

Masses and Services this week

Sunday 25th March	9.00am Mass	Pat McLaughlin	Palm Sunday of Lent
	11.00am Mass	Lucienne Pickering	
	6.00pm Mass	Celebrants Intention	
Monday 26th March	9.15am	Service of the Word and Communion	Monday of Holy Week
Tuesday 27th March	9.15am Mass	Robert Weatheritt	Tuesday of Holy Week
Wednesday 28th March	9.15am Mass	Elphin Conroy	Wednesday of Holy Week
Thursday 29th March	7.00pm Mass followed by "Watching"	Fr Peter's Intentions	HOLY THURSDAY: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 30th March	9.15am 10.00am 11.25am 3.00pm	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer Children's Stations of the Cross Walk of Witness Commemoration of the Passion of our Lord	GOOD FRIDAY
Saturday 31st March	9:15am	Office of Readings and Morning Prayer	HOLY SATURDAY
Sunday 1st April	9.00am Mass	Helen & Douglas Cone	Easter Sunday
	11.00am Mass	Elphin Conroy	
		NO EVENING MASS	

Devotions This Week

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	8.30am — 9.00am	Monday to Wednesday
The Angelus	9.00am	Monday to Wednesday
Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation)	11.00am to noon	Saturday Morning
Stations of the Cross	10.00am	Good Friday

Ministries Next Week: 1st April 2018: Easter Sunday

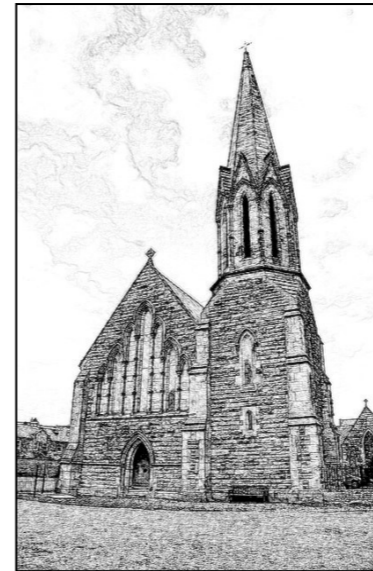
	9am Mass	11am Mass	
Welcomers	K Offen J Offen	E Dixon G Swift	
Readers	K Wilson A Gorman	J McClarence R Hunt	
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	M Bell T Walker J Conroy	Cath Smith M Beaton R Soulsby	
Altar Servers	Conor Grace.	Abigail, Philip, Luke	
Children's Liturgy	Easter Break		

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

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 25th March 2018 — Palm Sunday

What are we thinking when we pick up a palm and process into church on Passion Sunday? Perhaps we are wondering how those very clever people weave their palm into a cross. Or perhaps we imagine we are commemorating an historic event.

When Jesus rode his donkey into Jerusalem all those centuries ago, he was the centre of attention. Some thought he would be a powerful leader who would lead the people in an uprising against the occupying Romans. Others were just swept along in a sense of pageant. Few had grasped the true significance of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. Jesus had not come merely to overturn the Romans. Jesus' picture was a much more universal one. Jesus' mission was the salvation of the whole world for future generations.

How many of us would remember Jesus today if his mission had been simply to lead an uprising against a Roman occupation?

Jesus was riding into Jerusalem to meet his destiny. He could have heeded the warnings of his disciples and bypassed Jerusalem altogether. He could have continued his ministry of teaching and healing into old age; but whatever else Jesus was about, he certainly wasn't about compromise.

In riding into Jerusalem, Jesus was telling us that his mission to save each of us was more important than life itself.

We can all walk into church waving our palms. We can all commemorate an historical event, but the more discerning of us know that this day is about 'walking the walk'. We are the reason Jesus rode into Jerusalem. On this day we honour him not with palms but with the quality of our lives.





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 **Elphin Conroy** whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday 3rd April at 10.30am; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections

Sunday 18th March – Total Offertory **£827.50**

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.

Lenten Alms

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to Lenten Arms **£436.42** for the work of St Cuthbert's Care.

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.'

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. 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.

Offertory Boxes

Thank you to those who have already collected your boxes. There are still a few left, please collect them as soon as possible so you have them for the beginning of April. 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.

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

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?

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.

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.

Refugee Clothing Appeal

There has been an urgent request for small and medium young men's clothing – jeans, trousers, jackets, shirts, T-shirts, hoodies, jumpers and tracksuits. New socks and underwear are also needed. If you can help please could you see Maura Illingworth or put in the church porch by 31st March.

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.

Rotas for Sunday Coffee and Tea

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

Catholic Women's League

The next CWL meeting will be on Monday 26th March at 7pm in the church hall. There will be a talk on 'Lions International and Message in a Bottle.' Everyone welcome.

Wednesday Mass

Please note that Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday and the School will be present (Fr Peter has cancelled the regular 10am Mass at Bedlington on this day to celebrate this Mass here)

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.

Easter Cards

A selection of Easter cards will be available on the stand at the back of Church.

Church Cleaning for Easter

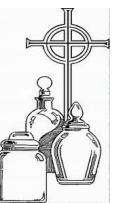
The big church cleaning for Easter will be on Monday 26th March, starting after the morning Service. Would anyone who is able to help please come along. Thank you.

Music Practice

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.

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle at 11.00am on Holy Thursday. At this Mass the Bishop gathers with his priests and the priests renew their Priestly Promises of Ordination. The Bishop also blesses the three Oils that are used in the Sacraments—Oil of Catechumens, Oil of Chrism and Oil of the Sick. Everyone welcome to attend the Mass.



Children's Stations of the Cross

We will celebrate Children's Stations of the Cross at 10am on Good Friday and we invite all our children to come and pray together.

Day of Fast and Abstinence

The Church sets aside certain penitential days and invites us to observe Ash Wednesday and Good Friday as days of fast and abstinence. Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence means that we give up a particular kind of food or drink or form of amusement. Good Friday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence, which means that everyone over 14 should Abstain while all those aged 18—60 should Fast.

Morpeth Walk of Witness

The Annual Walk of Witness will take place on Good Friday from St James' Church, beginning at 11.25am. We invite you not to be a bystander and just watch but to actually walk in the procession with members of all the other Churches of Morpeth. In the Market Square there will be a service of prayer led by the Clergy of the own and the Catholic Womens League will be present with Hot Cross Buns. And Hot Drinks at the end of the Service.

Office of Readings and Morning Prayer

We will have the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer at 9.15am on Good Friday and Holy Saturday morning and we invite you to come to church for these prayers on these two very important and solemn days of our Church year.

Easter Vigil

Please remember that the Easter Vigil this year will be celebrated at St Bede's Church Bedlington and we hope that you will be able to go there to celebrate this very special evening Mass.

