

## Masses and Services this week

<b>Sunday 4th March</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b>	Helen and Douglas Cone	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>
	<b>11.00am Mass</b>	The Davison family	
	<b>6.00pm Mass</b>	Sarah Walter Moscrop & Joseph Bell	
Monday 5th March	<b>9.30am Mass</b>	<b>REQUIEM MASS:</b> Peter Lewin	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Tuesday 6th March	<b>9.15am Mass</b>	Maurice Gleghorn	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Wednesday 7th March	<b>9.15am Service</b>	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	Ss Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
Thursday 8th March	<b>9.15am Mass</b>	Peter Lewin	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Friday 9th March	<b>9.15am Service</b>	<i>Service of Word and Communion</i>	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
Saturday 10th March	<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Raymond and Margaret Taylor-Walker	<i>Weekday of Lent</i>
<b>Sunday 11th March</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b>	Helen and Douglas Cone	<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>
	<b>11.00am Mass</b>	The Davison Family	
	<b>6.00pm Mass</b>	People of the Parish	

### 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: 11th March 2018: 4th Sunday of Lent

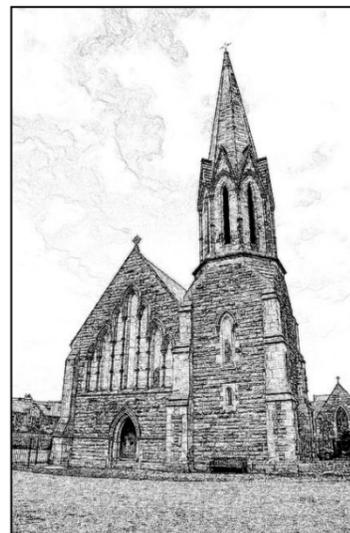
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	A Beattie A Roberts	G Davison E Dixon	S Matthews G Snaith
Readers	E Harber G Harber	D Shearer L Flinders	S Smith C Rich
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Mitchell M Dewar D Dewar	G Davison E Dixon Catherine Smith	B Rich M Illingworth A Smith
Altar Servers	M Laux G Sykes A Shepherd	A Kinghorn L Kinghorn	J Dowd C Bradley
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Tricia	Companion: Sylvie	

#### 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 4th March 2018 — 3rd Sunday of Lent

Christian writers tend to see the episode when Jesus overturned the Temple traders' tables as a sign of the human side of Jesus. He was genuinely angry and lashed out at those who were abusing the real purpose of the Temple.

One such writer, Origen, points out that each one of us has to allow our own tables to be overturned if we are to worship God in spirit and in truth. And Lent is the time for clearing the decks of those obstacles that prevent us from serving God to the best of our ability.

If we're honest then we'll admit that there are many things that get in the way of our spiritual life. We know how we'd like to be, but we never seem to get round to it. It's not that we're headline sinners. It's just that we tend to drift. Perhaps we need to allow Jesus to overturn the tables of our lives and to chase out what is getting in the way.

Origen points out that the cattle in the Temple represent attachment to earthly things, since they require constant husbandry and need looking after at all times. The sheep symbolise the senseless way in which we act, wandering without rhyme or reason. The doves conjure up images of empty and unstable thoughts, or 'flightiness', while the coins of the moneychangers portray all that we strive for but which brings us no good.



Jesus says that for true worship to happen in the Temple all these things need to be cleared out. And the same is true of our lives. Lent gives us the chance to reset our sense of values, to ask ourselves whether all the effort we put into getting and having, into consuming and spending, into keeping up appearances is really doing us any good. And St Paul hints that if we go with the flow then we are probably missing the boat. For what God asks of us seems foolish to those who do not believe. Whereas, in fact, God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.



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 Peter Lewin whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am on Monday 5th March; for Nancy Haddow whose Funeral Service will be held here on 14th March; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

#### Offertory Collections

Sunday 25th February—Total Offertory **£876.66**

#### 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.

#### 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 on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

#### Lent Booklets

There is a selection of booklets for Lent available in the porch. Prices of the different booklets are given on the notice on the table.

#### 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?

#### 'Open Our Hearts Lord!'

There is to be an afternoon of prayer and reflection as we journey through Lent on Tuesday 6th March from 2pm-4pm in St Robert's Hall, Morpeth. Everyone welcome. Please sign the sheet at the back of church if you are able to come.

#### Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunches are served each Friday during the Season of Lent at 12noon. Funds raised will go to CAFOD and Mary's Meals. Many thanks to everyone who is supporting this.

#### Lenten Alms

Throughout Lent we support the work of St Cuthbert's Care, our diocesan support charity. **There will be a retiring collection each week 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, 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 ...



- 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 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

Many thanks to those who attending the meeting to discuss practical preparations for Holy Week and Easter. We will be putting up a list of the various "jobs" that need to be done at our Masses. For those people who would like to get involved as musicians or in helping to lead the singing, there will be some practices for the music ...

- Wednesday 7th March, 7pm at St Robert's Church
- 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.

#### Altar Servers for Easter

Altar Servers are asked to let John Kinghorn know if they are able to serve any of the Easter Masses and Services

#### CAFOD Family Fast Day

CAFOD Family Fast Day was on 23rd February. For every pound donated, the Government will donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million. Envelopes are still available today if you wish to make a donation to CAFOD for their worldwide work.

#### 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. Further details of times will be given in coming weeks.

#### 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 6 to 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.



#### Vacancies

##### Full-Time Roman Catholic Chaplain at HMP Full Sutton

For further details, please enter 16469 - Band 5 Chaplain - Roman Catholic Priest, Deacon, Religious Brother or Sister or Lay Person in your browser or else telephone the Managing Chaplain at the prison Deacon Paul Hargreaves on 01759 475157 for a confidential discussion. Closing date is 9th 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.

#### 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.

#### Partnership YMT Coordinators

Thanks to Lisa Coen and Alice Butler who have agreed to take on the role of parish representatives on the Partnership Co-workers with YMT group that meets to discuss the work of YMT and our young people.

#### Partnership Development Group

The Partnership Development Group will meet on Thursday 8th March at St Aidan's, Ashington at 7pm.

#### 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.

#### Repairs to Church Roof

Fr Peter has been informed by the Property Office that the workmen hope to start putting the new cross in place on the roof in the next two weeks and, weather permitting, for all the work to be complete by the end of March.

#### 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 7th March – Kathryn Turner;
- 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)



#### Diocesan Newsletters

The March edition of the Diocesan E-newsletter and the latest edition of Partnership Matters are both now available on the Diocesan website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)