

## Masses and Services this week

<b>Sunday 6th May</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b>	Helen & Douglas Cone	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
	<b>11.00am Mass</b>	Elphin Conroy	
	<b>6pm Mass</b>	Intentions of the Cole family	
Monday 7th May	<b>9.15 am</b>	Service of the Word and Communion	Weekday of Easter
Tuesday 8th May	<b>9.15am Mass</b>	Bobby Turnbull	Weekday of Easter
Wednesday 9th May	<b>9.15am</b>	Service of the Word and Communion	Weekday of Easter
Thursday 10th May	<b>12.30pm Mass</b> <b>7.00pm Mass</b>	Sheila Brown The People of the Parish	<b>Ascension of the Lord</b> <b>Holiday of Obligation</b>
Friday 11th May	<b>9.15am</b>	Service of the Word and Communion	Weekday of Easter
Saturday 12th May	<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Elphin Conroy	Weekday of Easter
<b>Sunday 13th May</b>	<b>9.00am Mass</b>	Elphin Conroy	<b>Pentecost</b>
	<b>11.00am Mass</b>	Mass in Thanksgiving	
	<b>6.00pm Mass</b>	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: 13th May 2018

	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
<b>Welcomers</b>	K Offen J Offen	R Soulsby C Watson	Chris Smith S Matthews
<b>Readers</b>	G Harber E Harber	D Shearer J Ratcliffe	J Gill D Oldroyd
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	A Wilson K Wilson J Conroy	R Soulsby V Shearer E Dixon	J Marshall B Cole L Cole
<b>Altar Servers</b>	M Laux A Shepherd M Watson	P Glancey L Kinghorn	J Dowd C Bradley
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Leader: Tracia                      Companion: Dorothy		

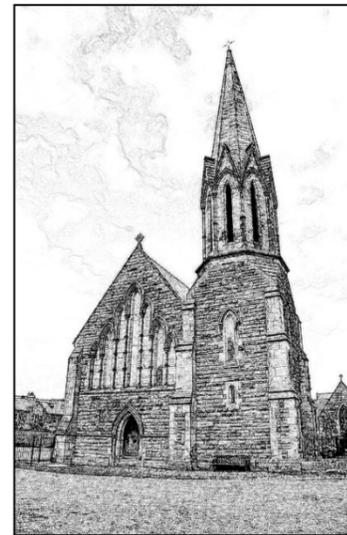
### Neighbouring Parish Telephone Numbers

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	Fr Oliver Keyes, Alnwick 01665 6020124

### The Pope's Intention for May

#### **The Mission of Laity**

That the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission, by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world to-



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

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## Sunday 6th May 2018 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Young couples in love promise each other that their love for each other will never die. Older onlookers may raise a cynical eyebrow. Of course there are lots of older couples in our community who are still very much in love after years and years of marriage, but for every marriage that succeeds another falls by the wayside. The problem with our love for each other is that subconsciously it can be conditional. We can love a partner who is young and beautiful, but will our love survive when that partner is old and toothless and out of shape?

We can love a partner who is successful and dynamic and rich, but will our love stagnate when that same partner is out of work, weary and penniless? We might love a partner who is always cheerful and makes us smile, but will our love fade if that partner becomes clinically depressed or seriously ill? When problems rear their head, does love walk out of the door? We wouldn't like to admit it at the outset of a relationship, but human love tends to be conditional.

God's love of course is unconditional ... or is it? In today's gospel Jesus says, "If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love..." does that sound like a condition? Are we being told that whilst we are keeping God's commandments God will love us, but as soon as we are sinful that love will be withdrawn?



The important thing for us to understand is that God's love cannot be fickle in the same way that ours is. Human love, especially if we are a little immature, can be something we simply bestow on each other. God's love is a state of being. God's love is simply there and doesn't go away. It's us that chooses whether or not to accept or reject God's love by the way we choose to live our lives. We can choose to live good lives and by doing so we will remain in a loving relationship with God, or we can make poor decisions and step out of that loving relationship. Living by God's commandments isn't about following a list of strict rules in return for God's love, it's about sharing the joy God plans for us by living in a certain way.

Of course, those of us who have fallen out of that loving relationship with God haven't done so on purpose. Few of us consciously make poor decisions... we are all human after all, and we all make mistakes. For those of us who are in danger of losing their way in life, Jesus give us one important guideline "This I command you ... to love one another." The next time you have a tricky decision to make or a dilemma to solve, ask yourself the all-important question. "Is God's love for me, and my love for neighbour pointing out the answer?"



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, especially Sr Mary Aidan (formerly of St Mary's Convent Alnwick); and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### Offertory Collections Sunday 29th April —Total Offertory £844.42

#### 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 12 noon on Thursdays to the parish office email address on morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk or drop in a note at the Presbytery.

#### World Communications Day

A special collection for World Communications Day will be taken next Sunday [13th May]. Please note that this is eligible for Gift Aid through the Diocese so envelope users can use their Special Collection envelopes. On this day, Catholics are encouraged to pray for all those professionals who work in the field of Communications. A particular intention for prayer is for those who are responsible for communicating on behalf of the Catholic Church in this country. The communications office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales supports the bishops, in their witness and engagement with current issues, and the Church more widely in promoting the Gospel through digital, social, print and broadcast media. The office is the central point for media enquiries and is a key resource for national and international media professionals. It also plays an important role in developing the public profile of the Church through word and image. The Catholic Church celebrates World Communications Day on 13<sup>th</sup> May in 2018, when we are asked to pray for those who work in the media and when a second collection is taken after Mass to fund this important work. Please help us continue this work through contributing generously to the collection on the day. Some Prayer cards for the day have been sent to parishes. Parish resources for the Day are online at: <http://catholicnews.org.uk/wcd18> These include the possibility of donating online at: <http://www.catholicnews.org.uk/donate-wcd>

#### Adult Baptisms and Reception

Your prayers are asked for **Natalie Bryson, Fiona Evans, Amy Ruffle, Brandon Smith and Gareth Stewart**, who are to be Baptised and for **Adelina Goddard** who is to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, during the 11am Mass on Sunday 13th May. This will be a very special celebration for these candidates and for us as a parish community as we welcome these new church members. Please pray for them this week.

#### DVD 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 10 for about one hour.

#### Holyday of Obligation

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, which is also a Holyday of Obligation, has been restored to its Thursday celebration and will be marked on Thursday 10th May. There will be a **Vigil Mass at St Bede's, Bedlington on Wednesday evening, 9th May, at 7pm and Masses on Thursday at St Robert's Church a 12.30pm and 7pm.**

#### Partnership Meeting

There will be an open Partnership Meeting for all parishioners on Monday 14th May at 7pm at St Aidan's Primary School, Ashington. All welcome. This meeting is being held to enable you to be aware of the changes proposed by the Partnership Development Group for venues and times of Masses in our Partnership.

#### Mass of Affirmation

Parishioners from throughout the Partnership Parishes who are actively committed and involved in their parish are invited to come along and join in the celebration of this Mass of Affirmation. If you are a member of the Partnership Development Group or any other Partnership Groups that now meet regularly, or if you are a member of your own Parish Council, or Parish Finance Committee, or any other group in the parish that meets regularly, you are invited ... **Friday 18th May 2018 at 7:30 pm at Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert Church, Amble**

#### Rosary Procession and Benediction

St Aidan's Ashington are celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima (13th May) with a Procession and with the Rosary on Sunday 13th May in their church grounds next Sunday afternoon. At 3pm. All welcome.

#### Apostleship of the Sea: Pilgrimage to Holy Island

The Fifteenth Annual Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne will take place on Saturday 2nd June led by 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 (07906212416) or Peter Barrigan (07713 924504)

#### Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 16th May in the presbytery. 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 in care homes and offer additional practical support with furniture of financial help where needed.

#### Journey in Faith Group

Please note this group will meet after the Evening Holyday Mass on Thursday in the Church.

#### Bonus Ball.

The CWL are once again running the Bonus Ball in aid of parish funds. The numbers will be on sale at a cost of £10 per number. Giving the opportunity to win £25 per week for 10 weeks. We are hoping to take the first lucky number (the Bonus Ball), from the National Lotto draw on the 19th May. Thank you and good luck.

#### Diocesan Days of Reflection

Days of Reflection for all Ministries are to be held at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 19th May from 10.30 until 3.30pm; then at St Joseph Parish Hall Gateshead on Saturday 2 June from 10.30 until 3.30pm. However, **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED.** To book a place directly contact the Department for Liturgy on 0191 2433312 email: [liturgy@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@diocesehn.org.uk).

#### 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. Further details are in the booking forms available in parishes, downloadable from [www.ymt.org](http://www.ymt.org) or contact [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org)

#### Brownies

1st Morpeth Brownies currently have a few spaces for September. Brownies is for girls aged 7-10 yrs, but you can join the waiting list at any age. To register/join the waiting list please log onto [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) and click on parents, register your daughter, then select 1st Morpeth Brownies, Tues 6-7.15pm St. Robert's. The cost is £20 per full term. If you have any queries please contact Sarah at Morpeth1sttawnyowl@outlook.com

#### Christian Aid Week: 13-19 May 2018

Christian Aid Week starts with an Ecumenical service here in St Robert's church at 4 p.m. 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. We still need some more volunteers for the house to house collection. This is a vital task and is very easy. It takes about half an hour to deliver the envelopes for a typical street and an hour or so to collect them. We urgently need more volunteers to cover the streets we are responsible for. Please ring Gerry Harber on ☎ 517829 if you can be one of them. 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.

#### 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 from Fr David Smith on 0191 2623882.

#### Marriage Preparation Day

Marriage Care will be holding a Marriage Preparation Day on Saturday 12th May. Please note that the Hall will be in use all day for this event.

#### Vocations Weekend for young Women

The FCJ Sisters are holding a discernment weekend for women in their 20s and 30s on Discerning Good'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 is an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org).

#### Counting Team Meeting

Fr. Peter will be holding a Counting Team Meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May at 11.00am. The meeting will, hopefully, last for no more than an hour and will cover the counting and banking system. Could every counter please try to attend? If this is not possible please send a representative from your counting team. Please let Bernadette Rich know if you are/aren't able to attend. Thank you.

#### Liturgy and Worship Group

Next Liturgy and Worship Group Meeting will be held on Thursday 17th May in the Presbytery.

#### Mass Intention Envelopes

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.

#### Vacancies

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

- Parish Secretary, St. Mary and St. Wilfrid, Bishop Auckland, 10 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 11 May.
  - Caretaker, The Holy Family, Darlington, 40 hours per month, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 11 May.
  - Caretaker, St. Cuthbert, Chester le Street, 20 hours per month, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 13 May.
  - Cleaner, St. Philip Neri, Dunston, 1.5 hours per week, 12 month fixed term contract. Closing date: 17 May.
- For further information and details of how to apply please e-mail [human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:human.resources@diocesehn.org.uk), telephone on 0191 243 3301 or visit our website [www.rcdhn.org.uk](http://www.rcdhn.org.uk)

#### Justice and Peace Project

The Justice and Peace Refugee Project in Newcastle is very grateful for your continued gifts of food, now needed more urgently than ever. To find out more please take a copy of their newsletter from the back of Church. Many Thanks

#### Thinking Faith - Young & Old

This began in 2005 and is led by a group of Catholic friends, Augustinian and Dominican, religious and lay ... a holiday and study week or Catholics in their 20s-30s and will be held at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria from 21<sup>st</sup>—28<sup>th</sup> July. For more information see their website [www.boarbankhall.org.uk](http://www.boarbankhall.org.uk)

#### Baptism Course

The next Baptism course will be held on Thursday 17th May at 7.30pm in St Robert's Church Hall. Anyone wishing to attend is asked to speak to Fr Peter in order to complete necessary paperwork.

#### Diocesan Festival 2018

To be held at the Emmaus Youth Village, Consett, booking forms at the back of Church.