

St Robert of Newminster,
Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF.
Tel. (01670) 513410

Parish Priest: Fr Lawrence Jones
Retired Priest in Residence: Fr Jim Doherty

www.strobertsmorpeth.com

**St Robert's is celebrating a year of the Eucharist
from Corpus Christi 2011 to Corpus Christi 2012**

Sunday 2nd Oct. 2011 27th Sunday of the Year
PLEASE PICK UP MISSALETTE FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH



St Robert of Newminster A.D. 1159

<u>Masses</u>		<u>Intentions</u>	
Sunday	2 nd 27 th Sunday of the Year 9:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Sarah Ann Lockie Sylvia Gallagher People of the parish	
Monday	3 rd 9:15am	Michael Ibbetson	
Tuesday	4 th St Francis of Assisi 9:15am	James & Kathleen Rush	
Wednesday	5 th 9:15am	Cecil Walker	
Thursday	6 th 9:15am	Ken & Joan Offen	
Friday	7 th Our Lady of the Rosary 9:15am	Mary Nicholson	
Saturday	8 th 10:00am	Ann & Jim McAllister	
Sunday	9 th 28 th Sunday of the Year 9:00am 11:00am 7:00pm (Folk Choir)	Mary McLaughlin Neville Gray Ken Percival	
<u>Sunday 9th October 2011</u> <u>28th Sunday of the Year</u>			
Mass	9:00am	11:00am	7:00pm
Readers	A. Mitchell T. Walker	B. Cudd J. Kelly	C. Reardon D. Strachan
Eucharistic Ministers	A. Gorman A. Wilson K. Wilson	P. Dawes A. Dawes G. Davison	J. Johnson M. Illingworth A. Smith
Servers	J. Dowd E. Boyle A. Johnson S. Bambrick	A. Turnball D. Willis P. Glancey	B. Gosling L. Brett D. Smith
9 am Children's Liturgy	Leader: Andrew	Companion: Eileen	

Confessions: Wednesday 6.30pm to 7.00pm. Saturday 11.00pm to 12 noon

The Angelus: Recited Monday to Friday at 9.00am. **Morning Prayer:** Monday to Friday at 9:00am.

Rosary: Saturday 9.40am.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of Mass on Saturday until 12 noon.

Prayer for Peace –
PLEASE SEE BELOW

The Parish Survey and Questionnaire – Have you filled it in yet? Fr Lawrence asks you to at least fill in the census questions at the beginning. Please put in the white box on the table at the back of church.

Little Steps Playgroup -Little Steps Playgroup has vacancies for children aged two and over. Sessions are held on Mondays, Wednesdays Thursdays and Fridays, 9:00 - 11:30 in the upstairs room in the Church hall. For further details please contact Alison on 07501335784.

MacMillan Coffee Morning – Thank you to everyone that supported Elizabeth Dixon's MacMillan Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy. £271.22 was raised for this very worthy cause

Sunday Readings Group – meeting every Tuesday from 1:00pm to 2:00pm in the Church Hall. Everyone welcome.

Meditation Group – A new meditation group meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:00pm in 21 Sylvas Court, Dacre Street. This is based on the prayer of John Main, a contemplative Benedictine Priest. All welcome.

Confirmation – those in year 10 upwards are eligible for Confirmation in November. The course continues on Thursday evening at 7.00pm. If you would like to be a prayer sponsor please sign up at the back of church and take one of the purple/lilac prayer cards.

Morpeth Lions Dickens of a Draw – Last year St. Roberts participated in the Dickens of a Draw Raffle raising £1075 towards the Church Bell appeal. This year's raffle is approaching, Harry Cone will be outside after each Mass today to hand out tickets for parishioners to sell. There is no cost to the parish for this, but all the money raised by the Parish will be retained by it. Money raised will go towards repairs and refurbishment of the Sacristy.

Christian Aid Ceilidh -A Ceilidh is being held to raise funds for Christian Aid on Saturday 15th October 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. in St. George's Church Hall. Dancing to the St George's URC Band. Bar, raffle etc. Tickets £5 (adult) or £2.50 (child) from Gerry Harber (517829).

Christian Aid thanks -The Street collection on 17th September raised a total of £622.79. Many thanks to those who helped with the collecting and to all who contributed.

SVP National Raffle- Members of the SVP will be selling tickets for the national raffle on 30th October. See poster in church porch for list of prizes.

SVP Twinned Conference - A letter has just been received from our twin conference in India. This makes very interesting reading and a copy has been put on the notice board in the church porch for all to see.

Children's Heart Unit at Freeman Hospital – John David Laux, our parishioner, at Leeds University is doing a sponsored marathon for this worthy cause next Sunday. If you would like to donate please go on line at <http://www.justgiving.com/FreemanPICU>.

New Altar Servers – training session - Monday 10th October at 6.00pm in church. If you have made your First Holy Communion you are eligible to be an Altar Server. We especially need servers for the 11.00am Mass each Sunday. Please encourage the kids to take up this very important ministry in the Liturgical life of our parish.

First Holy Communion – first session for children this Friday at 3.30pm in the presbytery. Prayer Sponsors needed – please sign your name next to the name of one of the children. Next Sunday there will be an induction liturgy during the 9.00am Mass. You will be able to meet the children after Mass in the church hall.

Young Adults Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – Monday 27th February to Monday 5th March 2012 – (For those aged 18 to 30.) Fr Lawrence writes “On the previous two occasions that I have organised youth pilgrimages I managed to find sponsorship and brought down the price to £550. There is no guarantee that this will happen this time but fundraising events can be organised in the parish as well. If you are interested please come to a meeting immediately after Mass this Sunday evening in the presbytery. There is more information on the table at the back of church.

The Alpha Course – in cooperation with other Morpeth Churches – begins this Wednesday (5th October) at 7.00pm at the New Life Christian Centre, Dacre Street. All welcome. Please fill in one of the registration forms at the back of church and put it in the white box.

Sing a new Song to the Lord – If you are involved in church music or interested, Fr Lawrence invites you to take part in an evening at St Bede's Bedlington 7.00pm on Wednesday 19th October.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic? - If you think you would like to become a Catholic, or if you would just like to learn about Catholicism, we will shortly be offering a weekly opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith. Those of you who have spouses who are not Catholic should really pray and encourage their spouse to “come and see” These weekly sessions will begin on Tuesday 25th October at 7.00pm in the presbytery.

Prayer Board – please attach your prayer intentions to the prayer board at the back of church and they will be remembered in the Bidding Prayers at each weekday Mass. The board will be cleared at the end of each month when they will be placed on the altar for Mass.

The New Translation of the Mass – Please take a look at the information on the parish website at www.strobertsmorpeth.com. Also, please pick up a leaflet every week from the table in the porch – back issues also available. This week is number 6 – The Liturgy of the Word. On the table at the back of church you will find numerous CTS resources – “Understanding the Roman Missal” at £1.95. “Companion to the Order of Mass” at £1.95. Two leaflets at just 25p each – “The new translation of the Roman Missal” and “Introduction of the new Roman Missal” Please note also that there are some brand new publications on all sorts of different subjects on the CTS rack at the back of church.

Prayer for Peace

Dear friends,

We have recently received two requests for prayers for peace.

World Day of Prayer For Peace on Thursday 27th October

Pope Benedict has announced that on Thursday 27th October, he will “go as a pilgrim to the town of St. Francis, inviting my Christian brethren of various denominations, the leaders of the world’s religious traditions to join this Pilgrimage and ideally all men and women of good will in order to solemnly renew the commitment of believers of every religion to live their own religious faith as a service to the cause of peace. This will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the historic meeting that took place in Assisi on 27 October 1986, at the wish of the Venerable Servant of God John Paul II.” The communiqué from the Vatican states “in preparation for this Day, Pope Benedict XVI will preside over a prayer vigil at St. Peter’s the previous evening, together with the faithful of the diocese of Rome. Particular Churches and communities throughout the world are invited to organise similar times of prayer. The Pope asks the Catholic faithful to join him in praying for the celebration of this important event and he is grateful to all those who will be able to be present in St. Francis’ home town to share this spiritual pilgrimage”.

I am glad to say that the Catholic Women’s League and the Society of St Vincent de Paul have volunteered to lead a prayer vigil, as requested by the Holy Father, on **Wednesday 26th October at 6.00pm**. This Vigil is open to everyone. Please bring friends from other Church traditions or religions. Also, the Mass on Thursday 27th October will be offered for World Peace.

Prayers for Peace in the Holy Land

The leaders of all the Christian Churches in the Holy Land have recently issued a statement asking for prayer for peace. The vote for Palestinian statehood that will shortly take place at the United Nations has prompted them to make this statement (see the parish website at www.strobertsmorpeth.com). They feel “the need to intensify our prayers and diplomatic efforts for peace between Palestinians and Israelis” They ask all “people of good will, to do their utmost to achieve the long awaited justice, peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians so that the prophecy of Prophet David is lived again: 'Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.' (Psalm 85: 10)”

For the last 5 months the statue of Our Lady of Newminster has been travelling around the parish. Given the fact that no one has signed up for October I would like to propose that the statue remain in the church for this month and become a focal point of our prayer for peace. October is the month of the Holy Rosary and the rosary is a great prayer for peace. I urge you to come to church during the day and say a rosary for peace. This Friday is the Feast of the Holy Rosary. I propose that we keep this and each Friday of this month as a special Day of Prayer for Peace and offer our Friday Penance for this intention. **Immediately after Mass on each Friday there will be a short period of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the praying of the Rosary, followed by Benediction.**

On our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land earlier this year I brought back a small olive tree that I smuggled through Israeli security. I will bring that olive tree into the church each Friday to remind us of the Christian community in the Holy Land. The olive tree has become a symbol of Christianity in the

Holy Land because it signifies endurance and resilience. An olive tree can live for thousands of years and still be fruitful. It is believed that the olive trees in the garden of Gethsemane may have witnessed Christ's "agony in the garden". You can try and destroy an olive tree by cutting it off from its trunk but in spring time it will sprout new branches. The olive seems practically indestructible. Again, like Christianity in the Holy Land, the olive tree symbolises faithfulness and steadfastness. Psalms 52:8 says, "I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever." The olive tree has always been a symbol of peace. In the story of Noah's Ark, after the flood, a branch from an olive tree was brought back to the Ark by Noah's dove, symbolising peace. The olive tree seemingly survived the destruction of the flood. Let it be our prayer that the destruction of violence and hatred in the Holy Land may cease and that a new era of peace, justice and reconciliation may prevail. In addition to the olive tree we will also burn an oil lamp from the Holy Land. It is a white dove, again, a universal symbol of peace. An olive leaf is painted on its side. Again, it reminds us of Noah's ark and the peace that came after the destruction of the flood.

Let us make this a "Month of Prayer for World Peace, especially in the Holy Land".

Fr Lawrence Jones

Statement by the Heads of Christian Churches in Jerusalem

Looking ahead to the upcoming General Assembly of the United Nations this September 2011 and the bid for Palestinian statehood, the Heads of Christian Churches in Jerusalem feel the need to intensify our prayers and diplomatic efforts for peace between Palestinians and Israelis, to consider this as the most appropriate time for such an opportunity, and thus wish to reiterate the following principles upon which we agree:

1. A two-state solution serves the cause of peace and justice.
2. Israelis and Palestinians must live each in their own independent states with peace and justice, respecting human rights according to international law.
3. Negotiations are the best way to resolve all outstanding problems between the two sides.
4. Palestinians and Israelis should exercise restraint, whatever the outcome of the vote at the United Nations.
5. Jerusalem is a Holy City to the followers of all three Abrahamic faiths, in which all people should be able to live in peace and tranquility, a city to be shared by the two peoples and the three faiths.

Thus, we call upon decision makers and people of good will, to do their utmost to achieve the long awaited justice, peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians so that the prophecy of Prophet David is lived again:

'Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.' (Psalm 85: 10)

- † Patriarch Theophilos III, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate
- † Patriarch Fouad Twal, Latin Patriarchate
- † Patriarch Tarkom II Manoogian, Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Patriarchate
- Very Rev. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, ofm, Custos of the Holy Land
- † Archbishop Anba Abraham, Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate
- † Archbishop Swerios Malki Mourad, Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate
- † Archbishop Abune Mathias, Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate
- † Archbishop Joseph Jules Zreyi, Greek Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate
- † Bishop Suheil Dawani, Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem
- † Bishop Mounib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Holy Land
- † Bishop Pierre Melki, Syrian Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate