available in the Porch. Prices are:

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Day by Day – Infants and Children's | 50p   |
| Day by Day – Adults                 | £1.00 |
| Walk with Me                        | £1.00 |
| Lent Extra                          | £1.75 |

#### Marriage Preparation Course

A Marriage Preparation Course is being held at St Robert's on Saturday 17th March.



Those getting married this year are asked to confirm their attendance at this meeting. Further details of times will be given in coming weeks.

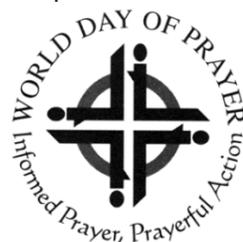
#### Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunches will be served each Friday during the Season of Lent commencing Friday 16th February. There will be a list at the back of church for offers of help, soup, cakes etc. Funds raised will go to CAFOD and Mary's Meals.



#### Women's World Day of Prayer

The Annual Women's World Day of Prayer Service will be held at St. James Church of England Church on 2nd March 2018 at 2.00p.m. The Service will be hosted by the ladies of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Mitford. The Service has been prepared by the Women of Suriname on the theme of "All God's Creation is Good". If anyone would like to join the choir, please come along to rehearsals in St. James Church on 16th Feb 2018 and 23rd Feb 2018 at 11.00a.m. Further details from Christine Watson or Eileen House. A full dress rehearsal will be held on Friday 2nd March 10.00-12.00 at St. James Church.



#### Meditation on the Passion of Christ

There will 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.



#### Christian Aid Spring Evening

The Christian Aid Spring Evening will be held on Saturday 17th March at 7 for 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. The theme this year is Haiti and there will be a Haitian style meal followed by a talk about how Christian Aid is helping the poor whose communities were devastated by hurricane Matthew in Autumn 2016 to rebuild their lives. The speaker is Sue Burston and tickets cost £7, available from Gerry Harber (tel 517829).

#### 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 men's trainers and boots, jackets, and 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.

#### CAFOD Family Fast Day:

During Lent, we will mark CAFOD Family Fast Day on 23rd February. For every pound that you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million. Please pick up your Family Fast envelope if you wish to donate, they are available today and next week, if you wish to make a donation to CAFOD for their worldwide work.

#### St. Patrick's Day – Saturday 17th March.

A small selection of St. Patrick's Day cards are available from the stand at the back of Church. Please put money in the box next to the stand. There are also a few Mother's Day cards (Sunday 11th March).

#### Invitation to Youth Ministry Meeting on February 25th

All parishioners who are concerned about how we can support young people on their faith journey are invited to a co-workers' gathering at the Emmaus Village on **Sunday February 25th at 3.00pm.** (Tea, coffee and cake served from 2.15pm). There are a number of opportunities that YMT will share with you and this will also be a time to share good practice and network with other parts of the diocese. Please let YMT know if you are coming on 01207 592244 or [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org)

#### Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

- Mission Facilitator, Dept. for Adult Formation and Evangelisation, full-time, 18 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 23 February.
- Fundraising Manager, Dept. for Finance, full-time, permanent contract. Closing date: 1 March.
- Administrator, St Hilda's, Sunderland, 12 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 25 February.

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, or [human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk)