

Masses and Services this week

Sunday 8th April	9.00am Mass	George Beattie	Second Sunday of Easter Feast of Divine Mercy
	11.00am Mass	Pat McLaughlin	
	6pm Mass	Wilf McConnell	
Monday 9th April	9.15am Mass	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	The Annunciation
Tuesday 10th April	9.15am Mass	Elphin Conroy	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Wednesday 11th April	9.15am Mass	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	<i>St Stanislaus</i>
Thursday 12th April	9.15am Mass 12.15pm	Eileen & Ken Percival Funeral Service: Waclaw Maciol	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Friday 13th April	9.15am Service	<i>Service of the Word and Communion</i>	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Saturday 14th April	10.00am Mass	Elphin Conroy	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Sunday 15th April	9.00am Mass	Elphin Conroy	Third Sunday of Easter
	11.00am Mass	Sheila Brown	
	6.00pm Mass	Jim McKee	

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 12 noon	Saturday Morning
Divine Mercy Devotions	7.00pm	Thursday

Ministries Next Week: 15th April 2018

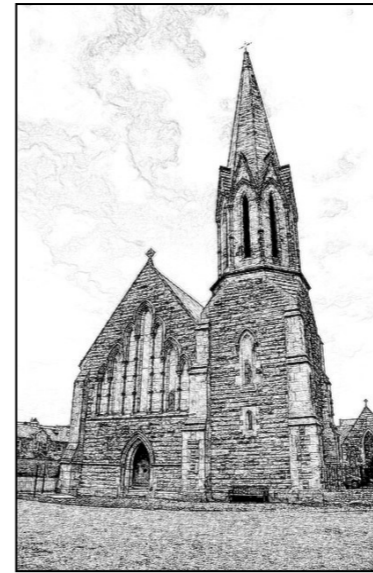
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	K Offen J Offen	G Davison E Dixon	G Snaith Chris Smith
Readers	J Offen D Marr	V Shearer D Shearer	C Rich Chris Smith
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	H Lewington L Edwards S Conroy	E Dixon A Dawes Cath Smith	B Rich J Marshall D Butler
Altar Servers	M Laux A Shepherd G Sykes	A Kinghorn P Glancey	J Dowd C Bradley
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Ruth	Companion: Heather	

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.

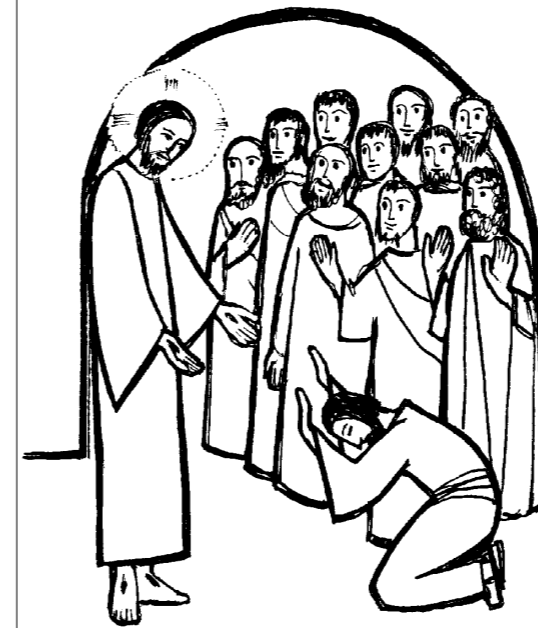


The Parish of
Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
In the Brinkburn Partnership, Northumberland

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Retired Priest: Father James Doherty
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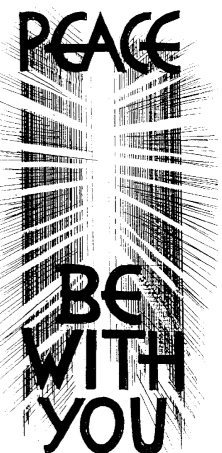
Sunday 8th April 2018—Feast of Divine Mercy

The story of St Thomas and his failure to believe Jesus could have appeared to the disciples, is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord, yet are asked to believe. So are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening?



In today's gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn't the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn't. He wasn't the sort of person that could pretend that he didn't have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives. There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks. Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap.

For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that doubt isn't the same thing as disbelief. Doubt can be a good thing even. Doubt means that we are still questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use to carve a mature faith. Belief isn't something we either have or haven't got ... belief is a process, and the end product of that process, is one's own spiritual self.





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; including Waclaw Maciol who dies on Sunday and whose Funeral Service will be held at St Robert's on Thursday at 12.15pm; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections

Sunday 1st April—Total Offertory £960.90

Easter Offering Envelopes amounted to **£580.40**. Please note: the Easter Offering is not for the Priests but goes into normal Parish Funds.

THANK YOU

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.

Sick and Retired Priests Collection

There will be a Retiring Collection **TODAY** for the Sick and Retired Priests Fund that is maintained by the Northern Brethren Fund. This fund remains open until Sunday 29th April.

Collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor

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, Westmorland Road, Newcastle. The collection will be on Sunday 23rd April. Two members of our parish community are now resident in St Joseph's Home ... Alice Anderson and Pat Ibbotson ... please keep them in your prayers.



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.

Rotas for Sunday Coffee and Tea

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

Hymn Book Amnesty



Our hymn books are disappearing!! If you have borrowed a hymn book from church but forgotten to bring it back, could you please return it to the bookshelf at the back of church as soon as possible.

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.

Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will be held on Wednesday 11th April at 7pm. If anyone has items to be discussed, please contact Father Peter or Stevie Matthews.

Catholic Women's League Meeting

The next CWL meeting will be on Monday 9th April at 7.00pm, in the Church Hall. This will be a business meeting which will start with prayers. Would you please bring to the meeting any items for the coffee morning tombola. Thank you.



Catholic Women's League Coffee Morning

The Catholic Women's League will be having a coffee morning on Saturday 14th April, in the Church Hall, from 10:00am - 12noon. There will be Refreshments, Cake Stall, Tombola and Raffle.

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.

Baptism Congratulations

We ask your prayers for Max Dylan Stewart who was baptised on Sunday 25th March and Nerea Shepherd Garrido who was Baptised on Sunday 1st April. Please pray for these children and for their families at this important part of their journey in faith.

Pilgrimage to Poland

The Pilgrimage to Poland takes place from 23rd—30th April. There are thirty two people travelling, a mixture of parishioners from Morpeth, Hexham and North Shields. Tangney Tours are currently preparing all flight and travel information and will be sending this out in the middle of this week. This will also give information on what time to meet at Newcastle Airport for check-in on Monday 23rd April.



CaFE Course on Our Lady

During May we will be holding a video Course from CaFE on Our Lady. This will begin on Thursday 10th May at 10am in the Church Hall at St Robert's. 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.



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.



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.mccullogh@yahoo.co.uk

Celebration of Marriage

Bishop Séamus 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.



Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 11 April at 7.30pm in the presbytery. 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 good furniture or financial help where needed. They also organize trips and events for older and isolated people. Can you be part of the SVP?

SVP National Raffle

Very many thanks to all who bought tickets in the SVP National Raffle, which raised over £39,000 for the work of the Society. The list of prizewinners has been received and is on the notice board in the parish hall. Unfortunately no prizewinners from St Robert's or St Bede's this year!

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 and the details completed on the front of the envelope. Thank you.

Northern Scripture Festival

The Northern Scripture Festival is being held on Saturday 12th May 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.

SPUC Petition

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children 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 can you support this please?



Christian Aid Week: 13th -19th May

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.

About 30 volunteers are needed 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 we have a small number of regular collectors they are getting older and fewer and we 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. Thank you. As usual there will be plant and book stalls in the market place on Saturday 19th May. Donations of books and plants are needed. Please contact Eileen or Gerry Harber on 517829 if you can help with this.



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 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.

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

There are still a few places left at the Tandoor Mahal, Bridge Street at 7.15pm on Monday 9th April. This is your last chance to enjoy a meal for £10 and also give £10 to help feed desperate refugees, arriving by boat daily in Greece. To reserve a place, please contact Maura Illingworth on 516452 or Joan Tebbutt (Sanctuary Network, Morpeth) on 01670 511631

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. Annual General Meeting of the Foodbank will be held on Monday 23rd April 2018 at 7.00pm at New Life Christian Centre, 24 Dacre Street, Morpeth.

