

Masses and Services this week

Sunday 1st April	9.00am Mass	Helen & Douglas Cone	Easter Sunday
	11.00am Mass	Elphin Conroy	
	NO EVENING MASS		
Monday 2nd April	9.15am	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	Easter Monday
Tuesday 3rd April	10.30am Mass	REQUIEM MASS: Elphin Conroy	Easter Tuesday
Wednesday 4th April	9.15am	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	Easter Wednesday
Thursday 5th April	9.15am Mass	Kathleen Lovell (AB)	Easter Thursday
Friday 6th April	9.15am	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	Easter Friday
Saturday 31st March	9:15am	Elphin Conroy	Easter Saturday
Sunday 1st April	9.00am Mass	George Beattie	Second Sunday of Easter Feast of Divine Mercy
	11.00am Mass	Pat McLaughlin	
	6.00pm Mass	Wilf McConnell	

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 Wednesday
Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation)	11.00am to noon	Saturday Morning
Rosary	9.40am	Saturday
Divine Mercy	7pm	Thursday

Ministries Next Week: 8th April 2018: Feast of Divine Mercy

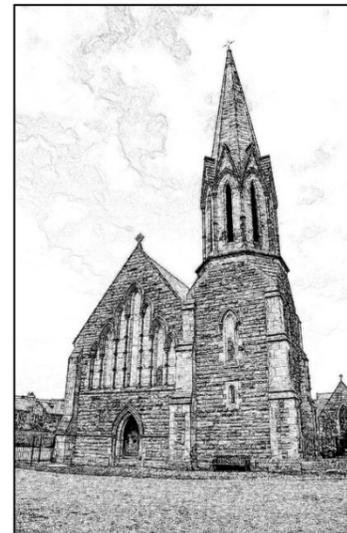
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	A Beattie A Roberts	R Soulsby C Watson	S Matthews G Snaith
Readers	T Walker A Mitchell	J Ratcliffe B Cudd	D Oldroyd J Gill
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	E Harber G Harber K Wilson	D Shearer V Shearer G Davison	T Edwards M Illingworth A Smith
Altar Servers	E Walker-Barras I Golding Douglass M Watson	A Kinghorn I Kinghorn	D Dowd C Bradley
Children's Liturgy	Easter Break		

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 Oliver Keyes, Alnwick 01665 6020124	Fr Lee Barrett, Cramlington 01670 712476

The Pope's Intention for March

Formation in Spiritual Discernment: That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.



**The Parish of
Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
In the Brinkburn Partnership, Northumberland**

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Sunday 1st April 2018 — Easter Sunday

Traditionally at this time of year thousands of new Christians are baptised all over the world. A young man baptised recently was asked, "Do you feel different now that you are baptised and a Christian?" "Yes," he replied, "I went from believing nothing to believing everything sort of vaguely. I hope God will make things clearer to me as I continue on this journey."

Easter is a good time to reaffirm our faith. The Resurrection is the culmination of Christ's journey on this earth, and the beginning of our journey in faith. Our journey begins with belief in the Resurrection, but approaching the 'Empty Tomb' isn't easy. Who moved the stone we wonder. Why were the linen wrappings removed, and why was the cloth that wrapped Jesus' head rolled neatly and placed separately? In our modern day times of detective stories and forensic science there is an inclination to turn the empty tomb into a crime scene, but the problem with looking at the empty tomb from an investigative point of view is that we're in danger of missing a greater truth, and the amazing implications of a Resurrection that was after all predicted.

If we were to fully embrace the reality of the Easter story we would pour out of church bouncing with a newfound enthusiasm for life. So how do we embrace the reality of a story for which there is no proof? Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as something that was promised. Why therefore, in the context of everything else that Jesus did and said, should this surprise us?

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ.





Please pray for: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work. Please pray for those who are sick, especially for Fr Jim Doherty and Fr Ian Hoskins; for all who have died recently, including **Elphin Conroy** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday at 10.30am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections

Sunday 25th March – Total Offertory **£1048.27**

Holy Places Collection

Very many thanks for your generous donation to the annual Holy Places Collection which **£398.93** raised for the Christian Community of the Holy Land and the holy places associated with our Christian faith.

Lenten Lunch Proceeds

Very many thanks to everyone who supported the Friday Lenten Lunches. We have raised **£810.42**, 50% of which will be sent to Mary's Meals and 50% to CAFOD. Thank you for your support. It is an incredible amount.

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.

Offertory Envelopes

Today marks the start of the new financial year for the Diocese. Envelope users are reminded to use the envelopes from your new box and throw away any envelopes left over from last year. Whenever possible, please use the correct envelope for the Sunday you make your offering. Thank you. If you have not yet collected your new box please see Elizabeth Dixon or Gerry Harber.

Rotas for Sunday Coffee and Tea

The new Sunday coffee rota is now available from the noticeboard in the church hall.

Easter Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to everyone who has been involved in making our Holy Week and Easter Masses and Services so successful and so prayerful. A lot of effort has been put into preparing our music, and to encouraging both St Robert's and St Bede's to come together. It was a great success and thanks to everyone in our Choir and to our musicians and organists for their cooperation. Also to all our readers, ministers, church cleaners, welcomers, florists and Altar Servers and anyone else who has worked behind the scenes. Many Thanks.
Fr Peter

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.

Divine Mercy Devotion

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5th April at 7pm in the church.

Morpeth Gathering

The Morpeth Gathering is being held next weekend and our Church Hall will be in use throughout the day on Saturday for several events. Further information in Morpeth gathering programme.

Communications Group

The Partnership Development Group wishes to establish a group of people that will be responsible for 'Communications' across the partnership. We want people who have some skill and initiative to produce a regular Partnership Newsletter, and someone who can help develop and maintain a Partnership Website and Facebook page. Do you have any desktop publishing skills, word processing skills, or IT/web design skills that we can use to help develop the way we communicate with each other. Please contact your Parish Priest or speak to Fr Peter Stott or Fr Shaun Purdy for further information or if you can offer your skills.

Baptism Preparation

The next meeting for Baptism Preparation will be held on Thursday 19th April at 6.30pm at St Bede's. 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 then make an appointment to fix a date for a Baptism. PLEASE NOTE: dates are not usually given before the Baptism Preparation Meeting.



Northern Scripture Festival

The Northern Scripture Festival is being held on Saturday 12th May 2018, from 10am – 4.30pm at All Saints School, York. This is a day for Christians to experience the Bible afresh through informative and inspiring talks, workshops, and worship. Further details on the poster on noticeboards.

Rosary on the Coast

We have signed our Partnership up to take part in "Rosary on the Coast". This is being held on Sunday 29th April around the British coast. Our Partnership will meet at St Bartholomew's Anglican Church at Church Point, Newbiggin, but the Rosary will be prayed together outside, as an Act of Witness. Many thanks to the Churchwardens at St Bartholomew's for allowing use of their Church. You can find full details of this initiative on the website www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/ and why we are doing this in the UK. We hope you will feel able to join in this great act of witness,

Partnership "Immortal Diamond" Group

We are offering a series of sessions of group reflection and sharing based on Richard Rohr's book "Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self" (required reading). The group will explore new themes each session, through contemplation, reflection and sharing. Group meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, beginning on 25 April; at Our Lady and St Joseph's Parish House, New Hartley. If you are interested in this course, please contact; Mary McCullough on 01665 712247 or mary.mccullough@yahoo.co.uk

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 11th April at 7.30pm in the presbytery. 10,000 volunteer members in the UK, motivated by their faith, are committed to meaningful and long term befriending. Inspired by the message of the Gospels they seek and find those in need and offer them sincere friendship. They visit them in their homes, in hospital and in care homes on a regular basis and offer additional practical support such as good, furniture or financial help where needed. They also organise trips and events for older and isolated people. Can you be part of the SVP?

Christian Aid Week: 13th-19th May 2018

Christian Aid Week starts with an Ecumenical service here in St Robert's Church at 4pm on Sunday 13th May. Please come to this service to pray for the poor of the world who desperately need our help and for the success of Christian Aid Week.

We need about 30 volunteers for the house to house collection. This is a vital task and is very easy. It takes about half an hour to deliver the envelopes for a typical street and an hour or so to collect them. While we have a small number of regular collectors they are getting older and fewer and we urgently need more volunteers to sustain this work. Please put your name and telephone number on the list in the church porch against your chosen street. Thank you.

As usual there will be plant and book stalls in the market place on Saturday 19th May. We need donations of books and plants. Please contact Eileen or Gerry Harber on 517829 if you can supply some.

Repair work to the garages

Work to repair the garages is schedule to begin on Wednesday 4th April. During the period of building work, all eight parking spaces near the garages will be unavailable as the builders are erecting a safety cordon for the area. Weather permitting the work is scheduled to be complete by Friday 13th April but internal decoration of the garages will be completed at a later date because the walls will need time to dry out from the ingress of rain over many years.

Hymn Book Amnesty

It has been pointed out that our hymn books are disappearing. If you have borrowed a hymn book from church but forgotten to bring it back, could you please return it to the bookshelf at the back of church as soon as possible.

The Summit

A lively evening of praise, worship and teaching and testimony. You are warmly invited to the fourth 'Summit' event which is taking place at St Mary's, Bishop Auckland DL14 6PQ on 7th April 7-9pm. This reflective and faith filled evening will have worship led by Ronan Johnston of Emmaus music and we would love you to join in and be part of this experience. For more information, please contact Amy on 0191 243 3316 or at adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk.

Mass Intention Envelopes

It is very difficult receiving Offerings for Masses without an envelope. When requesting Mass Intentions please use the brown envelopes available on the table in the porch and ensure the offerings are sealed inside. Thank you.

Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11th April at 7pm. If anyone has items to be discussed, please contact Father Peter or Stevie Matthews.

Posters

Unfortunately due to the size of the noticeboard in the church porch, some posters have had to be put on the board in the church hall., where we have space.

Helping our young people

A conference will take place on Saturday 12th May at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn to help parishes and partnerships engage with young people in their communities. The keynote speaker is Fr Dominic Howarth, responsible for Youth Services in Brentwood Diocese, and the programme includes 12 workshops. The conference is for everyone who is concerned about our young people, for all catechists, and will offer inspiring examples of good practice. The conference fee is £10 and includes lunch. Further details are in the booking forms available in parishes, downloadable from www.ymt.org or contact admin@ymt.org

SPUC Petition

SPUC has launched a petition calling on the Prime Minister not to give parliamentary support to moves to decriminalise abortion. Such an action will take away from the unborn any remaining legal protection from abortion. A petition form is now at the back of Church ... will you support this please?

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.

Charity Meal in Aid of Refugees

A charity meal will be held on Monday 9th April at 7.15pm for Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Greece at the Tandoor Mahal Indian Restaurant (facing Rutherford's). The cost is £20, and 50% of this will go towards Ruhi Loren's funds for refugees. For tickets please ring Maura Illingworth on 01670 516452. Ruhi will be grateful for your support.

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.

