

St Robert of Newminster,
Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF.
Tel. (01670) 513410



Parish Priest: Fr Lawrence Jones
 Retired Priest in Residence: Fr Jim Doherty

www.strobertsmorpeth.com

*St Robert's is celebrating a year of the Eucharist
 from Corpus Christi 2011 to Corpus Christi 2012*

Sunday 19th Feb 2012 7th Sunday of the Year
PLEASE PICK UP MISSALETTE FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH

	<u>Masses</u>	<u>Intentions</u>	
Sunday	19 th 7 th Sunday of the Year 9:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Harry & Margaret Bell Mary & George Armstrong Deceased Members of the Cole Family	
Monday	20 th 9:15am	Tony Syron	
Tuesday	21 st 9:15am	John Devitt	
Wednesday	22 nd Ash Wednesday 9:15am 7:00pm	Des McLaughlin People of the Parish	
Thursday	23 rd 9:15am	Cathy Walker, John Bell and D McLaughlin	
Friday	24 th 9:15am	Neville Gray	
Saturday	25 th 10:00am	Denis Richter	
Sunday	26 th 1 st Sunday of Lent 9:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Des McLaughlin Stanislawa Iwaszko Dec. Member of the Onono Family	
<u>Sunday 26th February 2012 1st Sunday of Lent</u>			
Mass	9:00am	11:00am	7:00pm
Readers	W. McMillan M. Murray	B. Cudd J. Kelly	D. Strachan C. Reardon
Eucharistic Ministers	J. Laidlaw P. Baker D. Shuttleworth	E. Dixon G. Davison B. McGurk	S. Smith L. Cole B. Cole
Altar Servers	J. Dowd E. Boyle A. Johnson S. Bambrick	A. Turnbull D. Willis P. Glancey	C. Rich B. Gosling D. Smith
Children's Liturgy	Leader Helen	Companion Sylvie	

Confessions: Wednesday 6.30pm to 7.00pm. Saturday 11pm to 12 noon

The Angelus: Recited Monday to Friday at 9.00am.

Morning Prayer: Monday to Friday at 9:00am. **Rosary:** Saturday 9.40am.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of Mass on Thursday until 10:30am and from the end of Mass on Saturday until 12 noon.

Stations of the Cross on Friday morning after Mass.

Last Sunday's collection was: £1,035.86.

CTS Pamphlets. There are lots of new pamphlets available in the rack at the back of Church.

New arrangements for Holy Communion. Starting from 9:00am Mass today, the Eucharistic Minister distributing Holy Communion will go up to the Choir Loft after those in the main body of the Church have received Holy Communion. At this time there will be a period of silence for contemplation and prayer. If you are in the Choir Loft please remain there to receive Holy Communion. **Please note:** the Precious Blood will not be taken upstairs.

Notice for 11:00am Mass. The refrain for the Gloria is: "Glory, glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest, and on earth, and on earth peace, peace to people of good will."

Children's Liturgy Meeting. Father Lawrence would like the liturgy team to get together for a short meeting on Wednesday 7th March at 7:30pm followed by a social and get together.

Northumberland County Scouts - Crimea Explorer Belt 2012. Chris Rich, Daniel Smith and Andrew Scott are taking part in an expedition to the Crimea during the summer. As part of their fundraising activities they are collecting any unwanted jewellery (including odd earrings, damaged chains, watches and costume jewellery, etc.), any old/new UK/foreign coins and notes and any old mobile phones for recycling. Please place any items that you wish to donate in the box in the church porch. Many thanks.

Christian Aid Spring Evening. The Christian Aid Spring Evening provides an opportunity to learn something about the issues affecting third world countries and enjoy a meal with the flavour of the country concerned. This year's talk is about Sierra Leone – the theme country for Christian Aid week in May. It will be held in the Methodist Church Hall next Saturday (25th February) at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 Tickets £5 on sale after Mass today or from Gerry Harber (517829).

Music for Holy Week. If you are interested in helping please come to a meeting in the presbytery on Tuesday 13th March at 7.00pm. Please note the change of date. .

Sunday Morning Coffees. A new rota is being produced. Thanks to all who have volunteered to do this very important parish service. However, some volunteers cannot continue so we are looking for help. Help is needed for both the morning Masses. All welcome. Please contact Elizabeth Dixon 516584, or Elphin Conroy 503419. We would also welcome volunteers, especially gentlemen, as soon as possible to help set out the hall on a Sunday morning. If you could help setting out the tables and chairs please come to the hall for 8:45am, many hands make light work. Thank you in anticipation.

"The Source" Weekend. An event for young people aged year 9+. Those who recently took part in the Confirmation course are especially encouraged to take part in this weekend at the Youth Village (20-22nd April). For more information please see the flyers on the table at the back of church.

"FLAME" National Youth Congress 2012. Thousands of young Catholics from year 10 age upwards are invited to participate in this event, at Wembley Area on Saturday 24th March, which will offer them the very best of the Catholic Youth Ministry (CYM) of England and Wales. The CYM want to set young Catholics' hearts on fire with messages of hope, faith, challenge, justice and leadership in adversity. There will be music to animate participation in the liturgy and a dynamic atmosphere of joy and participation. The structure of the day is provided by the 3 Olympic values of respect, friendship and excellence linked to our Catholic faith. . Please think about attending this wonderful celebration. **Look for details on the parish website at www.strobertsmorpeth.com and @ cymfed.org/congress/flame/2012.** The Diocese has arranged a train with 7 carriages to take young Catholics to this event. It leaves Newcastle at approximately 7:15am for the 10:00am start, and will arrive back in Newcastle at 10:30pm. The total cost of transport and attendance will be £59 but the parish will pay half. Fr. Lawrence will be going if anyone is interested. We will need a few adults as well to accompany those under 18. Fr Lawrence needs to know by Tuesday morning if you wish to attend. There is a list at the back of church for you to sign up or give him a ring by Tuesday morning.

Altar Servers. As part of the on-going formation of our Altar Servers there will be a training day on Sunday 11th March beginning with lunch at 12:30pm and finishing with Solemn Benediction at 4:00pm (Benediction is open to everyone in the Parish)

SVP Cake & Book Stall. Today in the Church Hall after morning Masses. Please support Andrew in his missionary work in Tanzania.

Womens' World Day of Prayer At Morpeth Methodist Church, Howard Terrace Friday 2nd March 2pm. Theme – “Let Justice Prevail” by the Christian Women of Malaysia. Choir members needed, rehearsals 2pm 17th & 24th Feb in the Methodist Church. Full rehearsal of Readers & Choir members 10am 2nd March. Men are also very welcome at this service.

Hidden Houses of Prayer. In the spirit of Bishop Seamus' vision for the Diocese we are trying to enhance our spirituality as a Parish by becoming more prayerful. Kathryn Turner, the Diocesan Promoter of Spiritual Formation, has suggested “Hidden Houses of Prayer” as a good way of supplementing our Parish Prayer activities. The idea is that those who are housebound and no longer able to join us in Parish Services can still include themselves in our spiritual life. These hidden houses will replace the now lost communities of prayer that were so active in the past. They will address the prayer needs of our parish, town, country and world. We ask that people commit themselves to a regular time of prayer. We will send out prayer cards and intentions each month. You will receive a holding cross to help you focus on this special aspect of our spiritual life. If you would like to take part, or if you know someone who is housebound and would be willing to take part please speak to Fr. Lawrence or Ruth Higginbottom.

Jitegeme School in Tanzania. A musical evening and auction will be held in aid of the school in the Conservative Club on Friday 9th March.

A MESSAGE FOR LENT FROM FR LAWRENCE

Dear Friends,

Lent begins this Wednesday. It is a time of renewal in our spiritual lives. We try to focus more on God and what he wants to do in our lives. It is a retreat for the whole Church. Every member of the Church is invited to participate and experience God's grace at this “favorable time”. As the Christian community of St Robert's parish we too are invited to take part. As Lent approaches I want to offer you all a number of opportunities to participate in what we could call a “parish retreat”. There will be a variety of initiatives taking place. I urge you to get involved in at least one of them. The culmination of Lent is of course Easter and in particular the Easter Vigil which will be celebrated at 8.00pm on Saturday 7th April. Put this in your diary now. It is the most important celebration in the Church's year and I want to encourage as many of you as possible to take part. This year we will be welcoming some new members into the Catholic Church and they will be Confirmed and receive their First Holy Communion at this Mass. Please support them by coming to the Vigil and remember to pray for them during Lent.

Can I also suggest that, if you are able, you make a special effort to come to Mass on a weekday. Also, I want to encourage more people to take part in Morning Prayer (9.00am Monday to Friday). Every Thursday morning there is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of Mass until 10.30am. On Saturday morning there is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10.30am to 12 noon. Why not take a few minutes out of your shopping schedule to come and spend a few moments in silent prayer before the Lord. On Palm Sunday – 1st April, there will be a period of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of 11am Mass throughout the rest of the day until Benediction at 6.45pm. There is a long list of Lenten Initiatives below so there's plenty there to help you take part in this joyful season of renewal. I wish you are very holy Lent.

Fr Lawrence Jones

Ash Wednesday. *Mass and distribution of ashes at 9.15am and 7.00pm*. It is a Day of Fasting and Abstinence.

Stations of the Cross- every Monday evening at 6.30pm in church. Also, immediately after Mass on Friday mornings. We will need volunteers to help out with these. You can of course come along and make your own Stations of the Cross during the day. The church is usually open every day from 8.15am to 5.00pm. You will find a pile of different versions of the Stations at the back of church. Please feel free to use them.

Lenten Lunch every Friday – soup and a bun – from 12 noon to 1.00pm. The idea is that the money you save by coming to lunch is donated to CAFOD. It's a wonderful way of combining fasting and almsgiving. We will begin with the Angelus at 12 noon and a CAFOD prayer. We will need volunteers to cook the soup. This year the government to double whatever donation you give

Saints – helping us today. A six session DVD course exploring: St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Benedict, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Patrick, St. Ignatius of Loyola and St Catherine of Sienna, showing how the age-old wisdom and teaching of the Saints can be a very practical help today. Starts this Thursday 23rd Feb at 7:00pm in the Church Hall beginning with St. Therese of Lisieux. It will be repeated every Tuesday morning, after Mass at 10:00am, beginning 6th March. For more details go to the parish website or visit www.faihf.org and click on Saints.

“Walk with Me” booklets - A journey through Lent – Renewing the Grace of our Baptism. £1 each, on the table in the porch. A meditation for each day lent – very popular throughout the country.

“Walk with Me” Calendar for Lent 2012. Free copies for the children, on the table in the porch.

“The Gospel of Mark”, (The Good News Version), £1 each, on the table in the porch. Remember, this year is the year of St Mark.

“My Day by Day”. This contains the Mas readings for each day of Lent, £1 each, on the table in the porch.

“Bible Alive”. This contains a meditation for each day of Lent, £1.95 each, on the table in the porch.

“A Candle for Easter” £11 each – Sign up at the back of Church if you would like one.

Lenten Alms – two good causes:

CAFOD. The CAFOD Fast Day is Friday 2nd March, green envelopes available at the back of Church, but the CAFOD fund will remain open throughout Lent because this year, to honour the 50th anniversary of CAFOD, the Government has decided to match every penny you give – that will double whatever contribution you make. You can also support CAFOD by taking part in the Lenten Lunch every Friday between 12:00 and 1:00pm.

St. Cuthbert's Care Lenten Appeal. This year proceeds will go towards the Alan Shearer Activity Centre: a specialist facility designed for stimulating children and young adults with profound disabilities and sensory impairments. This is the only provision of its kind in our region and last year St Cuthbert's made the commitment to offer its facilities completely free of charge. This is a tremendous support for families with disabled children but it means that St Cuthbert's Care must raise almost £100,000 each year to cover the annual running costs. Please consider supporting St Cuthbert's Care through Lenten Alms giving, any donation, however small, is much needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for supporting St Cuthbert's Care. You can find out more about at www.stcuthbertscare.org or www.alansheareractivitycentre.org.uk Please put your donation in an envelope marked “St Cuthbert's Care” and put it in the offertory collection.

Jesus: His home, His journey, His challenge. This will run for 5 weeks during Lent beginning on Wednesday 29th February. Our imagination plays a vital role in our Christian faith. How we imagine Jesus has a huge bearing on the outworking of our prayer, service and discipleship. But how we do this is shaped by our understanding of His homeland and the unique setting in which Jesus lived out His life and fulfilled His vocation as the Messiah. This course is a unique opportunity to explore these things with the help of a biblical specialist, the Rev Dr David Bryan, who is the Director of Studies Lindisfarne Regional Training Partnership. David is a specialist in biblical studies, and has spent many years researching the background to the life and ministry of Jesus, including a couple of extensive visits to Israel and Palestine. For more information please pick up a leaflet at the back of church. Fill in the registration form and hand it to Fr Lawrence or deliver it to the presbytery.

Thanks – Fr Lawrence would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who sent greetings and gifts for his 50th Birthday. “The years between fifty and seventy are the hardest. You are always being asked to do more, and you are not yet decrepit enough to turn them down.” T.S. Eliot.