

## Masses and Services this week

Sunday 4th February	9.00am Mass	Helen & Douglas Cone	Fifth Sunday of the Year B
	11.00am Mass	Sarah Crosby	
	6.00pm Mass	James Fraser	
Monday 5th February	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	St Agatha
Tuesday 6th February	9.15am Mass	Peg, Harry & David Shepherd	St Paul Miki and Companions
Wednesday 7th February	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday
Thursday 8th February	NO MASS		Weekday
Friday 9th February	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday
Saturday 10th February	NO MASS		St Scholastica
Sunday 11th February	9.00am Mass	Stephen Boyle	Sixth Sunday of the Year
	11.00am Mass	No Intention	
	6.00pm Mass	Arthur Hunter	

## 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
<b>Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation)</b>	<b>NO CONFESSIONS</b>	
Divine Mercy Devotions	7.00pm	Thursday

## Ministries Next Week: Sunday 11th February 2018

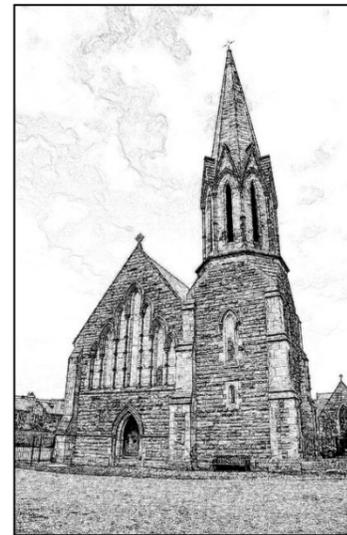
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	K Offen J Offen	G Swift R Soulsby	Chris Smith S Mathews
Readers	A Mitchell T Walker	D Shearer V Shearer	B Cole L Cole
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Gorman A Wilson K Wilson	E Dixon G Davison Catherine Smith	S Smith T Edwards D Butler
Altar Servers	M Laux G Sykes A Shepherd	P Glancey L Kinghorn	J Dowd C Bradley
Children's Liturgy	<b>HALF TERM</b>		

### 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  
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## Sunday 4th February 2018 — Fifth Sunday of the Year

.When we read about Jesus' miracles, two big questions spring to mind. Does Jesus still cure people today? And ... why does Jesus cure some people but not others? Surely with his power he could cure everybody!

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother in law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.

In some schools today, children are rewarded for a hundred percent attendance. Children come rushing home at the end of term waving certificates to prove that sickness has not kept them away from the classroom for one single day. But there are critics who would suggest that being in school every single day is not the important bit; it's what the pupil achieves whilst in the classroom that is of true importance. So it is with our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. It is important to look after a vehicle, but what point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere?

To achieve anything in this world our health of course is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Does Jesus still cure today? Perhaps the question is irrelevant. In asking it, are we missing the greater point? As mere mortals, our health is of paramount importance to us, but is it top of God's agenda? Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."





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, including Yvonne Simey of Dacre Street who died on 10th January, and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 1.00pm on Friday 23rd February followed by Burial at Embleton; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Offertory Collections

Sunday 28th January - Total Offertory **£853.15**

### 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.

### 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 have contacted those we know of with invitations but if you have not been 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. Also, as usual we would be pleased to receive donations of prizes for the raffle. Thank you!

### Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 7th February at 7.30p.m. in the Presbytery. New potential members would be welcome. Why not come along?



### 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.

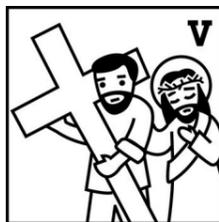


### Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> 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. There will also be a 10am Mass at St Aidan's, Ashington and a 6.30pm Mass at Newbiggin.

### Stations of the Cross

We will celebrate Stations of the Cross here at St Robert's every Thursday evening at 7pm and Saturday morning at 10.30am. If you are able and willing to lead these Stations, please sign the list at the back of Church. There will also be Stations of the Cross every Sunday afternoon at St Bede's Bedlington, led by Deacon Stephen.



### 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 ...

- Friday 16th February at 6pm at St. Aidan, Ashington
- 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.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm.



### 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.



### Journey in Faith

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith group will be held on Thursday 15th February at 7pm in the Presbytery.

### 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February, 7.00pm-9.00pm** and **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

### Petitions to Lourdes

Fr Peter is going to Lourdes on 8th 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.



### Partnership Youth Coordinator

The advert for a Youth Coordinator closed on Friday, and Shortlisting will take place on Wednesday. Please pray for a successful appointment.

### Life Teen Group Volunteers

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 Co-ordinator 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 someone be willing 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.

### 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



### Liturgy and Worship Meeting

Clashes with other meetings and events mean that an alternative date is being sought. Possible suggestion is 26th February.

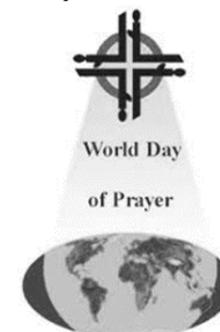
### Marriage Preparation Course

A Marriage Preparation Course is being held here at St Robert's on Saturday 127th March. Those getting married here this year are asked to confirm their attendance at this meeting. Further details of times will be given in coming weeks.



### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 and 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2018 at 11.00a.m. Further details from Christine Watson or Eileen House.



### 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 Food Bank box in the church porch.



### Justice and Peace Project, Newcastle

The Justice and Peace Project are collecting food items the Asylum Seekers using the Project based at Our Lady of Lourdes Deaf Centre in Newcastle. They are appealing for **tins of corned beef, fish, tinned tomatoes and rice, cooking oil sugar and biscuits.** Also if anyone can provide **men's trainers and boots, jackets, and sweaters,** you 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.

### The Rite of Election

Bishop Seamus will be leading the Rite of Election at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle on Sunday 18th February, the First Sunday of Lent. At 3pm. This Service is for all those from across the diocese who are to be received into the Church this year. Those candidates, or catechumens as they are more correctly known, are invited to attend with their sponsors and families, the Bishop welcomes them and their names are written into the Book of the Elect.



We have five people from our parish hoping to be received in to the church. Please keep them in your prayers.

### Chief Operating Office for the Diocese

**A Message from Bishop Seamus:** On behalf of the Board of Directors I am delighted to announce that Fiona Standfield has been appointed to the post of Chief Operating Officer and she will commence her role on 1 June 2018. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Fiona to the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and will offer her your full support.