

Masses, Devotions and Services

Sunday 6th March 4th Sunday of Lent	9.00am Mass	Helen & Douglas Cone
	11.00am Mass	Davison family
	6.00pm Mass	Mrs Cole
Monday 7th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.15am Mass	No Intention
Tuesday 8th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	8.40am Adoration 9.15am Mass	No Intention
Wednesday 9th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.15am Mass 9.45am Adoration 11.30am FUNERAL SERVICE	Margaret Costello CAROLINE ISABEL ANGUS
Thursday 10th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	8.40am Adoration 9.15am Mass 7.00pm Stations of the Cross	Raymond and Margaret Taylor-Walker
Friday 11th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	9.15am Mass	Anne Haines
Saturday 12th March <i>Weekday of Lent</i>	10.00am Mass 10.30am Stations of the Cross 11am—12pm Confessions	Jean Craig
Sunday 13th March 5th Sunday of Lent	9.00am Mass	Pat Butler
	11.00am Mass	Tom Hourigen
	6.00pm Mass	Peter Onono

Ministries Next Week: Sunday 13th March

	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Readers	T. Walker, D. Marr	B. Lewins, J. Ratcliffe	C. Rich, Chris Smith
Extraordinary Ministers	A. Wilson, K. Wilson, J. Conroy	D. Shearer, V. Shearer, E. Dixon	L. Cole, A. Smith, B. Cole
Altar Servers	E. Boyle, I. Golding-Douglas	P. Glancey	P. Smith, O. Bruce
Children's Liturgy	As advised		

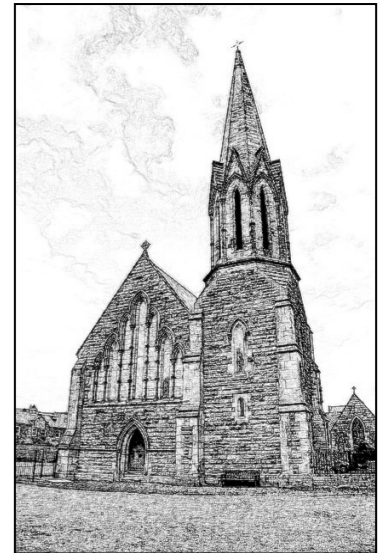
Deanery Telephone Numbers

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 - www.rcdhn.org.uk
 St Bede's Parish, Bedlington - www.stbedesbedlington.co.uk
 St Robert's First School, Morpeth - www.st-roberts.northumberland.sch.uk
 St Bede's Primary School, Bedlington - www.st-bedes.northumberland.sch.uk
 St Benedict's Middle School, Ashington - www.st-benedicts.northumberland.sch.uk
 St Benet Biscop Academy, Bedlington - www.stbenetbiscop.co.uk

The Parish of Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth

Parish Priest: Father Peter Stott
 Retired Priest Father James Doherty, also in residence
St Robert's Presbytery, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF
 ☎ (Tel) 01670 513 410
 ✉ (Email) morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk
www.strobertsmorpeth.com



6th March 2016 - 4th Sunday of Lent

“Merciful Like the Father”.

The logo for this Jubilee Year of Mercy contains the words “Merciful like the Father” and there are echoes of this in today's readings.

The gospel of the Prodigal Son, or the parable of the Forgiving Father as it is sometimes known, shows the loving mercy of God the Father in action. In all we do, we too are meant to show the same love.

The younger son thinks only about his inheritance, as though he wished his father already dead. All the same, the father is eagerly on the watch, and forgets all his dignity to run and welcome his returning son. To persuade the elder son to join in the party, the father, goes out into the field to urge the angry and jealous elder brother to join in.



There may be times in our families when there is tension, greed, jealousy or anger, as in today's gospel. But the Father of the two sons reminds us that we have to overcome these emotions, and show forgiveness and mercy to everyone.

The principal message of the parable is that we can count on God's forgiveness, whatever we do. Forgiveness and love is the Father's whole motivation...

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us imitate the message of today's gospel.

The Holy Father's Intentions For March

Universal Intention: Families in Difficulty: that families in need may receive the necessary support and that children may grow up in healthy and peaceful environments.

Missionary Intention: Persecuted Christians: that those Christians who, on account of their faith, are discriminated against or are being persecuted, may remain strong and faithful to the Gospel, thanks to the incessant prayer of the Church.



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 who are in hospital, hospice or nursing homes. Those who have died recently including **Father John Campbell** retired of Carntyne Nursing Home, Hexham who died on Sunday; for **Caroline (Carrie) Angus** of Challoners Gardens whose Funeral Service will be celebrated on Wednesday; for **Agnes McCabe** of Bedlington whose Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 14th March; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time. *(to add names to this list of anniversaries please send in names)*

Offertory Collection 21st February
Total Offertory - £1177.80- THANK YOU

Mothering Sunday

Today we offer a word of thanks and a prayer for all the "mothers" in our lives. The Deanery Evangelization Team have provided a small gift for all the ladies of the parish today.

Offertory Boxes

The new Offertory envelopes are available in the porch and we ask you to pick up yours as soon as possible. If you are a new parishioner and would like a box then please take a spare box and print your name, address and Box number on the sheet provided. If you have changed your address, please write the new information on the sheet next to your number. If you usually have a box and it is not there please contact Elizabeth Dixon 516584.

Holy Places Special Collection

There will be a special collection on Sunday 20th March for the Catholic Community in the Holy Land (Holy Places Collection). This collection qualifies for Gift Aid through the diocese, so envelope users please use the envelope provided in your box. Thank you.



Tea and Coffee

Tea and Coffee is served after morning Masses every Sunday in the Church Hall. Everyone is welcome.

Parish Newsletter

Please e-mail items for the newsletter to Marian at marian@marianbell.f2s.com or to the parish office on morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk or drop a note in at the Presbytery, by 12pm on a Thursday.

Prayer Group Meeting

The next meeting Prayer Group will meet again on Tuesday 24th March at 6:45 pm to continue our exploration of different ways to pray the Rosary

Bible Sharing Group

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

Stations of the Cross

We will pray the Stations of the Cross on a Thursday evening and a Saturday morning during Lent at St Robert's. If anyone wishes to lead, please sign up on notice.

St Cuthbert's Care – Lenten Alms

During Lent, we support St Cuthbert's Care through our Lenten Alms. Donations can be paced in envelopes and handed in to the collections or to the Presbytery.

Thursday Lenten Discussion Groups

The next session is on Thursday 3rd March at 2pm in the Church Hall.

First Holy Communion Prayer Partners

Thanks to those who have already signed up to be prayer partners for the children. Anyone else willing, please sign up at the back of church.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

We have Confessions available every Saturday morning from 11.00am—12noon. In this Year of Mercy, why not try to get along and experience the mercy of the Father in Reconciliation.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage in this Year of Mercy, takes place from Friday 29th July – Friday 5th August flying direct from Newcastle Airport. Posters, Booking Forms and all information is available on the Diocesan webpage and the pilgrimage webpage www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk. The pilgrimage has places available for sick pilgrims who require Nursing Care, a Jumbulance is available for overland travel for those unable to fly; there is a youth section for all aged 16 – 25 (special price of £499) and there are booking forms for all the hotel pilgrims who wish to travel. Booking Forms and further information also available from Tangney Tours on 01732 886666 or Pilgrimage Director Fr Peter Stott 01670 513410.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Database

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is looking for someone who knows how to create a database in Microsoft Access, from a database which is currently using Lotus Approach, which is now quite old!! If anyone can help, or anyone knows someone who could help, please speak to Fr Peter.

Christian Aid Spring Evening

The Christian Aid Spring Evening will be held 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.

Priesthood and Diaconate Vocations

We need to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood, in the hope that one day there will be more priests for our diocese, but we need also to promote prayers and some thinking about the Vocation to becoming 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.



St. Robert's Brownies

If any girls would like to join St. Robert's Brownies we anticipate a few spaces coming up this summer as older girls move up to Guides. Brownies is for girls aged 7-10 yrs. But you can join the waiting list at any age and add siblings too. We run Brownies in the church hall on a Tues 6-7.15pm. To register and join the waiting list please log onto www.girlguiding.org.uk click on parents, register your daughter then select 1st Morpeth Brownies, Tues 6-7.15pm St. Robert's.



Preparing for Baptism

For Baptism, one parent of the child to be baptised must be a baptised Catholic. Mass on a Saturday Evening or a 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, Bedlington and St Robert's Church. Parents are asked to advise Fr Peter which date they will attend the course. 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 Course is 14th April at St Bede's, Bedlington.

CAFOD

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting CAFOD during Lent. So far we have raised **£537.71** from the Friday Soup lunches. Please remember that the Government is doubling any donations that CAFOD receive during Lent, so if you wish to make any further donations, there are CAFOD envelopes available at the back of church.



Parish Youth Worker

We are currently in discussions with the Mustard Tree Trust and our Diocesan Youth Services about how we replace our Parish Youth Worker, so that we can continue to provide a service for our young people. If anyone is aware of someone who is looking for a part time role as a Parish Worker, who would also do some chaplaincy work in the local middle and high schools with other Mustard Tree Trust employees, please speak to Fr Peter or Michael Quincey as soon as possible.

Invitation to Youth Ministry Meeting

All who are concerned about how we can support young people on their faith journey are invited to a co-workers' gathering at the Emmaus Youth Village on Sunday March 13th 3.00pm – 5.00pm. Please let YMT know if you are coming on 01207 592244 or admin@ymt.org

World Youth Day

Pope Francis has invited young people from across the world to join him in Krakow, Poland in July 2016. Along with the World Youth Day programme there will be an opportunity to experience the local area around Krakow including a visit to Auschwitz. The estimated cost of the Pilgrimage is £899. More information and a downloadable registration form can be found at www.ymt.org/wyd16.html

Year of Mercy Prayer Station

St Robert's School children are creating Prayer Stations for the seven Acts of Mercy during Lent. There will be a Prayer Station for the "Hungry and Thirsty" in the entrance to church this week, please read the prayers and take home a "placemat" to share with others at home.

Parish Website

We would like to improve some of the pages of the parish website, but need someone who needs to know how to use the "wordpress" software. If anyone can help please speak to Fr Peter as soon as possible.

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 16th March at 7.30 p.m. in the presbytery. New members would be welcome. Why not come along?

Thanks from the Russian Orthodox Sisters:

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation of decision to kindly grant us the permission to visit your parish. We heartily thank the Lord for your parishioners' hospitality and precious help during the visit of our sisters. A possibility to visit was truly a blessing because it enabled us to continue our work. We have raised **£1,408.00** at St Bede's, Bedlington and St Robert's, Morpeth on our recent visit. We are very grateful to you and your parishioners for your great kindness, generosity, support and hospitality! Let us assure you that you are always welcome here at St. Elisabeth Convent. With deep gratitude and love in Christ, Sister Helen, Olga, Nina and Sisters of St Elisabeth Convent

New Cards

There is a selection of Mass cards for those who have died and First Holy Communion Cards at the back of the Church. Price is labelled.

Update on Building Projects

Church roof, mortar and drainage. The project team are working on a detailed plan for the "Heritage Lottery Fund" (HLF) which is due to be submitted next month. This step would begin the delivery phase and is estimated to cost over £140,000. HLF need to be satisfied with our plans and proposals before they can confirm award of the grant. Our hope would be to begin work in July if the delivery phase is approved.

Presbytery and Church Hall. The buildings are Grade II* listed and require Listed Building Consent for any changes. There are several structural problems and essential repairs in the presbytery and we have long standing intentions to renovate the church hall. Following a site visit by the Conservation Officer, which went well, we will now prepare and submit detailed plans for approval. We were told approvals could take up to 8 weeks from submission and we would start work on the hall once this is given. The Presbytery work being more extensive and plans less well developed will take longer.

Car Parking

It is important that everyone using our Parish Car Park do so in such a way that it will not cause upset or offence to others. We hope that everyone will park sensibly, especially by not blocking access roads, as in emergencies this could cause unnecessary delays.

Service of Reconciliation

There will be a Service of Reconciliation in Wednesday 16th March at 7.00pm at St Bede's Church, Bedlington and a Service of Reconciliation on Thursday 17th March at St Wilfred's Church, Blyth. There will be priests available for Confession at both Services. Everyone welcome.

Thursday Class Mass

On Thursday Morning Reception Class and Year 3 will be present at Mass at St Robert's Church. On Thursday 17th March, Years 1 and 2 will be present.

Preparation for Confession and Holy Communion

The children will meet on Thursday 10th March at 3.30pm in the Church Hall for their next catechesis session and then again on Sunday 13th March at 9am Mass for a short liturgy on Reconciliation. Our children will be celebrating their First Confession on Thursday 17th March at 3.30pm on Thursday 17th March. Please keep them in your prayers.

