

Masses, Services and Devotions

| | St Bede's Church Bedlington | St Robert of Newminster Church Morpeth |
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| Saturday 27th April <i>Easter Octave</i> | 5.00pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.00pm The Rosary 5.30pm Vigil Mass: Joan Keddy | 9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Paul McCole and Fr Lawrence Jones 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11.00am –12noon Confessions |
| Sunday 28th April Feast of Divine Mercy Low Sunday | | 9.00am Mass: People of the Parish 11.00am Mass: Mr & Mrs SEI Cole |
| Monday 29th April <i>St Catherine of Siena</i> <i>Patron of Europe</i> | 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: Madelaine Potter | 8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion |
| Tuesday 30th April <i>St George (transferred)</i> <i>Patron of England</i> | 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion | 8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Mass: Deceased Swift Family |
| Wednesday 1st May <i>St Joseph the Worker</i> | 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Mass: John Sutherland | 7.00pm: Reception of the Body with Mass: Reverend Father James Doherty |
| Thursday 2nd May <i>St Athanasius</i> | 9.30am Morning Prayer of the Church 10.00am Service of Word and Communion | 12.00pm Requiem Mass: Reverend Father James Doherty 7.00pm Divine Mercy Devotions |
| Friday 3rd May <i>St Philip and St James</i> | 9:15am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.30am Morning Prayer 10.00am Mass: Evelyn Tait | 8.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9.00am The Angelus 9.15am Service of Word and Communion |
| Saturday 4th May <i>The English Martyrs</i> | 5.00pm—5.20pm Confessions 5.00pm The Rosary 5.30pm Vigil Mass: People of the Parish | 9.40am The Rosary 10.00am Mass: Deceased Macy Family 10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 11.00am –12noon Confessions |
| Sunday 5th May 3rd Sunday of Easter | | 9.00am Mass: Helen and Douglas Cone 11.00am Mass: Davison Family |

The Pope's Intention April 2019

For Workers in War Zones: For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others

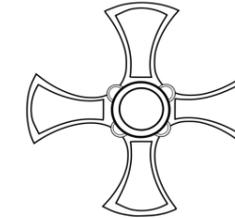
Lasting Power of Attorney

Sue Edwards, a Dementia Friend and Legal Estate Planner is visiting St Aidan's, Ashington on Monday 29th April at 7pm to give an informal talk on the two important issues given in the title, helping to protect the ones you love. All welcome.

Christian Aid Week: 12th-18th May 2019

- Christian Aid Week Ecumenical Service in St James' Church at 6pm on Sunday 12th May. All welcome to this service. to pray for the poor of the world who desperately need our help and for the success of Christian Aid Week.
- Christian Aid needs about 30 volunteers for the house to house collection in Morpeth. Can you spare about half an hour to deliver the envelopes in your street and 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. If you feel able to help, please put your name and telephone number on the list in the church porch at St Robert's, against your chosen street(s). Thank you.
- There will be plant and book stalls in the Market Place, Morpeth on Saturday 11th May. Donations of books and plants are requested. Please contact Eileen or Gerry Harber on 517829 if you can supply some. Help is needed 11th May manning the stalls and to move and erect tables and a gazebo and the plants and books. Please let Gerry Harber know if you can assist.
- Gerry Harber will be walking across Scotland in May on the Great Outdoors Challenge. His route is from Strathcarron to Inverberie and according to his route sheets is just under 200 miles. As usual he will be doing it as a sponsored walk for Christian Aid and will have sponsorship forms outside St Robert's church after Mass for the next few weeks for those who might wish to support him. Alternatively, donations can be made through JustGiving.com at e page "Gerald's The Great Outdoors Challenge 2019"

**Saint Bede's
Catholic Church**
Catholic Row
BEDLINGTON
NE22 6HS



**Saint Robert of Newminster
Catholic Church**
Oldgate
MORPETH
NE61 1QF

PARISHES OF THE BRINKBURN PARTNERSHIP, NORTHUMBERLAND

Parish Priest: Father Peter Stott

St Robert's Presbytery, Collingwood House, Oldgate, Morpeth NE61 1QF
Tel 01670 513410 | Email morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk | peterjstott@aol.com

Parish Deacon: Reverend Stephen Boulter

St Bede's Presbytery, Catholic Row, Bedlington, NE22 6HS
Tel 01670 823258 | Email bedlington.stbede@rcdhn.org.uk

www.strobertsmorpeth.com | www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk | Northumberland Listening Service 07732 980740

Sunday 28th April 2019 – Divine Mercy Sunday

Poor old Thomas! Condemned to go down in history as 'Doubting Thomas', for demanding proof of the risen Jesus. Yet how many of us would admit to a sneaking sympathy for Thomas. How many of us would have done exactly the same thing in his shoes? In our defence we come to the story from a slightly different angle to that of Thomas's; we come with a twenty first century agenda. We have been brought up in a culture where science rules the day and physical proof is all important. We live in a society where belief in the spiritual is viewed as naive; eccentric even. Yet we are expected to believe.

The story of 'doubting Thomas' is comforting to our twenty first century ears and perhaps that's what St John, the gospel's writer, intended. Surely St John must have known that faith, or lack of it, would be an issue especially for those without the benefit of first hand evidence. So what are those of us who are struggling with our faith to take from this story?

The most important thing to notice is that Jesus doesn't condemn Thomas for not believing. He simply offers himself as proof. He helps Thomas to believe. Perhaps Jesus does not rebuke Thomas because he knows how much Thomas loves him, and how badly he wants to believe. Doubt might feel like a very negative emotion, but in actual fact, doubt is a sign that we are struggling to find answers and that has to be better than apathy or outright disbelief. Very often doubt is a prelude to firm faith. In fact, a faith besieged by doubt but based in a deep train of thought can be ultimately better than a faith built on little or no thought whatsoever.

In our struggle to find faith we should first take heed of today's story and acknowledge that doubt is 'normal' and not necessarily a bad thing. Next we should acknowledge that the faith others have isn't just some warm and fuzzy feeling, but a conviction and a commitment. It's all too easy when we cannot determine a faith of our own to decry the faith of others as delusion, but this is to simply dismiss out of hand the thinking of centuries of intelligent and gifted men and women.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Jesus applauds those who have arrived at their faith, but for those of us who are still struggling we are promised the Holy Spirit to point us in the direction of a well founded and enduring faith.





Please pray for: New members of the Church; Vocations; the Right Use of the Media; the Church; and Human Work. Please pray for those who are sick, for all who have died recently and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections 21st April

St Bede's: £199.80 / Easter Offering: £55.00
St Robert's: £882.48 / Easter Offering: £522.00

Lenten Alms for St Cuthbert's Care

Very many thanks to all who contributed to the Lenten Alms at St Roberts for the annual St Cuthbert's Care appeal. We raised **£632.96**

Sick and Retired Priests Collection

There will be a Retiring Collection NEXT WEEKEND, 4th/5th May, for the Sick and Retired Priests Fund. This Fund remains open until 19th May.



World Apostolate of Fatima

Next Saturday, 4th May, there will be a short presentation at the end of the Vigil Mass on the World Apostolate of Fatima. Then on Sunday 12th May, the same talk will be given at the end of the 9am and 11am Masses.

Tea and Coffee after Mass

We have tea and coffee available after the Vigil Mass at St Bede's on Saturday evenings and tea and coffee available after the 9am and 11am Masses at St Robert's on Sunday mornings. Since Christmas St Bede's Parish have supported "Daft as a Brush" who provide transport to Newcastle Hospitals and Hospice, and have raised **£667.11!!** The new charity we are supporting for the next few months is "**Aid to the Church in Need**", supporting Christian Syrian Refugees who have been displaced from their home country and who are now supported by Catholic Communities around the Middle East ... www.acnuk.org

Little Sisters Appeal

Mother Deirdre, from the Little Sisters of the Poor St Joseph's Home in Newcastle writes, "This years Diocesan Church Appeal takes place on the weekend of 11th/12th May and will have a brand new focus - to raise funds for essential fire safety improvements to St Joseph's Home ... We urgently need volunteers to champion our cause ... please could you ask members of your parish to email us to confirm their interest in this important responsibility... ms.newcastle@lsplondon.co.uk." If anyone can help the Little Sisters with their request, please contact Sr Deirdre.

Newsletter Items

Please drop in a note at the Presbytery or e-mail items for the parish newsletter by 7pm on Wednesday to the parish office email address at St Robert's.

Helping prepare the Newsletter

We are looking for a couple of people to help with the typing of the Newsletter. Anyone who is useful with desktop publishing (we use Microsoft publisher to put the news letter together, but Word will be acceptable also) should speak to Fr Peter, Marian Bell or Mary Beaton.

Fr Doherty's Funeral

The Funeral Rites for Father Doherty will be celebrated on 1st and 2nd May at St Robert's Church, Morpeth. Father Jim's body will be received into Church on Wednesday 1st May at 7pm and Mass will be celebrated. The priests of the Partnership and a few other priests will be present on Wednesday evening and Fr Jim's family. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 2nd May at 12noon by Bishop Robert Byrne, and brother priests of Father Jim from the diocese have all been invited to attend, alongside Fr Jim's family and with parishioners from Fr Jim's previous parishes. Everyone is welcome.

Days of Reflection for All Ministries

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" – Days of Reflection for All Ministries, to be held at:

- Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 4th May 2019, 10.30am-3.30pm.
- St Joseph's Parish Hall, Gateshead on Saturday 15th June 2019 between 10.30am-3.30pm.

Further information on noticeboard. If you would like to attend please see Fr Peter and book in the parish office.

Bonus Ball at St Robert's Church

The popular Parish fundraiser will be available from next Sunday, 5th May. Once again, the cost will be £10 per number and you will keep the number for 10 weeks. Hopefully, we will start using the Bonus Ball from the National Lotto draw on Saturday 18th May. The lucky winners will receive a £25 prize. Good luck.

Minnie Vinnies Postage Stamp Collection

St Robert's School Mini Vinnies are currently collecting used postage stamps to donate to charity. "We will donate the stamps to a local charity (yet to be decided) this will be an ongoing project which we aim to collect as many stamps as possible, then make our donation before the summer holidays in July 2019. We have created a stamp collection tub which is now placed in the church porch so parishioners can help us with their donations of stamps."

Catholic Women's League Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 29th April at 7.00pm in the church hall. There will be a talk on 'Hollon Tea and Morpeth'. Everyone welcome.

Catholic Women's League Coffee Morning.

The CWL Coffee Morning raised **£307.55** which will be donated to support Syrian refugee families, through the Caritas Social Action Network. Thank you to everyone for the help and support.

First Holy Communion Preparation

The next First Holy Communion preparation takes place on the weekend of 11th/12th May. With only a few weeks left for preparation, we encourage attendance at both the catechesis and Mass that weekend and in the coming weeks.

St Vincent de Paul Society

The next meeting of St Robert's SVP will be held on Wednesday 1st May, after Mass.

New Mass Setting Rehearsal

There will be a quick rehearsal of the "Mass of Christ the Saviour" Mass Setting, immediately after the 9am Mass TODAY (Sunday) and two practices on Tuesday 7th May and Tuesday 21st May at 7pm. Please come along so that we can learn together these new Mass settings. This Mass setting can also be listened to on YouTube for those who want to familiarise themselves. No 1012ff in the hymnbook.

Baptism Preparation Meeting

The next Baptism preparation meeting will be held at St Robert's Church Hall on Thursday 16th May. Any parents wishing to have their child baptised at either St Bede's or St Robert's, who hasn't yet spoken to Fr Peter is asked to do so as soon as possible, especially if they are wishing to attend the next preparation meeting.

Volunteers Needed

The SVP at St Robert's Parish have asked that the "Parish" take over the responsibility of providing the Afternoon Tea for the Senior Citizens of the Parish, rather than members of the SVP organising it. We are therefore looking for a team of people who would be willing to take this on. It can't be left to one person alone to organise, as there is quite a bit to sort out, so it needs to have two or three people willing and able to organise it together. If you feel you can do this, please speak to Fr Peter.



Pilgrimage to Carfin Grotto of Our Lady

The Brinkburn Partnership would like to organise a day visit to the Carfin Grotto - near Motherwell in Scotland on Thursday 5th September 2019. To this end we would like to know if anyone is interested. Therefore, please sign the list at the back of church (as soon as possible), to register your interest. For more details contact Elizabeth Dixon.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes takes place from 26th July — 2nd August. The Pilgrimage organisers are appealing for Nurses to assist with the Pilgrimage and for all other adult helpers so that that they can take 40 sick pilgrims. There is also a Youth Section for those aged 16-25 for the Youth Section Please see Fr Peter for booking forms. Full information is available on the pilgrimage website, which is www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk and on the Pilgrimage Facebook page.



Pilgrimage to Lourdes: those needing Nursing Care

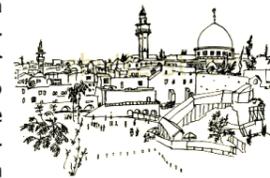
Our diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 26th July – 2nd August still has several places available for those who need Nursing Care or who are unable to travel or stay in Lourdes on their own. Flights are from Newcastle, directly to Lourdes, Accommodation will be in the Accueil Marie St Frai and there will be the assistance of the pilgrimage nurses and doctors throughout the week in Lourdes as well as many helpers. The cost for those staying in the Accueil is £895.00 per person. Anyone wishing to go is asked to contact The Lourdes Pilgrimage Office at St Robert's Morpeth (01670 513410 or lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk) for a Booking Form and Medical Consent Form. A medical assessment will be made to make sure the pilgrimage can offer the appropriate care. Closing date for application is 21st April 2019.

Lourdes Hospitalité AGM and Procession

On Sunday 12th May, members of the Lourdes Hospitalité will be joining St Robert's Parishioners for the 11am Mass. After Mass they will have a picnic in the Church Grounds (Weather permitting), followed by their Annual General Meeting in the Hall at 1.30pm. At 2.30pm there will be Prayers to Our Blessed Lady and a Procession around Church Grounds., to which everyone is welcome to join in.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Information sheets are available from Fr Peter. Most people who are expressing an interest are opting for the longer 10 day pilgrimage, so please keep that in mind. So far we have nineteen people from St Robert's who have said Yes to going on this pilgrimage.



The Mission to Accompany with Bill Huebsch

Mr Bill Huebsch will be visiting the diocese on Saturday 18th May to lead a day exploring 'The Mission to Accompany', at St Mary's Catholic School, Benton, Newcastle upon Tyne from 9.45am-3.30pm. Refreshments and lunch will be provided on the day, and it is suggested that a donation of £10.00 be made to help cover the costs of the day. Booking is essential by telephone: ☎ 0191 243 3302 or www.billhuebsch.eventbrite.co.uk. Donations will be gratefully accepted on the day.

A few Words of Thanks

"I would like to thank everyone who supported me during my journey of faith and all the kind words, cards and gift received from parishioners. This helped make it a very special occasion. Many thanks, Ann"

Rosary Chain for Vocations

Can you say one decade of the Rosary for Vocations? You are invited to join a "Rosary Chain" by promising to pray one decade of the Rosary daily during the month of May. Hopefully, 20 people will sign the list at the back of church, then together we will be praying a complete Rosary daily for vocations to the priesthood. We need priests for the future. It is important that we pray for vocations.

**PRIESTS, BROTHERS, NUNS.
THEY NEED US.
WE NEED THEM.**
Vocations Are Everybody's Business

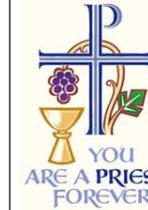
Good Shepherd Sunday—Vocations Sunday

Sunday 12th May is Good Shepherd Sunday, a World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. One of our diocesan seminarians will be joining us for that weekend and will speak at all Masses about Vocation.



Vocations Discernment

Are you aged 16 or over and thinking about the priesthood! Why not come along to one of the regular Diocesan Vocations Discernment evenings held at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle from 6.30pm until 8.30pm. These evenings of prayer and reflection provide an opportunity to listen to speakers talk about their own discernment, faith journeys and vocations, and are followed by a meal. Forthcoming dates are as follows: Wednesday 22nd May, Wednesday 26th June. For more information, please contact Fr. Christopher Warren, Diocesan Vocations Director.



Discernment Weekend

The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September 2019. It takes place at St Bueno's Spirituality Centre. The weekend is hoping to reach men who are not already officially in touch with their diocese and is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life. Information and registration forms are at: <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men>. Further information about the Beda College: <https://bedacollege.org>

Northumberland Listening Service

A free and confidential Listening Service, for those who wish to talk about issues such as Loss and Bereavement, Stress, Anxiety, Relationship Difficulties, Loneliness or other concerns. To make an appointment please telephone 07732 980740.

Knight of St Columba

This year the Order of the Knights of St Columba are celebrating their Centenary Year. Just after the First World War a group of 24 Catholic gentleman met and decided to form an organisation which would strive to serve the Church through its tenets of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. Currently we have around 4000 members in 300 locations throughout the UK. This year the Order has (in conjunction with SPUC) distributed over 500,000 Rosary Cards in parishes all over the country. The Knights of St Columba would like to ask all parishioners to join them



and SPUC in praying the Rosary throughout the year. In addition, the Knights of St Columba would like to ask if any like-minded gentlemen would be willing to join them in the work that they do. Please direct any parishioner interested in becoming a member to: Knights of St Columba, 75 Hillington Road South, Glasgow G52 2AE; telephone: 0141 8835700; email: headoffice@ksc.org.uk; or visit: www.ksc.org.uk.