

Masses and Services this week

Sunday 15th April	9.00am Mass	Elphin Conroy	Third Sunday of Easter
	11.00am Mass	Sheila Brown	
	6pm Mass	Jim McKee	
Monday 16th April	9.15 am Mass	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	<i>St Bernadette Soubirous</i>
Tuesday 17th April	9.15am Mass	Elphin Conroy	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Wednesday 18th April	9.15am Mass	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Thursday 19th April	9.15am Mass	Owen Keane	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Friday 20th April	9.15am Service	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Saturday 21st April	10.00am Mass	Elphin Conroy	<i>St Anselm</i>
Sunday 22nd April	9.00am Mass	Leo Horrax	Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday
	11.00am Mass	Personal Intention	
	6.00pm Mass	Elphin Conroy	

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
The Rosary	9.40am	Saturday Morning
Confessions (Sacrament of Reconciliation)	11.00am to noon	Saturday Morning
Divine Mercy Devotions	7.00pm	Thursday

Ministries Next Week: 22nd April 2018

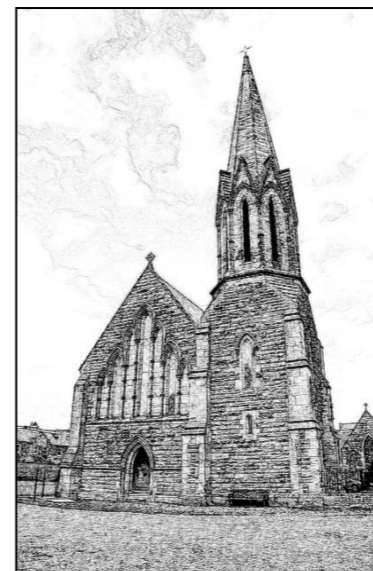
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	A Beattie A Roberts	G Swift R Soulsby	Chris Smith S Matthews
Readers	H Lewington M Boyle	L Flinders A Dawes	S Smith D Butler
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Mitchell M Dewar D Dewar	M Beaton R Soulsby D Shearer	Chris Smith L Cole B Cole
Altar Servers	E Walker Barras M Watson I Golding Douglass	P Glancey L Kinghorn	J Dowd F Lawson
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Clare Companion: Callum		

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 Lee Barrett, Cramlington 01670 712476	Rev Stephen Boulter, Bedlington 01670 823258

The Pope's Intention for April

For those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters. That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths..

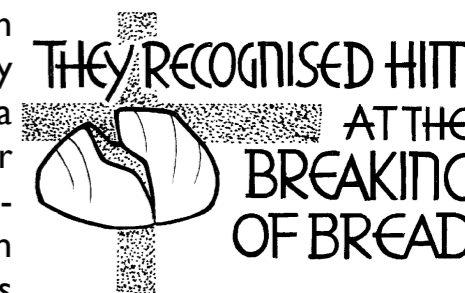


The Parish of
Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
In the Brinkburn Partnership, Northumberland

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peterjstott@aol.com
Retired Priest: Father James Doherty
St Robert's Presbytery, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF
(Tel) 01670 513 410
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Sunday 15th April 2018 | Third Sunday of Easter

Were the other disciples really so very different from Doubting Thomas? When they saw Jesus in their midst, they took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines four pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. They can look at the marks on his hands and feet, they can touch him to check that he is really flesh and bone, and they can watch him eat a meal that they have prepared. The fourth proof is when Jesus opens their minds so that they can understand the prophecies that were made in the Old Testament, and which he has fulfilled by rising from the dead.



We are not as lucky as the first disciples. Two thousands years down the line we do not have the benefit of their first hand experience. We cannot look at Jesus, we cannot touch him, or share a meal. The fourth proof though, the prophecies in the Old Testament are still there for us to read. The only trouble is, the Bible isn't always an easy book to read. We read a passage and fail to understand it. Sometimes we think we understand the literal meaning but the words fail to offer any significance. It would be good if Jesus could open our minds up as he did for those first disciples when they had trouble understanding the meaning of his death and resurrection. One thing is for sure, understanding the Bible isn't going to happen magically, just as it didn't happen overnight for the disciples. We know that everything worthwhile takes effort. Playing a musical instrument takes years of practice. Be-

ing good at a sport takes considerable training ...learning a language demands a concerted amount of study and hard work. So too, we have to apply ourselves to understanding what we read in the Bible. We have to consider each passage for some time before we can really grasp it ... sometimes a single verse or phrase. Often we can derive great satisfaction from knowing that those parts we struggled with the longest hold the greatest meaning. The Bible yields up its greatest treasures to those who persevere.



JOHN 11:27



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; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections

Sunday 8th April —Total Offertory £893.78

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.

Little Sisters of the Poor Collection

There will be a Retiring Collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor, towards their work in caring for the elderly and sick of our diocese at St Joseph's Home, Newcastle. The collection will be on **Sunday 23rd April**.



Parish Newsletter

Please e-mail items for the parish newsletter, by 12 noon on Thursdays to the parish office email address on morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk or drop in a note at the Presbytery.

Pilgrimage to Poland

Our Tour Operator has apologized for the delay in sending out the flight information and itinerary for the Pilgrimage. The Tour Operator has kept Fr Peter informed of this, but hopefully all information is now in the post, ready for departure next Monday afternoon. There are 12 parishioners from Morpeth, 8 from Hexham and 8 from North Shields, as well as Fr Chris Warren and Fr Peter.

Celebration of Marriage

Bishop Seamus will celebrate Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 5th May at 11.00am to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage. He has invited each parish community to be represented by at least two couples, young or old, newly married or celebrating a significant anniversary. In addition, everyone is welcome to attend. This promises to be a wonderful celebration and will provide affirmation and support for Marriage across the diocese and to the wider North-East community.



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.

Rosary on the Coast

We are taking part in "Rosary on the Coast" on **Sunday 29th April**. Our Partnership will meet at St Bartholomew's Anglican Church at Church Point, Newbiggin and the Rosary will be prayed together outside, as an Act of Witness. 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.



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 organize a Baptism should make an appointment to discuss this with Fr. Peter. For Baptism, one parent of the child to be baptized must be a baptized Catholic. Mass on a Saturday Evening or a Sunday is expected. One of the godparents is also expected to be a practicing 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 parent should then make an appointment to fix a date for a Baptism. **PLEASE NOTE; dates are not usually given before the Baptism Preparation Meeting.**

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 2nd May. Can you be part of the SVP? 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 with furniture or financial help where needed. They also organize trips and events for older and isolated people.

DVD Course on Our Lady

During the month of May we will be holding a video dvd course from CaFE on Our Lady, led by Fr Peter. This will begin on Thursday 10th May at 10am in the Church Hall at St Robert's. [10th May is actually Ascension Thursday and there will be a lunchtime Mass that day]. The first day will consist of two videos (a double session), so will be a little longer than normal, but then all other sessions will be on Thursday 17th, 24th and 31st May at 10am for about one hour.



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.

Introducing 4 new Mass Settings

The Diocesan Church Music Association presents an evening music workshop introducing 4 Mass settings of contrasting styles. Led by: Paul Berry – Music Director of St. Mary's Church, Hexham & Alison Purvis – Music Director of St. Cuthbert's Catholic Church, Durham. Date: Wednesday 25 April 2018 Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm at St. Hilda's Resource Centre, 391 West Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE15 7PY. For further details or if attending, please email: alisonpurvis1@hotmail.com



Apostleship of the Sea: Pilgrimage to the Holy Island

The Fifteenth Annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne will take place on Saturday 2nd June led by the Bishop Paul Mason, AoS Bishop Promoter, England & Wales. A peaceful day of prayer and reflection to pray for seafarers and for everyone involved in this ministry and charity. Everyone invited to join them on Holy Island. For further information contact Regional Port Chaplains; Paul Atkinson (07906 212426) or Peter Barrigan (07713 924504).



Diocesan Vocations Evening

For those thinking about Priesthood (aged 16 and over), an evening of prayer and reflection with an opportunity to listen to speakers talk about their own discernment, faith journeys and vocations will be held on Wednesday 23rd May at St. Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, between 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Further details are available Fr. David Smith, on ' 0191 262 3882.



Vocations Weekend for young women

The FCJ Sisters are holding a discernment weekend for women in their 20s and 30s., on "Discerning God's Call in my life" from 25th—27th May at Liverpool. There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

Diocesan Days of Reflection

Days of Reflection for All Ministries are to be held at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 19th May, from 10.30am - 3.30pm and at St. Joseph Parish Hall, Gateshead on Saturday 2 June from 10.30am - 3.30pm. These days are for anyone involved in Parish Ministry in any way. However, **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED.** To book a place directly, contact the Department for Liturgy on :- Tel : 0191 243 3312 e-mail: liturgy@diocesehn.org.uk

Christian Aid Week: 13-19 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. The organisers 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 or so to collect them. While they have a small number of regular collectors they are getting older and fewer and they 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. If you are willing and able to help. 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.



The Justice and Peace Refugee Project

The J&P Refugee Project in Newcastle is very grateful for your continued gifts of food, now needed more urgently than ever ... they need especially tins of corned beef, tuna or sardines, tinned tomatoes baked beans, sugar, rice tea and biscuits. To find out more please take a copy of their newsletter from the back of Church. Many Thanks.

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.

Charity Meal

A big thank you to those who came to the Charity Meal on Monday to help Refugees. Those who organised the meal were very happy to be able to give more than £1000 to Ruhi Lohren for her work with the refugees, this included a donation of £700 which was given on the evening. They were also able to make a donation of over £500 to the local Sanctuary Network Group, Morpeth who are supporting the 30 families of asylum seekers in Ashington and Blyth who also need help and assistance.

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.



Pilgrimage Appeal for Adult Helpers

The Diocesan Pilgrimage needs adult helpers for the 2018 Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The organisers aim to take 44 sick pilgrims who need assistance in the Accueil Marie St Frai, as well as many other pilgrims in hotels who need assistance with the "outreach team". But adult helpers are needed before the pilgrimage can accept the assisted pilgrims. Do you think you can help? Give Lourdes a try—share the experience! The pilgrimage is entirely dependent on its many volunteers who give up generously of their time and pay for their own pilgrimage to Lourdes to enable the sick and elderly to come to Lourdes. We need people to help both on the journey to and from Lourdes, in the airport and on the plane as well as in the Accueil. Some may wish to lend a hand during the course of the pilgrimage such as outreach, carrying the banner, making tea/coffee, helping with the cleaning of wards etc. There are many different



ways in which your help would be very much appreciated. Being a volunteer is an extremely rewarding experience so please consider giving up some of your time and helping on the 2018 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. To volunteer as an adult helper you don't need any experience or qualification. All that is required is that you are willing to help during the pilgrimage, are in reasonable health and undertake (already hold) an enhanced DBS check with the Diocese. Forms are downloadable from the website www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk or Tel: 01670 513410 [Fr Peter Stott]. If you would like further information on ways in which you could help, then please contact Elaine Scannell, (President of Hospitalité) on 0191 478 7864 or by email: elaine.scan@btinternet.com

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 25th 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 12 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 the noticeboards.