

## Masses and Services this week

Sunday 11th March	9.00am Mass	Sheila Brown	Fourth Sunday of Lent
	11.00am Mass	Intentions of Pat Hopper	
	6.00pm Mass	Intentions of Jordanna	
Monday 12th March	<b>No Mass / No Service</b>		Weekday of Lent
Tuesday 13th March	9.15am Mass	Pat McGurk	Weekday of Lent
Wednesday 14th March	9.15am Service 12.00 noon	Service of the Word and Communion Funeral Service for Nancy Haddow	Weekday of Lent
Thursday 15th March	9.15am Mass	Thomas Cleveland	Weekday of Lent
Friday 16th March	9.15am Service	Service of Word and Communion	Weekday of Lent
Saturday 17th March	10.00am Mass	Grace Margaret Sharp	St Patrick
Sunday 18th March	9.00am Mass	Jean and James Keir Craig	Fifth Sunday of Lent
	11.00am Mass	Norman Barker	
	6.00pm Mass	Celebrant's 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)	11.00 am to noon	Saturday Morning
Stations of the Cross	7.00pm	Thursday
Stations of the Cross	10.30am	Saturday

### Ministries Next Week: 18th March 2018: 5th Sunday of Lent

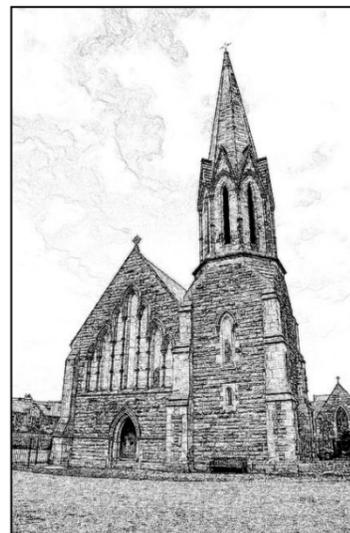
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	A Beattie A Roberts	G Swift R Soulsby	G Snaith Chris Smith
Readers	R Higginbottom M Bell	A Dawes B Lewins	L Cole B Cole
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Donaldson A Gorman T McLaughlin	D Shearer M Beaton R Soulsby	Chris Smith D Butler J Marshall
Altar Servers	E Walker-Barras I Goulding-Douglass M Watson	A Kinghorn P Glancey	D Dowd F Lawson
Children's Liturgy	Leader: <b>Tricia</b> Companion: <b>Sylvie</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 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

Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott  
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Retired Priest: Father James Doherty  
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## Sunday 11th March 2018 — 4th Sunday of Lent

From the minute we open our eyes in the morning, we are faced with choices. By the end of the day we have made hundreds of choices and not all of them good. In fact, we probably fail to choose God in a hundred and one different ways, yet God still loves us.

How do we know? We know because every time we look at a Crucifix we are reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made out of love for us. Just as Moses held up a bronze snake on a pole to remind the Israelites of God's love, so we look to the Crucifix as a reminder that God doesn't condemn us for our mistakes, but offers us a second chance of salvation.

Too often we take God's love for granted. How could we make ourselves more deserving? We could begin by looking at all those choices we make on a daily basis. Do we choose to fritter our lives away in inconsequential activities, or do we choose to make the world a better place? Do we choose to bury our heads in the sand when we see someone bullied at work, or do we make a brave stand? Do we determine to look after ailing family members or do we put it off until we are less busy? Do we shroud our decisions in darkness and secrecy or do we walk in the light with our heads held high?

But how do we start making good choices when we have spent so much time making poor ones? This is the beauty of reconciliation; our mistakes are part and parcel of making better

choices from now on. We remember how it felt to make a bad choice and we don't want to go there again. Knowing what we are about is also a part of making good choices. Jesus knew what he was about and so must we. There's no better time than Lent to sit down and think about who we want to be.



Lastly, once we have decided what choices we are going to make, we mustn't procrastinate. The Bible never tires of telling us that time is of the essence.



Please pray for: Peace; Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers. Please pray for those who are sick, especially for Fr Jim Doherty and Fr Ian Hoskins; for all who have died recently, including Nancy Haddow whose Funeral Service will be celebrated here at 12 noon on Wednesday 14th March; and for Elizabeth Watson whose Funeral Service will be held here on 19th March; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### Offertory Collections

Sunday 25th February—Total Offertory **£756.37**

#### 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.

#### Rotas for Sunday Coffee and Tea

It is that time of the year when we are compiling the rota for Sunday Morning Coffee. Thank you to everyone who already volunteers for this very important service to the Parish. If anyone would like to join the merry band of volunteers we would be grateful to hear from you. Usually you would be asked to cover one Mass every two months either the 9:00am or 11:00am. *If you are on the present rota and would like to stand down from this*, please let us know as soon as possible or your name will be included. Please contact Elizabeth Dixon or Bernadette Rich.

#### 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.

#### Opportunity for Confession during Lent

We have Confessions regularly on a Saturday morning, but have you thought of making that extra effort during Lent to go to Confession? Have you asked yourself when was the last time you were at Confession? Is it more than six months? Is it more than a year ago? Are you a young member of the Parish that hasn't been to Confession for some time? Then why not come along on Saturday morning anytime between 11am and 12 noon, and experience God's love for us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



#### Easter Cards

A selection of Easter Cards will be on sale in the Church Hall after all Masses today.

#### Weekday Mass for Lent

Are you trying to do something extra for Lent? Can you make the extra effort to get to Mass one day extra during Lent?

#### Lenten Lunches

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Lenten Lunches, there has been a great response. We continue on 16th and 23rd March at 12noon. Funds raised will go to CAFOD and Mary's Meals.



#### Lenten Alms

Throughout Lent we support the work of St Cuthbert's Care, our diocesan support charity. **There will be a retiring collection each Sunday during Lent at the back of church which will support their work.**

#### Parish Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent, on Thursday evenings at 7pm, there will be Stations of the Cross at St Robert's and also on a Saturday morning at 10.30am and at St Bede's, Bedlington at 4pm each Sunday.

#### Partnership Stations of the Cross

Throughout Lent, we have celebrated our Partnership Stations of the Cross in different Churches. The last of these will be held on Thursday 22nd March at 7:00pm at St. Robert of Newminster, Morpeth and there will be Refreshments available afterwards in the Hall.

#### 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.

#### Partnership Service of Reconciliation

There will be a Partnership Service of Reconciliation, with several priests available for Confession, on Friday 23rd March at 7pm at St Bede's, Bedlington. This is a good opportunity for people from across the partnership to come together and to join in this a special service seeking forgiveness and peace from the Lord.

#### Holy Week and Easter

This year we will be sharing our celebrations with the people from St Robert's Parish, Morpeth.

- The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 7pm at St Robert's Church Morpeth and **we encourage parishioners from St Bede's, Bedlington to come to Morpeth to join in the celebration there.**
- Good Friday Services at 3pm will be held in both St Robert's and St Bede's, and both Fr Peter and Deacon Stephen will be able to lead these services.
- The Easter Vigil will be celebrated at St Bede's, Bedlington at 8pm and **the parishioners from St Robert's are encouraged to attend the Vigil Mass at Bedlington.**
- There will be only the 9am and 11am Masses on Easter Sunday at St Robert's. No 6pm Mass.

#### Preparing for Holy Week and Easter

For all who would like to get involved as musicians or in helping to lead the singing, there will be some practices for the music ...

- Wednesday 14th March, 7pm at St Roberts Church.
- Wednesday 21st March, 7pm practice at St Bede's Church with all singers attending (with organist)
- Tuesday 27th March, 7pm practice at St Bede's Church with all singers, organist and instrumentalists attending in preparation for Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Masses.

#### Volunteers for Holy Week

We need volunteers for Holy Week and Easter ... Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion and for the Washing of the Feet. If you can help, please sign the lists.

#### Christian Aid Spring Evening

The Christian Aid Spring Evening: Saturday 17th March at 7 for 7.30 p.m. in the Methodist Hall. The theme is Haiti. There will be a Haitian style meal and a talk on how Christian Aid is helping those 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).

#### Calling all gardeners

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

#### Marriage Preparation Course

A Marriage Preparation Course is being held at St Robert's on Saturday 17th March from 10am to 5pm. This will be led by Lyn and Ben Cole who have recently undergone extensive training with Marriage Care. It costs £50 per couple for the Marriage Preparation, and the parish will cover the costs of the day, as well as a Buffet Lunch, for those from the parish. Those getting married this year are asked to confirm their attendance at this meeting.

#### 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/](http://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,

#### Life Teen Group Volunteers

Fr Peter would like to organise a "core group of adult volunteers", especially some young adults, who would be willing to help run a Life Teen Group and also some catechesis for Years 5, 6, 7 and 8. We need parishioners who are able to share their faith with our young teenagers and present the material from Life Teen, and to support the work of our new Youth Coordinator on Life Teen. We need to start this as soon as possible, so that we can support our young people in their faith. A meeting will be held on Monday 19th March at 7pm. In the meantime, if you are interested please speak to Fr Peter.

#### 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 looking for some specific food items, if you can help ... tins of corned beef, fish, tinned tomatoes and rice, cooking oil sugar and biscuits. The Project 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.

#### Society of St Vincent de Paul Meeting

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 14th March at 7.30pm in the presbytery. New members would be welcome. Why not come along?

#### SVP National Raffle 2018

Members of the SVP will be selling tickets for the National Raffle after Sunday Mass for the next few weeks. Tickets are £1 each and the first 3 prizes are £3,000, £2,000 and £1,000 with 20 other cash prizes of £100 or £50. See poster in church porch for 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.

#### 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.

#### Minsteracres Quiet Days

Coming up at Minsteracres, quiet days of reflection during Lent:

- Wednesday 14th March – Sr. Anne McCarthy RSCJ;
- Wednesday 21st March – Sr. Sheila McNamara RSCJ;
- Karen Kilby will lead a day on the theme 'Love and suffering' on Saturday 10th March, 10.00am - 4.00pm, with lunch provided. Please contact 01434 673248 to book a place.

#### Journey in Faith

The next meeting of the Journey in Faith group will be held on Thursday 15th March beginning at 7.30pm, to allow people the chance to attend Stations of the Cross at 7pm.

#### Baptism Preparation

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

#### Car Park problems

The use of the Car Park during weekdays in term time is difficult and we ask the cooperation and patience of all those who use our Car Park. **Parents and grandparents who collect children from school have been reminded on many occasions that they should not be using the Car Park for drop off / pick up, after 8.30am and before 4pm.** This is particularly important for the safety of those children and parents who are walking to school and using the car park to access the school

#### Northern Men's Pilgrimage

The annual Northern Men's Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham will take place on Friday and Saturday the 29th / 30th June and Sunday 1st July. The cost which includes coach travel, bed, breakfast and evening meals plus a traditional Sunday lunch before the return home is £150. A deposit of £50 is needed to secure a place. For details contact John Ross Tel 0191 4404391 or John Robertson Tel 0191 4877790.

#### Novena to St Joseph for Mill Hill Missionaries

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th—18th March 2018 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask God's blessing for their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email: [novenahm@gmail.com](mailto:novenahm@gmail.com)



#### A Word of Thanks

For many years, Pat Hopper has been a familiar figure in our Church playing the organ here each Sunday and also played for Funerals, Weddings and other services whenever needed. Pat has given a lot to this parish and it has been a massive commitment over all those years. Sadly for us, Pat has recently decided to stand down from playing the organ at St Robert's and so it is only right that we offer a tremendous vote of thanks for all that she has contributed to parish life in her vocation as a musician and in her ministry as a parish organist. Mass on Sunday at 11am is being offered for Pat's intentions and we pass on our thanks to her and to all her family for the joy she has brought to us and enriched our Masses with her musical talent. Very many thanks Pat, from Fr Peter, on behalf of everyone in the parish.

#### Offertory Boxes

The new Offertory Boxes are now available. It would really help if you would take your box as soon as possible, preferably by 25th March (Palm Sunday) so that the porch is clear in time for the Easter Services. If you wish to take a box for the first time, please take a spare box and write the number (which is printed on the box), along with your name and address on the sheet of paper on the table in the porch. If you can Gift Aid then please tick the appropriate column and take a Gift Aid form. If any parishioners do not wish to take their box this time please write your name and number on the sheet. Grateful thanks for your cooperation.

#### Job Vacancies

Walking With in North Tyneside has a full-time vacancy for a Project Manager to work with refugees and asylum seekers. Full-time, initial 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date for applications: 15 March. The parish of the Durham Martyrs are looking to appoint a Youth Ministry Coordinator. Full-time, 3 year fixed term contract. Closing date for applications: 23 March. 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 us 0191 243 3301, email [human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk)

#### Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Monday 12th March. There will be Stations of the Cross in the church at 7pm followed by a business meeting in the church hall.

