

St Robert of Newminster
 SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2013 – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
 PLEASE PICK UP A MISSALETTE FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH

		Mass	Intentions
Sunday	21 st	9 00am 11 00am 7 00pm	Helen Cone Geoff Sutcliffe (80 th Birthday)
Monday	22 nd	9 15am	
Tuesday	23 rd	St George (Patron of England)	
		9 15am	Denis Lewin
Wednesday	24 th	9 15am	James Rush
Thursday	25 th	St Mark (Evangelist)	
		9 15am	Mary Mortimer
Friday	26 th	9 15am	
Saturday	27 th	10 00am	Bill McMillan
Sunday	28 th	9 00am 11 00am 7 00pm	George Carter Derek Moffat

SUNDAY 28th APRIL – 5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass	9 00am	11 00am	7 00pm
Readers	M Murray, A Gorman	A Dawes, B Cudd	L Cole, B Cole
Eucharistic Ministers	J Conroy, J Laidlaw P Baker	R McAllister, D Shearer V Shearer	C Rich, J Barham S Smith
Altar Servers			
Children's Liturgy - Leader:	Andrew	Companion:	Sylvie

Confessions: Wednesday 6 30pm – 7 00pm. Saturday 11 00 to 12 00pm

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

Rosary: Saturday 9 40am. **Divine Mercy Devotions:** Thursday 7.00pm in the church hall.

Bible Sharing: Tuesday 1 00pm to 2 00pm in the church hall. All welcome

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursday from the end of Mass until 10.30am and Saturday from the end of Mass until 12noon.

Journey in Faith – Continues on Thursday evening at 7 00pm in the Presbytery.

Youth Alpha – continues on Wednesday evening at 7.00pm in the school hall. The Youth Alpha Weekend takes place at the Youth Village from Friday evening of 17th May until after lunch on Sunday 19th May.

Bombadings Musical Evening: for school in Tanzania – 7 30pm on Friday 26th April at the Riverside Social Club. **Tickets on sale after Mass today** or at the door. Children welcome. A great night out.

Bonus Ball – Week 7 winners Mrs Crosby, John Ratcliffe, Watson family. The bonus ball was 6.

St George's Day – there will be tea and coffee after Mass on Tuesday to celebrate our national patron. Please bake some scones and cakes!

Year of Faith for those in their Golden Years - A Day of Recollection for the more senior members of our community, lunch, chat, pray, listen! Enjoy a speaker and spend time together. Monday 13th May starting at 10.15am (Tea/Coffee from 9 45am) and finishing at 3.15pm. Bring a packed lunch.

Consecration of new altar and lectern and the rededication of the altar rails - Fr Lawrence is glad to announce that a date has been set with Bishop Seamus – Thursday 27th June at 7.00pm. Put it in your diary. This will be a very important celebration for the parish and there will be festivities afterwards.

St George's Hospital – has a small and dedicated, but ageing, group of volunteers who help with our Saturday morning services. Would anyone like to join this group? It would entail a small amount of safety and fire awareness training (not onerous) and a CRB check and being registered as a Volunteer with the Volunteer Co-ordination Team. The group is split into teams who come and help us to set up the Chapel, telephone wards to remind staff to let the Service Users know the service is on and (occasionally) escorting Service Users to and from the wards. Each team usually does one week in five at present, but that might become less frequent if there were more volunteers. The volunteers all say they enjoy this work and it would be lovely to have some representation from our parish. We are blessed to have the services of Pat Hopper and, occasionally, Linda Edwards to play the organ, so if you want to know more about this role please ask one of them or Marian Bell about it. If you would like to volunteer contact Marian on (01670 501815).

Congratulations – to Marian Bell who has been appointed as full time Chaplain serving St George's and Northgate Hospitals. Marian writes "I will be ultimately responsible for the Spiritual welfare of all the Patients, their carers and staff at the Hospitals, and for those living in the Community, with Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Trust's support, of all faiths and of none. I'll be providing spiritual direction and counselling, conducting services of worship for the Trust and continuing to distribute Holy Communion to Roman Catholics. There is also an element of providing training to staff to help them engage with Patient's faith and spiritual needs and, since it's the NHS, there will be some administration! (This is mainly centred around co-ordination and support for our team of volunteers). Mentioning the volunteers I'd like to thank the kind Parishioners who've already said they'd like to help as volunteers. I'd also like to thank everyone in the Parish who have helped me with their prayers - I know there have been lots of prayers and Novenas said for me, and I'm eternally grateful."

Oremus – Let us Pray – Do you find it easy to pray? Is prayer an integral part of your day? Do you hear God's voice in your daily life, and know how to respond accordingly? For many of us, the answer to these questions is, "no". We all desire an intimate relationship with God. But, since learning to "say our prayers" as children, we never moved beyond rote recitation to an authentic conversation with God. For most of us prayer becomes a source of frustration as we struggle to calm our minds and find even a few minutes to set aside to pray. In our busy lives prayer is seen as a luxury, when in reality it is at the foundation of a healthy spiritual life. The good news is you can overcome your difficulties with prayer, and it is easier than you might think. Oremus (let us pray) is a simple programme that teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Over the course of eight weeks you will discover how God speaks to you, even in the smallest encounters. Following the Tradition of the Catholic Church and the wisdom of the saints, you will learn how to express yourself to God in prayer, and how to hear his voice. This is a major initiative here at St Robert's for the Year of Faith. It will begin on Thursday 23rd May at 7 00pm in the church hall and is open to anyone who wants to deepen their prayer life.

Christian Aid Week - this year is 12th – 18th May. The organisation of Christian Aid Week is a huge task and a volunteer to help with this would make a big difference – please contact Gerry on 517829 if you could assist. The week starts with the **Ecumenical Service** on Sunday 12th at 5.30 p.m. in **St Robert's Church**. Please come along to be inspired and to pray for the success of Christian Aid week and for those in need.

THE HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION runs from 12th until 18th May. The list of streets for which St Robert's are responsible is on the notice board in the church porch. If you are willing to assist, please put your name and phone number against the streets you would like to collect. We have a number of regular collectors, but more volunteers are urgently needed. For a typical 'round' of about 50 houses, it takes about half an hour to deliver the envelopes, and one to two hours to collect them a day or two later. Full guidance is given in the collectors' booklet. Even if you are not collecting, please be generous when the collector comes to your house! There will be **BOOK AND PLANT STALLS** in the Market Place on Saturday 11th May, from 10 a.m. until about 1 p.m. Volunteers are urgently needed for manning the stall and help with moving tables and erecting gazebos. Also, of course donations of **plants and books for sale** will be welcomed. Finally, Gerry will be walking across Scotland in the TGO Challenge in May, and will be looking for sponsors for Christian Aid. For further information on any of these activities, contact Gerry or Eileen on 517829.

S.V.P. - Fancy a challenge? Why not try the Yorkshire 3 Peaks in support of SVP Community Project on 22nd June 2013? See notice for details.

Asylum Seeker Support The East End Asylum Seekers Support Group (Common Ground) has been forced to close its premises in Walker and reduce the scale of activities. However, they express extreme gratitude to St Robert's parish for the huge support you have provided over the years. Instead of that, we will be supporting the Justice and Peace Refugee Project at St Margaret's Church, Scotswood who are helping over 90 destitute people from 29 countries. They urgently need food (rice, pasta, sugar, tea, coffee, tins of tuna, corned beef, beans, tomatoes etc) and toilet rolls, or alternatively would welcome financial support. Contact Donald Marr (505573) for details.