

Masses, Devotions and Services			
Date	Time	Intention	Feast
Sunday 17th April	9.00am Mass	Frank and Barbara Bowey	4th Sunday of Easter
	11.00am Mass	The Deceased of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre	
	6.00pm Mass	Josh and Ria Hedley	
Monday 18th April	9.15am Mass	Agee Navamah Munigadu	Weekday of Easter
Tuesday 19th April	9.15am Mass	No Intention	Weekday of Easter
Wednesday 20th April	10.00am REQUIEM MASS	EDITH SHAW	Weekday of Easter
Thursday 21st April	9.15am Mass	No Intention	St Anselm
Friday 22nd April	1.30pm REQUIEM MASS	VINCENT MITCHELL	Weekday of Easter
Saturday 23rd April	10.00am Mass	Robert & Mary Conroy	St George
Sunday 24th April	9.00am Mass	Evelyn Givens	5th Sunday of Easter
	11.00am Mass	No Intention	
	6.00pm Mass	No Intention	
Confessions	Saturday 11am—12pm		

Ministries Next Week: Sunday 24th April 5th Sunday of Easter			
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Readers	M Murray K Wilson	A Dawes D Shearer	Chris Smith C Rich
Extraordinary Ministers	A Gorman T McLaughlin A Beattie	J Marshall R Soulsby V Shearer	B Rich L Cole D Butler
Altar Servers			
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Mary	Companion: Clare	

Deanery Telephone Numbers			
Fr Ian Hoskins, Longhorsley	☎ 01670 788344	Fr Stephen Watson, Ashington	☎ 01670 812200
Fr Lee Barrett, Cramlington	☎ 01670 712476	Wansbeck Hospital Chaplaincy	☎ 0191 293 4268
Cramlington Switchboard	☎ 0344 811 8111	St George's Park Hospital Chaplaincy	☎ 01670 501815
Northgate Hospital	☎ 01670 394855 Ext: 64855		

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle - <a href="http://www.rcdhn.org.uk">www.rcdhn.org.uk</a>
St Bede's Parish , Bedlington - <a href="http://www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk">www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk</a>
St Robert's First School, Morpeth - <a href="http://www.st-roberts.northumberland.sch.uk">www.st-roberts.northumberland.sch.uk</a>
St Bede's Primary School, Bedlington - <a href="http://www.st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk">www.st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk</a>
St Benedict's Middle School, Ashington - <a href="http://www.st-benedicts.northumberland.sch.uk">www.st-benedicts.northumberland.sch.uk</a>
St Benet Biscop Academy, Bedlington - <a href="http://www.stbenetbiscop.co.uk">www.stbenetbiscop.co.uk</a>

# The Parish of Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth

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

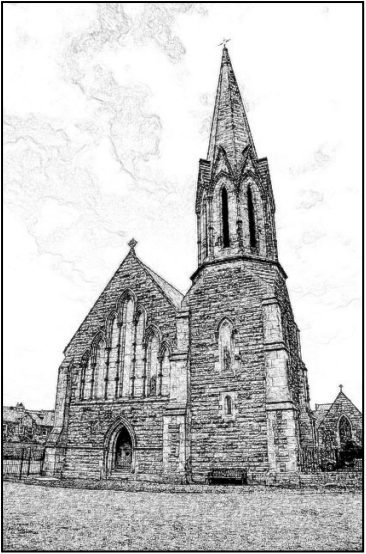
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[www.strobertsmorpeth.com](http://www.strobertsmorpeth.com)

Parish Priest: Father Peter Stott

Retired Priest: Father James Doherty, also in residence



## 17th April 2016 - 4th Sunday of Easter

The Sundays after Easter are like a mini-course in Christianity. In fact they are a seven week expose of everything we shouted about and sang about when we celebrated Christ's resurrection. If any new member of the Church, recently received, is beginning to wonder what exactly they have let themselves in for (or any old member for that matter!), the Sunday scriptures are aimed at explaining piece by piece the full implication of calling ourselves Christian.

So there can be no better copper-bottomed guarantee than the one Jesus gives when talking about the Good Shepherd.

He doesn't merely say that to follow him will be an acceptable way of spending time. He doesn't invite people to faith in order to give them something to do, like a hobby, a pastime, or even an alternative to a spot of voluntary work!

He says, as the Good Shepherd, that those who are his sheep and follow him will enjoy the richest of lives, and what's more nothing or no one will ever be able to snatch them from his hand. It's hard to think of anything that could be more unconditional than that.

His listeners were only too aware that it's easy to be taken in by some forms of religion, the type where the lambs get fleeced or even devoured by the wolves.

But to be held in the hand of the Good Shepherd is to have a different quality of life. Jesus calls it eternal life. And this eternal life does not just start after we die. It's on offer to us now. It's that life available to those who are part of the flock, who are held in God's hand, who make up the Body of Christ.

Following the Good Shepherd and listening for his voice goes beyond a nice countryside image. It puts us in the hands of someone who promises to make sense of our lives, to protect us from ultimate evil. It is the picture of a God who walks by our side and makes our faith and hope worthwhile.



### The Holy Father's Intentions For April

**Universal Intention: Small Farmers** That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labour.

**Missionary Intention: African Christians** That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.



Please pray for ... Candidates for the Sacraments; Women, the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers. Those who are sick; please pray for all who are sick, for all those in hospital, hospice or nursing homes. Those who have died recently including Edith Shaw of Northlands Nursing Home and Vincent Mitchell of Mathison's Gardens for those whose anniversaries occur at this time (*to add names to this list of anniversaries please send in names*).

#### Offertory Collection 10th April 2016

Total Offertory **£1,141.57**. Thank you.  
Thanks also to those who pay by Standing Order.

#### Sick and Retired Priests Collection: NBF

The Fund remains open until 24th April. As the NBF is a separate charity from the diocese please use the special envelopes available at the back of church.

#### Tea and Coffee

Tea and coffee is served after both Morning Masses every Sunday in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome.

#### Parish Newsletter

Items for the newsletter can be emailed to Mary on [fmbeaton@btinternet.com](mailto:fmbeaton@btinternet.com) or can be emailed to the parish office [morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk) or drop a note in at the Presbytery by 12pm on a Thursday.

#### Prayer Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Prayer Group will be on Tuesday 19th April at 6.45pm

#### Bible Sharing Group

This group meets on a Tuesday from 1pm – 2pm in the church hall. All are welcome.

#### Divine Mercy Devotions

The next Divine Mercy Devotions will be held on Thursday 5th May at 7.00pm in Church.

#### Saturday Morning Devotions

The Rosary is prayed on a Saturday at 9.40am; and after 10am Mass; for the Year of Mercy we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions on a normal Saturday are from 11am – 12 noon.

#### Patrick Smith's Fundraising for Mexico

Yet another 'thank you' from Patrick Smith for the support shown for his cake sale in aid of his trip to Mexico with M10 in the summer. He raised a grand total of **£280** including some kind donations. Thank you for your very kind support; next event will be a Mexican themed night on Saturday 14th May at St Roberts Church Hall at 7.30pm, tickets £10 per person and will include a 3-course meal; on sale after 6pm Mass or contact Patrick on 01670 516433. Mexican fancy dress optional!

#### LEPRA

Many thanks to all who supported the LEPRA coffee morning, **£290** was raised £50 of which was from the cake stall run by the CWL. Special thanks to them.

#### Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

The Little Sisters of the Poor in Newcastle appeal will be taken at all Masses TODAY and we welcome Mother Marie Claire and Sr Rose from St Joseph's Home, Newcastle who will be with us at the 6pm Mass to make this appeal themselves.

#### Visit of the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre

The Northumbrian Section of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre will join us at 11am Mass TODAY, to celebrate Mass for Deceased Members of the Order. This is appropriate as it falls close to Father Lawrence's anniversary and he was a member of the Order. There will be a retiring collection for their work in the Holy Land NEXT SUNDAY, 24th April. There is a display at the back of church with more information about the Order and its work to help Christians in the Holy Land. Please help yourself to a leaflet.

#### Wansbeck Valley Food Bank

Please see the box in the church porch for donations of food needed for the Food Bank.

#### Humanitarian Collection for Ukraine

Pope Francis announced on 3rd April that he would like Christian communities in Europe to take a collection as a humanitarian initiative for the people of Ukraine. Our Diocesan Finance Office has instructed us to take this collection on Sunday 1st May.

#### First Holy Communion Preparation

The children will have their meeting on Thursday at 3.30pm and will be present at 9am Mass on 24th April and will celebrate a special Liturgy as part of their preparation.

#### Catholic Women's League

The next meeting will be on Monday 18th April at 7.00pm in the Church hall. There will be a talk on 'The Wonders of Wansbeck.' Everyone welcome.

#### Celebrate HM Queen Elizabeth's Birthday

To celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday and the 140th anniversary of the Mother's Union, Morpeth Mother's Union are inviting everyone to an 'Evening to Celebrate Women's Achievements' on Thursday 21st April in St James' Church starting at 7pm. There is an optional dress code, Red, White and/or Blue. Please see the notice in the Church Hall for more details.

#### Bonus Ball

The Catholic Women's League are once again inviting you to take part in this fundraiser for St Robert's Restoration Fund. Numbers are on sale at a cost of £10 per number. Hopefully, the first draw will be on Saturday 7th May – the Saturday evening National Lottery, Lotto Bonus Ball. The prize money this time will be £25 per Bonus Ball. Good Luck

#### Lourdes Day of Recollection

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is holding a Day of Reflection and Prayer, here at St Robert's NEXT Saturday 23rd April. All are welcome. It will begin with Mass at 10am and continue until 3.30pm. See poster for details.

#### Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

The SVP will meet in the Presbytery on Wednesday 20th April at 7.30pm. New members would be welcome.

#### Charity Fundraising

Fr Lawrence's family are organising a Fundraising Bicycle ride from Easington to Morpeth in memory of Fr Lawrence in aid of Cancer Research UK on Saturday 30th April. If you feel you would like to support them in their efforts to raise £2,000 you can go to their Just Giving page to donate <http://www.justgiving.com/team-father-ted>

#### Parish Pilgrimage to the Doors of Mercy

There has been some interest in arranging a Parish Pilgrimage to The Cathedral in Newcastle and to walk through the Door of Mercy; the Cathedral has prepared a series of prayers for the visit and the Cloister Café are also prepared to have the whole group in for lunch. Obviously, we would have to pay for Lunch but do we also need to arrange a coach? If those who are interested would sign the list at the back of Church.



#### Preparing for Baptism

For Baptism, one parent of the child to be baptised must be a baptised Catholic. Mass on a Saturday Evening or Sunday is expected. One of the godparents is also expected to be a practising Catholic. We ask parents also to attend the Baptism Preparation meeting. In the near future these meetings will alternate between St Bede's Church and St Robert's Church. Any parents wishing to attend should speak to Fr Peter. After the Baptism Course, the parents should speak once again to Fr Peter and make arrangements for an appointment to fix a date for a Baptism. PLEASE NOTE: dates are not usually given before the Baptism Course is completed. The next Baptism Preparation is 14th April at St Bede's, Bedlington.

#### Baptism Preparation Leaders

Fr Peter would like to meet all leaders of the Baptism preparation. There will be a meeting therefore on Thursday 28th April at 7pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington.

#### Council of Laity

Minutes ion the Notice Board n the Church Porch.

#### New Rite of Confirmation

A New Rite of Confirmation became mandatory at Easter and replaces the 1969 translation. There are to be two meetings for priests and catechists – also an opportunity for parishioners who are interested in becoming catechists to look at the new rite --- Saturday 23rd April 2016, St Patrick's Church Hall, Stockton, TS19 7PL and Saturday 21st May 2016, St Aloysius Church Hall, Hebburn, NE31 1BE. To book a place on this meeting tel. 0191 243 3313 or email: [adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:adult.formation@diocesehn.org.uk).

#### Celebration of Marriage

Bishop Seamus will celebrate Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 14th May at 11.00am to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage. He has invited each parish community to be represented by two couples, young or old, newly married or celebrating a significant anniversary. This promises to be a wonderful celebration and will provide affirmation and support for Marriage across the Diocese and to the wider North-East community. If any couples wish to represent St Robert's at this Mass, please let Fr. Peter know.



#### Youth Ministry Team

The final 'Source' for this academic year, takes place on Wednesday 4th May from 7.00pm-8.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral. There will be praise and worship, prayer, a guest speaker, followed by social time and refreshments. All in Year 9 and above are welcome.

#### Life Teen Leader

We are very pleased that our Life Teen Group will resume soon with Cody Kettner as our new lead. What is Life Teen? Life Teen is a movement within the Roman Catholic Church, Life Parents to that meeting, the Parish Council and indeed any other young people or parishioners who are interested in meeting Cody. Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. There will be a Cup of Tea / Coffee available after 6pm Mass TONIGHT to introduce Cody and I would hope that the Life Teen Group and parents come along to meet him, as well as the Parish Council and indeed anyone else who is interested in meeting Cody. Fr. Peter

#### Priesthood and Diaconate Vocations

Today, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday and a Day of Prayer for Vocations. We need to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood, especially in the present time, in the hope that one day there will be more priests for our diocese to celebrate the Mass and the Sacraments for us; but we need also to promote prayers and some thinking about the Vocation to become a Permanent Deacon in the Diocese. It is a ministry into which more men are being ordained. Have you ever thought about how you might be a Deacon for your parish community or local area? If anyone thinks they might be called to being a Deacon, please don't hesitate to contact Fr. Peter to talk through the possibilities.

#### Going into Hospital?

Please remember that if you are going into hospital and you want the Chaplain for Confession, Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the Sick, it is your responsibility to ask for the Chaplain to visit, as they do not automatically find out who the Catholic patients are.

#### Thanks to Father Dave Nixon

We offer our thanks to Father Dave Nixon who for the last two years has been Hospital Chaplain at Wansbeck, Cramlington and North Shields. Father Dave has now moved on from the Hospital in to Parish Ministry. We offer him our thanks and our prayers.

#### 'The Gift'

'The Gift' is a new Evangelisation Course on DVD from CaFE and at the request of the Bishop, they are running a pilot scheme of this course at North Shields on 14th May and 4th June, for anyone who would be willing to lead the Course in the parish. If there is anyone willing to attend, view a view to leading the programme, please let Fr Peter know as soon as possible. Information on The Gift can be found on [www.faithcafe.org](http://www.faithcafe.org)

#### Support for Refugees

Medicines like Calpol, Savlon, cough mixtures, paracetamol etc are still needed for refugees in the camp at Dunkirk. If you can help with this please hand them to any member of the SVP – Gerry, Eileen, David, Donald, Maura or Stevie. The Justice and Peace Refugee Project are very grateful for continued donations of food and men's' toiletries. There are now over 400 clients of whom over 100 are classed as destitute with no benefits or other income. Apart from tins of fish, meat and tomatoes, toiletries such as shampoo shower gel shaving gel and razors and soap are very popular. Also men's' clothing and shoes. (Leaflet in church porch with more information)

#### FLAME 2017 – "10,000 reasons"

The third National Catholic Youth Congress takes place at Wembley Arena on Saturday March 11th 2017. It is hoped that 1,000 young people from our dioces will join Bishop Seamus on the Flame pilgrimage. Further information from YMT on 01207 592244 or email: [admin@ymt.org](mailto:admin@ymt.org).

#### Vocations Weekend for Young Women

The Faithful Companions of Jesus are organising a Vocations weekend for women in their 20s and 30s on 'Discerning God's Call in my Life' from 27th – 29th May at Broadstairs, Kent. There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact St Lynne [fcj@lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:fcj@lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit their website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org).

#### Christian Aid Week – 15-21st May

- Ecumenical Service Sunday 15th May – in St George's URC Church at 4pm..
- House to House collection – 32 collectors needed to deliver envelopes and collect them a day or two later during Christian Aid Week. If you can help, please put your name on the list in the church porch against one of the streets listed.
- Gerry Harber will be walking across Scotland as n the Great Outdoors Challenger during May, from and as usual will be sponsored for Christian Aid. Sponsor forms are on the noticeboard, or if you wish to donate online you can at [www.JustGiving.com/Gerald-Harber](http://www.JustGiving.com/Gerald-Harber).
- If you can help with any of the above please contact Gerry Harber on 517829. Thank you.

#### Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham

On Tuesday 26th April, Michael Questier from Queen Mary University of London and give a talk on 'Catholic Martyrdom in Late Elizabethan England' in the Exhibition Hall, Ushaw College. All are welcome to attend but please email [hannah.thomas2@durham.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.thomas2@durham.ac.uk) to book a place.

#### Justice & Peace Refugee Project

The Justice & Peace refugee project are very grateful for continued donations of food and men's toiletries. These are now over 400 clients of whom over 100 are classed as destitute with no benefits or other income. Apart from tins of fish, meat and tomatoes, toiletries such as shampoo, shower gel and shaving gel and razors and soap are very popular. Also men's clothing and shoes (leaflet in church porch with more information).

#### Pentecost Ecumenical Service

Pentecost Sunday 15th May 2015 at 7pm, Durham Cathedral. All are welcome to attend a special ecumenical prayer service in Durham Cathedral at 7pm on Pentecost Sunday 15th May. This service is one of six 'Beacon events' around the country – other venues include St Paul's Cathedral and Canterbury Cathedral. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are inviting churches to pray for the evangelisation of the nation during the week before Pentecost Sunday. The week of prayer will culminate in the 'Beacon events' around the country over Pentecost weekend, where people will pray for the renewal of the Holy Spirit and the confidence to share their faith. For more information visit [www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk). Booking is required for the event being hosted by Durham Cathedral and you can register for tickets by visiting: [www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk).