

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER, MORPETH

St Robert's Presbytery, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF

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Parish Priest: Fr Peter Stott Retired Priest in residence: Fr Jim Doherty

Masses and Services This Week			
Sunday 29 th November	9:00am Mass 11:00am Mass 6:00pm Mass	B.B.	First Sunday of Advent
Monday 30 th November	8.40am – 9.10am Exposition 9:15am Mass		St Andrew
Tuesday 1 st December	8.40am – 9.10am Exposition 9:15am Mass		Weekday of Advent
Wednesday 2 nd December	9:15am Mass 9.45am – 10.15am Exposition		Weekday of Advent
Thursday 3 rd December	8.40am – 9.10am Exposition 9.15am Mass 7.30pm – 8.30pm Exposition		St Francis Xavier Day for Migrants
Friday 4 th December	8.40am – 9.10am Exposition 9:15am Mass		St John Damascene
Saturday 5 th December	10:00am Mass 10.30am – 12pm Exposition Confessions 11am - Noon	James Doherty	Weekday of Advent
Sunday 6 th December	9:00am Mass 11:00am Mass 6:00pm Mass	Helen & Douglas Cone George Popely John Bullen	Second Sunday of Advent

Ministries next week - SUNDAY 6 December 2015			
Mass	9:00am	11:00am	6:00pm
Readers	M Boyle H Lewington	V Shearer D Shearer	<u>L Cole</u> <u>B Cole</u>
Extraordinary Ministers	M Bell S Conroy J Laidlaw	A Dawes E Dixon Cath. Smith	M Illingworth A Smith Chris. Smith
Altar Servers	Sarah Bambrick Eloise Walker-Barras	Philip Glancey	Patrick Smith J or D Dowd
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Lisa	Companion: Nicola	

Parish newsletter: items for newsletter should be e-mailed to Marian at marian@marianbell.f2s.com or Fr Peter at morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk or drop a note in at the Presbytery, by 4pm Thursday.

Welcome: If you are visiting Morpeth and you are also visiting St Robert's Church this weekend, we extend a very warm welcome to you and hope that you will feel very welcome here with us.

Tea and Coffee: We serve Tea and Coffee every Sunday morning after both the 9am and 11am Mass in the Parish Hall. Everyone welcome.

Last Sunday's Offering: - Average Standing Orders £467. Collection £1187.64. Thank you

Rosary: Saturday morning at 9.40am

Divine Mercy Devotion: The next meeting will be held next Thursday at 6.30pm in the church.

Prayer Group:- The next meeting will be in the New Year the date will be announced soon.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during Advent: Please note the times of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (see above), during the Season of Advent.

'Sound' and 'Loop' Systems: Following several complaints about the loop system for the hard of hearing not working correctly, the sound engineer this week checked the system and confirmed that the system is working correctly. To help people, the sound levels for loop users have been raised. Those with analogue hearing aids with a "T" should change their hearing aid to that setting. **Those who use new NHS digital hearing aids, should ask their audiologist to re-tune their digital aid and activate it for use with a loop system.**

Society of St Vincent de Paul: The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 2nd December at 7.30 p.m. in the Presbytery. We would welcome any prospective new members to join us there.

Wednesday Word: Please pick up a copy.

First Confession and Holy Communion: Preparation for these important sacraments will begin in January and letters will be sent out very soon from St Robert's School inviting parents to sign up on behalf of their children. If there are any parents of children eligible (Year 3) and not attending St Robert's First School, please contact Fr Peter as soon as possible.

Advent Alms: During Advent, which begins today, we will collect Advent Alms for the work of St Cuthbert's Care. If you wish to make a donation, place an envelope in the collection marked Advent Alms, or hand to the Presbytery.

The Year of Mercy: We are delighted that Chris Smith is willing to lead two reflections on the Year of Mercy as we journey through Advent. They will be held at 2pm on Monday 30th November and 7th December. If you think you will be attending, could you please sign the list at the back of Church.

Advent Service: The Catholic Women's League will be holding an Advent Service at 2.00pm on Sunday 29th November, in the Church. Light refreshments will be served after the service. All parishioners are welcome.

Christmas Mass Times: A Christmas Vigil Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Bedlington at 6pm. Masses at St Robert's Church will be celebrated at Midnight, and 9am and 11am.

CWL Mini-Fair: on 14th November. The CWL would like to thank everyone for their support for their Mini Fair on 14th November, as they raised an incredible £767. "We are delighted to add this to the other funds we have raised so far this year towards St Robert's Restoration and are looking forward to handing over a nice cheque in a few weeks' time"!

CWL Bonus Ball winners on Saturday 21 November. The lucky winners receiving £20 this week are: M Kennedy, Isobel Gedge, Betty Dymond and Paul Johnson. Good luck for the next draw! Only 3 more draws left.

Parish Christmas Fayre: Saturday 5th December: The Christmas Fayre is our next big fundraising event on Saturday from 10am until 2.30pm. We would still welcome people to help with the stalls, even to allow stall holders an hour's relief on the day. We also need people to help transport goods from the Church Hall to the Town Hall on the morning before we open for business. Fliers can be found at the back of Church. We still need items for piety, bric a brac, toys, crafts, jewellery, tombola, which can be brought in and left in the church hall. It will help with sorting if you can label the bag with which stall items are for. The SVP will be running the Bottle Stall and require donations of bottles. We need 100 bottles to make the stall worthwhile - so far we have 3! If you have bottles you can donate please either hand them to a member of the SVP or leave them in the Presbytery marked for the Bottle Stall. Let's make this our best Fayre yet! Please contact Andrea Mitchell 518618 if you require any further information.

Christmas Fair Raffle Tickets: On sale in the Church Hall after morning Masses this Sunday and at Church on Sunday evening. **If you would like to donate a prize for the Grand Christmas Raffle**, Anne Beattie and/or Christine Watson would love to hear from you. Please contact Anne on 517273 or 07538772500. Thank you

Christmas Fair Cakes: Please bring Cakes and home produce for the Cake Stall to the Town Hall on the morning of the Christmas Fair. Thank you.

Fundraising: A big thank you to everyone who attended the recent Italian Night Dinner which raised a total of £729. This figure includes the proceeds of the raffle on the night and donations from parishioners who on this occasion could not join us. Thanks to everybody who played a part to make this another excellent parish get-together.

Lepra Coffee morning, thank you to everyone who supported this event last weekend. £291-53 was raised for this very worthy cause, thank you.

Sudan Crisis Appeal: The SVP in England and Wales need to raise £250,000 to continue or increase the level of support we give to the impoverished peoples of Sudan and South Sudan. In the first half of 2015 we fed 3,400 babies every other day in 3 centres around Khartoum - on other days they go without food if their parents are unable to feed them. In Juba we provided 84,000 meals last year but there is so much more need. Can you help? Of course a one-off donation would be welcome but better still if you can sign a standing order to give regular support on a long-term basis. We know many parishioners are already doing this, and a massive thank you to all of them. Can you join them? There is an appeal letter on the notice board and information leaflets with details of the work the SVP are doing and donation/standing order forms at the back of church.

Advent Day with Mary: There will be a special Day of Prayer, on Saturday 5th December from 11am-3pm at Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Parish Hall, Berwick. The day will be led by Kathryn Turner, Head of the Diocesan Department for Spirituality. The day will include: Prayer, Shared Advent reflection centred on Mary, Prayer walk (with the option of an indoor virtual prayer walk), followed by ... Mince pies! The Parish normally celebrates Mass at 10am; Refreshments will be available from 10:30am. The deanery has organised a coach at £8 per person, details for contact on the poster in the porch, or make your own way.

The Year of Mercy: Bishop Seamus will launch the Year of Mercy at St Mary's Cathedral on 8th December. He will celebrate Mass at 7.15am and give a talk at 10.30am. Bishop Seamus and Diocesan Clergy will concelebrate Mass at 12.05pm. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day and priests to hear confessions between 8am and 8pm (except during the Mass and talk). On Sunday 13th December, Bishop Séamus will open the Door of Mercy at 3pm at St Mary's Cathedral.

Altar Server Training: There will be a training session for all Altar Servers on **Sunday 13 December at 12.30pm**. Would all current and prospective servers please contact Amy Boyle (email at amy@teamboyle.co.uk or phone on 518253) as soon as possible to confirm your intention to attend the training. New servers must have made their First Holy Communion, be attending Mass each Sunday and be willing to join the Serving Rota. Please encourage our young people to participate in this important ministry.

Life Teen Group: While Andrew is on leave in South Africa, the Life Teen Group continues to meet, and for the next two Sunday evenings we welcome Mr Gerry Nelson from Whitley Bay who is leading the group. Gerry is known to many people for Confirmation Preparation he leads in several parishes in the Diocese and his involvement with "Celebrate" and is a very engaging speaker about the faith.

School of Joy, Bethlehem and visit of Father Abu Sa'da: A stall selling Christmas gifts will be in the Hall after 9am and 11am Masses TODAY, Sunday 29th November. Please support this very worthy cause. Thank you.

Next weekend we will welcome Fr Mamdouh Adu Sa'da to St Robert's, who will be present for the 6.00pm Mass next Sunday. Fr Abu Sa'da is from Bethlehem in Palestine and runs the School of Joy and previously visited St Robert's one year ago. No doubt Father will say a few words at Mass about the support he receives from our fundraising for the School of Joy. The website for the School of Joy is <http://www.schoolofjoy.org/index.shtml>