



St Robert of Newminster Parish, 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

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Sunday 7 th February	9:00am Mass 11:00am Mass 12.30pm Baptism 6:00pm Mass	Helen and Douglas Cone G Popely Ava May Ellen Graham People of the Parish	5th Sunday of Year
Monday 8 th February	9:15am Mass	Peggy, Harry & David Shepherd	Weekday
Tuesday 9 th February	9:15am Mass	In Thanksgiving	Weekday
Wednesday 10 th February	9:15am Mass 7.00pm Service of Word / Communion	Desmond McAllister	Ash Wednesday
Thursday 11 th February	9.15am Mass	No Intention	Our Lady of Lourdes
Friday 12 th February	9:15am Mass	Rosa Livadic	Weekday of Lent
Saturday 13 th February	10:00am Mass Confessions 11am - Noon	Thomas Dodds	Weekday of Lent
Sunday 14 th February	9:00am Mass 11:00am Mass 6:00pm Mass	Rita Cooper George and Mary Armstrong SEI Cole	1st Sunday of Lent

Ministries for Sunday 14th February 2016 – 1st Sunday of Lent

Mass	9:00	11:00	18:00
Readers	G Harber; G Harber	B Lewins; J Ratcliffe	S Smith; L Cole
Extraordinary Ministers	P Baker; S Conroy; M Bell	M Beaton; R Soulsby; G Davison	Chris Smith; A Smith; B Cole
Altar Servers			
Children's Liturgists	Leader:	Companion:	

Tea and Coffee: is served after both the 9am and 11am Masses every Sunday in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome. A very special welcome to any visitors to Morpeth this weekend.

Welcome to the Sisters from Belarus: Today we welcome the Sisters from St Elisabeth Convent, Minsk, Belarus (Russian Orthodox). They have a sale of crafts in the Hall today.

Parish newsletter: - items for the newsletter can be emailed to Pauline at paulinemc2012@gmail.com or emailed to morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk or drop a note in at the Presbytery, by 12pm on a Thursday.

Last Sunday's Offering: Offertory collection £1064.85. Thank you

Rosary: prayed every Saturday morning at 9.40am.

Catholic Women's League: The next meeting will be at 7:00pm Monday 8 Feb, in the Church Hall. This will be a business meeting with prayers.

Bible Sharing Group: This group meets on a Tuesday from 1pm-2pm in the church hall. All are welcome.

Divine Mercy Prayer Group: The next meeting will be on Thursday 11th February, at 7:00pm, in the Church.

Prayer Group Meeting: Next meeting of the Prayer Group will meet again on Tuesday 23rd Feb at 6:45 pm to continue our exploration of different ways to pray the Rosary.

Fr Peter in Lourdes: Fr Peter will be away in Lourdes this week, attending the Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage Directors Conference and Planning Meeting for 2016, as well as celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Thursday and he will be back on Tuesday 16th February. Fr lee Barrett will be here next Sunday Morning for Mass.

Ministers of Holy Communion Training Course: Thanks to those who have volunteered to be commissioned for this Minister. The meetings will be held on 10th and 17th March, 7pm-9pm and Saturday 19th March at 10am-4.30pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington.

Ash Wednesday Mass: At St Robert's Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am. There will also be a Service of Word and Communion at 7pm. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at both the Mass and the Evening Service. *There will also be a 12 noon Mass at St Bede, Bedlington.*

Programme for Lent: A full programme for Lent has been printed, outlining what is happening in both St Robert's and St Bede's, Bedlington for the six weeks of Lent. Copies of these are now available at the back of Church.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: During Lent, We will mark CAFOD Family Fast Day on 19th February. Envelopes are available today and next week, if you wish to make a donation to CAFOD for their worldwide work.

Stations of the Cross: will be celebrated on a Thursday evening during Lent at St Robert's. If anyone wishes to lead, please sign up on notice.

Friday Soup Lunches: During Lent, we are having Soup Lunches on Fridays at 12 noon, and these will support CAFOD, and especially their work in Syria. The Syrian conflict has been going on for longer than the First World War! More than 250,000 have died, and more than 4,000,000 have fled Syria into neighbouring countries. We need to support those still in Syria facing terrible devastation and conflict. If you can help with the soup lunches, please sign the Rota in the Church porch.

Heating System There has been a leak on the large radiator behind the high altar, which has been the reason why there has been many strange gurgling sounds coming from our radiators for the last few months, which also resulted in low pressure on the system. A new radiator has been fitted this week, so hopefully the heating should be better although we do have problem with one of the electrical trips for the fans on the radiators which we will be having checked very soon

Sound System: The Loop System had stopped working so engineers have been out to check it and want us to keep them advised, as we may need to have a new Loop System amplifier. At the same time, they have given us the strange looking black stand at the front of Church, which is actually a new set of speakers for the 'normal' sound system. The engineers say that where our current speakers are located in church is not the best – they are too high – but apparently we are restricted where we can locate them because of the Church being a listed building! The engineers want us to try out this new system for a week or so to see if it's any better!

Lay Leaders Course: Two Parishioners have volunteered to attend this course. This is the last call for anyone else who thinks they could commit to this Ministry.

Baptism Preparation: The Baptism Catechist books have now arrived. Those who are involved are invited to call to the Presbytery to collect and we will call a meeting in a few weeks time to see how to progress.

Patrick Smith is holding his second fundraising event for his M10 Mission to Mexico this summer. The event is a meal at the Manzil Indian Restaurant on Monday 15th February. Cost of ticket £12.50, meal will start at 7.30pm sharp. Tickets available after evening Mass from Patrick or on 516433. Thank you for your support.

Changes to Newsletter: Following a meeting of those who 'do' the newsletter, we are going to try and change our Newsletter over the next few weeks to a larger format, hopefully larger print, with extra items eg Prayers for the Sick, and those who have died, Anniversaries. If there is anyone you know who would like their name adding to a sick list, ask them first please. Anniversary names and dates can be emailed to Mary Beaton fmbeaton@btinternet.com The change in format and style will hopefully allow for more room for items which currently get chopped down to fit into a small space!!

Pope John Paul II Award: We have been reminded this week by the Deanery Coordinator that we still need to appoint a Parish Representative for the Pope John Paul II Award. Is there a willing volunteer? We already have a couple of young people doing this Award through our Schools, but we do need a Parish Coordinator as soon as possible.

Christian Aid Spring Evening will be on Saturday 19th March at 7pm in the Methodist Hall. This year the talk will be about the Philippines, one of the theme countries for this year's Christian Aid Week. The evening includes a Filipino style meal, all for only £7! Tickets available from Gerry Harber

Calling all gardeners: Plants are needed for the Christian Aid plant stall on 14th May. Can you help in any way? Thank you in anticipation.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Booking forms are now available. There is a special section for any pilgrims who need nursing care as the pilgrimage offers a service of care for those who are sick and unable to travel on their own – forms from Fr. Peter. There is also a special section for all young people aged 16-25 years of age and a special price of £499.00. Last year there were 160 young people from across the diocese; it is a great way for our young people to get to know others from around the diocese.

Society of St Vincent de Paul: The SVP does great work internationally, nationally and even locally. Our SVP Conference needs more help with people committed to keeping the vision of Frederik Ozanam and St Vincent de Paul going. The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 10th February after the Ash Wednesday evening Service in the presbytery. Why not come along?

Helping Refugees Medicines like Calpol, Savlon, Cough mixtures, paracetamol etc are all still urgently needed in the Dunkirk camp for refugees. If you help with this appeal, please hand to any of the SVP - Gerry, Eileen, David, Stevie or Maura.

Women's World Day of Prayer: The Service this year will be held at St James Church on 4th March at 2.00pm followed by refreshments. Service prepared by Christian Women of Cuba theme Receive Children Receive me. Choir Practice sessions are on 12th February 11am and 26th February at 11am at St James' Church.

Vocations Enquirers Evenings: The monthly evening for Vocations are held at St Mary's Cathedral, Wednesday 6.30pm, on the following dates Feb 24th – April 27th – May 25th – June 22nd - July 20th, Sept 21st – Oct 19th - Nov 23rd – Dec 21st. Also Deanery Vocations Reflections are being held and further details are on the poster on the noticeboard.

The Source: The Source is a monthly meeting for our young people from across the diocese. Run by YMT and held at St Mary's Cathedral on the first Wednesday of the month and there is a Deanery bus that goes every month, providing free transport there and back. There is a video about the Source <https://youtu.be/vRwoM9MyWU8> or on the Facebook page for St John's Church, Annitsford ... and if anyone is interested and wants to go, let Fr. Peter know and he will contact the people who make the arrangements.

'Life Teen Group' Changes: If any parents have any thoughts, or indeed if there are any enthusiastic parishioners willing to take on this important role in the parish, please speak to Michael Quincey, (Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council), to Fr. Peter. We do not want the group to just disappear, but want the group to continue to meet and discuss their faith. Any thoughts would be appreciated.

St Robert's Girl Guides are looking for a **new leader to run the guide unit** as the current lead guider is no longer able to commit to the unit and they also need a **unit administrator**. For further information please contact Vicki Conroy 07834825572. Vicki be in the church hall after 9am mass on Sunday if anyone would like to discuss these roles. Further information on the guiding association can be found at www.girlguiding.org.uk.

Works to our Property: Work to the church roof is scheduled for the Summer. Although the diocese seems to be allowing us to carry out work to refurbish the Church Hall, we have to have a meeting with the County Conservation Officers on 23rd February, to make sure we are not doing anything incorrectly. The diocese is also planning some work to the Presbytery, but once again waiting for permission from the Conversation officer and Heritage England for the go ahead.