

# Brinkburn Partnership

## Proposal for the Five Parishes – changes to times of Mass

### Current Situation

We currently have five Parishes in our Partnership.

- **AMBLE: The Parish of Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble:**
- **ASHINGTON: The Parish of St Aidan, Ashington:**
- **BEDLINGTON: The Parish of St Bede, Bedlington**
- **LONGHORSLEY: The Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley**
- **MORPETH: The Parish of St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth**

Two of these Parishes have other Churches to look after, but these are not separate Parishes

- **AMBLE: The Parish of Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble**
  - **St Joseph's Church, Widdrington**
- **ASHINGTON: The Parish of St Aidan, Ashington:**
  - **St Mary's Church, Newbiggin**

It was suggested many years ago, when Bishop Ambrose was Diocesan Bishop, and Widdrington was looked after by Ashington, that St Joseph's, Widdrington should close; but at that time, the plans were altered and nothing happened. Also, the future of St Mary's, Newbiggin has been talked about for a couple of years and recent priests have all spoken to the people and prepared them that the church at Newbiggin may close sooner rather than later.

It is envisaged that within a short time, there will be two Parish Priests in the Brinkburn Partnership who will be asked to look after five parishes, rather than the four Parish Priests that we currently have. Ashington and Morpeth appear to be the two centres where these priests will reside. It is presumed that ...

- The priest at Ashington will also be responsible for Amble.
- The priest at Morpeth will also be responsible for Bedlington and Longhorsley.

With the possibility of just two priests in a short period of time, it is unlikely that they can cover the current eleven Masses that we currently provide. To enable two priests to cover the whole partnership, changes need to be made to the current situation.

As mentioned in the letter read out in all our churches in February, the Partnership Development Group met on March 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans for the future. A paper was prepared and sent to the Bishop. The Bishop discussed this with his Episcopal Council and subsequently met with the priests of the Partnership and the following plan for the Brinkburn partnership is being proposed.

In the plan outlined below, it is envisaged that there will **eventually** be ...

- One Mass in Amble Parish
  - One Mass in Bedlington Parish
  - Two Masses in Ashington Parish
  - Two Masses in Morpeth Parish
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- *Longhorsley will retain one Mass, until such a time as there is no Resident Parish Priest and the Sunday Mass will cease.*
  - *Amble will retain two Masses until such a time that there is no Resident Parish Priest and the Sunday morning Mass will cease, retaining the Saturday Vigil Mass.*

## **Brinkburn Partnership Development Group Plan to become effective in September 2018**

### **AMBLE: The Parish of Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble:**

- To cancel the Vigil Mass at St Joseph's Widdrington
- To close St Joseph's Church at Widdrington
- To retain one Saturday Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart and St Cuthbert, Amble at 6.30pm
- In addition, to have one Sunday morning Mass at 9.30am at Amble until it is no longer possible (ie until there is no longer a resident Parish Priest)

### **ASHINGTON: The Parish of St Aidan, Ashington:**

- To cancel the Sunday morning Mass at St Mary, Newbiggin
- To close the Church of St Mary, Newbiggin
- To have one Sunday morning Mass at Ashington at 10.30am
- To have one Sunday evening Mass at Ashington at 6pm

### **BEDLINGTON: The Parish of St Bede, Bedlington**

- No Change, to retain the one Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30pm

### **LONGHORSLEY: The Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley**

- To retain Sunday Mass at 11am while there is a Resident Parish Priest

### **MORPETH: The Parish of St Robert of Newminster, Morpeth**

- To retain two Sunday morning Masses at 9am and 11am
- To cancel the 6pm Sunday evening Mass