

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER, MORPETH

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

Tel 01670 513410

Email morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk Website: www.strobertsmorpeth.com

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Stott

Retired Priest in residence: Fr Jim Doherty

Masses and Services This Week

Sun 13 th December	9:00am 11:00am 6:00pm	Irene Offord Sheila Brown Des McLaughlin	3 rd Sunday of Advent
Mon 14 th December	8-40 – 9:10 Exposition 9:15am Mass	SVP Intentions	St John of the Cross
Tues 15 th December	8-40 – 9:10 Exposition 9:15am	Dec'd friends of A.B.	Weekday of Advent
Wed 16 th December	9:15am Mass 9.45 – 10.15 Exposition	Patricia James (dec'd)	Weekday of Advent
Thurs 17 th December	8-40 – 9:10 Exposition 9:15am Mass 7.30pm Exposition	Dorothy Marr	Weekday of Advent
Fri 18 th December	8-40 – 9:10 Exposition 9:15am Mass	Eileen O'Connor	Weekday of Advent
Sat 19 th December	10:00am Mass Confessions 11am - Noon	K. Lovell and all suffering from cancer.	Weekday of Advent
Sun 20 th December	9:00am Mass 11:00am Mass 6:00pm Mass	Margaret & Harry Bell Special Intentions (NA) Joshua & Maria Hedley	4 th Sunday of Advent

Ministries next week - SUNDAY 13th December 2015

Mass	9:00	11:00	18:00
Readers	E. Harber G. Harber	B. Lewins A. Dawes	J. Gill D. Oldroyd
Extraordinary Ministers	T. McLaughlin A. Beattie A. Donaldson	M. Beaton R. Soulsby Cath. Smith	M. Illingworth A. Smith Chris. Smith
Altar Servers	S. Bambrick <u>O. Bruce</u>	P. Glancey	P. Smith J or D Dowd
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Mary		Companion: Eileen

Parish newsletter: - items for newsletter 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.

Prayers: Your continued prayers are asked for Father David Tanner who is still quite poorly in Hospital; also please pray for the Father Michael Corbett who died on Wednesday evening and whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 17th December at 1pm at St Mary's Cathedral and for Cathy Heath whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on 24th Dec at 10:00am.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during Advent: In this third week of Advent we will continue to have Exposition on our Weekday mornings before and after Mass and we will also have one more Thursday evening period of Exposition on 17th Dec from 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Christmas Mass Times: A Christmas Vigil Mass will be celebrated at St Bede's Church, Bedlington at 6pm on Thursday 24th December. Masses at St Robert's Church will be celebrated at Midnight, and 9am and 11am.

Christmas Day Services Volunteers: A list is at the back of Church for Volunteers to sign up for the Christmas Day Services.

Divine Mercy Devotions: The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th December, at 6:30pm, in the church.

Music for the Christmas Masses: We need to think about the provision of Music for our Christmas Masses. Would musicians like the chance to have a meeting this week to discuss what is going to happen? Please speak to one another and then speak to Fr Peter to see if a meeting is needed.

Last Sunday's Offering: - Average Standing Orders £467. Collection £920.10. Thank you

Rosary: Saturday morning at 9.40am

Society of St Vincent de Paul: The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 16th December at 7.30 p.m. in the presbytery.

Fr Lawrence's Memorial Stone: The memorial stone for Fr Lawrence has now been completed and is installed over his grave. Remembering how much he loved Christmas, if you visit his grave please pray for him.

Advent Alms: During Advent it's customary to 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 in at the Presbytery.

The Year of Mercy: The Year of Mercy is a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Confession is available every Saturday morning** at St Robert's from 11am – 12noon with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

Crib Blessing: Fr Jim will be blessing cribs that children from School wish to be blessed on Wednesday at 3.15pm in Church, the Children will be saying prayers and singing some carols. The Service will last approximately half an hour. All are welcome (anyone may bring their crib figures).

Holy Door of Mercy: TODAY, 13th December, at 3pm, Bishop Seamus will open the 'Door of Mercy' at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. All are welcome.

Epiphany Carol Service: We will be celebrating an Epiphany Carol Service on 6th January at 7pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Church Hall – we hope you'll feel able to come along and support this special celebration.

Christmas Fayre: Thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre last Saturday; Stall organisers and to all who came to support us. After expenses (costs to the Town Hall, £230) the total raised was **£1,529.38**.

Grand Raffle: Anne Beattie and Christine Watson would like to thank everyone who provided the prizes and bought the raffle tickets and of course congratulations to the prize winners.

Advent Reconciliation Service: St Mary's Cathedral in Newcastle are holding an Advent Reconciliation Service, with opportunity for Individual Confession on Saturday 19th December, from 12noon – 5.00pm, with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the afternoon, and ending at 5.00pm with Benediction. Everyone welcome.

CWL Bonus Ball: Winners on Saturday 5th Dec. Bonus Ball No 23. Winners receiving £20 are: Anne Wilson, Rod Gedge, Pat Popley and Stephen Bradley. Good luck for the next draw. Last one!

CWL: Christmas lunch will be on Monday 14th Dec, at the Shambles. Please arrive at 12:45pm for 1:00pm

The Northern Cross: The Nov. edition of "The Northern Cross" is available now at the back of Church. Stevie Matthews has volunteered to tell the paper what is happening here (steviematthews071@googlemail.com).

Cake Stall in aid of Patrick Smith's Mexico House Building mission:- Dear Parishioners, Next summer, as part of an M10 Christian based mission, I will be helping to build wooden homes for poor homeless Mexican Families in Ensenada (on the Mexico/USA border). To support my fundraising for this (we also supply materials to build the homes) I will be holding a cake stall after 9am and 11am Masses on Sunday 20th December. Please support me if you can... Thank you, Patrick.

First Holy Communion Preparation: Preparation for First Confession and Holy Communion begins in January. If there are any children, not in St Robert's School, who are in Year 3 or above and wish to take part in this preparation, please let Fr Peter know the names so that we can make some provision for when the programme begins. There will be a Parents' Meeting on Thursday 28th January at 3.30pm to inform about the programme, to give important dates and to think and reflect on the importance of what we are preparing for.

APF Mission Boxes: Thanks to everyone who collects money for the APF Mission Boxes and the Mill Hill Missions. We have collected **£1,587.00**. Thanks also to the collectors who take responsibility for the boxes. It's a tremendous amount, all support is greatly appreciated.

School Christmas Mass: St Robert's First School will be joining the Mass on Thursday 17th December for their Christmas Mass before they break up on Friday.

Prayer Group: The next meeting will be in the New Year; when we intend our first meeting to be focused on thinking about the various ways to pray the Rosary. We will welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Free pictures: There are some pictures in the Church porch that have been gathering dust in a store room in the Presbytery. They're free to anyone who might like to take one away, otherwise they'll be thrown away.

SVP - 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. Can you help? A one-off donation is welcome but we'd appreciate it if you can sign a standing order to give regular support on a long-term basis. There's 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.

First School Admissions – September 2016: Please note that the closing date for Reception School Admissions is **15th January 2016**. Any children born between the following Dates of birth 01/09/2011 – 31/08/2012 need to apply for entry to Reception 2016 via Northumberland County Council Website.

Consultation on Admission Arrangements for St Robert's R C First School, Morpeth and St Benedict's Middle School, Ashington 2017 – 18: Where changes to admission arrangements are intended, all schools are required to consult before these are determined and published. The policy for consultation for 2017-18 is available on the schools websites, and a hard copy can be provided by the school's office if you request this. A consultation response form is available by request from the respective school. The governing bodies will consider all comments received before they determine the arrangements for 2017-18.

Baptism Congratulations: We offer prayers for Thea Graham and Isla Nicholson who were baptised at St Robert's Church in recent weeks. Pray also for Lacey Marcon who is to be baptised TODAY (Sunday 13th December) at 12.30pm

Safeguarding Forms: It is most important that all those who work with our young people or anyone else involved in helping in the parish completes the correct paperwork from the Diocesan Safeguarding Office, wither the DBS Check Application Form or the Self Declaration Forms. If in doubt about any of this, please speak to our Mrs Anne Dawes, our Parish Safeguarding Representative or to Fr Peter.

Parish Welfare Officer: Every Parish is asked by the Diocese to appoint a Welfare Officer, who takes on the responsibility of looking after the Health and Safety issues of the parish. Our representative is Barry Mitchell and we are very grateful to him for carrying out this role. If anyone has any issues about the parish grounds or buildings re Health and Safety, please speak to either Barry or Father Peter.

Bible Sharing Group: The Bible Sharing Group is having an Advent and Christmas break and will resume their meetings in January 2016.

Northern Catholic Calendar: The Northern Catholic calendar contains times of Masses, addresses and telephone numbers of all parishes and associations in the Diocese. Copies are on sale now in the porch, (£2.50).