



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 **Elizabeth Watson** whose Funeral will be celebrated on Monday at 1pm; **Robert Weatheritt** whose Funeral Service will be celebrated on Tuesday at 11am; and **Elphin Conroy** who died suddenly during the week; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections

Sunday 11th March – Total Offertory **£998.22**.
Standing orders for February - **£2,583.92**

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 import 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 or drop in a note at the Presbytery.

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.

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. *This will be last Saturday Confessions before Easter.*



Lenten Lunches

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the Lenten Lunches, there has been a great response. We have the last of these lunches Friday 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. Please try and come along, pray together and support this event.

Palm Sunday Masses

Weather permitting, both the 9am Mass and the 11am Mass next weekend for Palm Sunday will begin outside at the Peace Garden, followed by a Procession into Church with Palms. The 6pm Mass will begin in Church as normal.



Palm Sunday Holy Places Collection

On Palm Sunday there will be a collection for the Holy Places. This collection is for the Christian people and the Christian places of the Holy Land. Bishop Seamus writes, 'The traditional collection for the Holy Land which we hold on Palm Sunday, is a proper occasion for the faithful to be one with our brethren in the Holy Land and the Middle East. Unfortunately, from those territories, the outcry of thousands of persons who are deprived of everything, at times even of their own human dignity, continues to reach us, heart-breaking us and inviting us to embrace them through Christian charity.'

Holy Week and Easter

- Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm at St Robert's Church.
- Good Friday Service at 3pm at both St Robert's, Morpeth and St Bede's, Bedlington.
- The Easter Vigil at St Bede's, Bedlington at 8pm.
- Easter Sunday Masses at 9am and 11am Masses. Please note: 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 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.

Life Teen Group Volunteers

Fr Peter would like St Robert's and St Bede's parishes to organise a "core group of adult volunteers", especially some young adults, who would be willing to help run a Life Teen Group and an Edge group for Years 5 - 8. This will be a group of people willing 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 and Edge. A meeting will be held on Monday 19th March at 7pm. In the meantime, if you are interested please speak to Fr Peter.

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.

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!

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.

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.



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,



Northumberland Catholic Schools Governors Meeting

Governors and Headteachers of all Northumberland Catholic Schools will be holding a meeting here at St Bede's Hall on Wednesday 21st March at 6.30pm. At their recent meetings the headteachers in the Northumberland Catholic Partnership of Schools have been discussing how Catholic Education can be sustained for future generations in Northumberland. There have been discussions around closer partnership working and the possible creation of a Multi Academy Trust that would serve much of Northumberland. The Headteachers now wish to meet the governors of the schools to share information and air any questions/queries that governors may have.

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

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.

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.

Vocation Discernment Weekend

The Beda College in Rome together with St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales, are running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from Friday 14th to Sunday 16th September 2018. The primary focus of the weekend is the possibility of priestly vocation in later life so it is limited to men between the ages of 30 and 55. However it is also suitable for men not specifically considering priesthood as it is not presumed that any major choice or commitment will be made during the weekend. Further information and booking at: <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/weekend-individually-guided-retreat-men-aged-30> Further information from Fr Peter Verity: p.verity@bedacollege.com

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be held on Wednesday 28th March at 7.30pm in the presbytery. Why not come along? 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 food, furniture or financial help where needed. They also organise trips and events for older and isolated people. Can you be part of the SVP?

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 in the Narthex... 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.

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.