

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 26th Feb 2012 1st Sunday of Lent
PLEASE PICK UP MISSALETTE FROM THE BACK OF CHURCH

	<u>Masses</u>	<u>Intentions</u>	
Sunday	26 th 1 st Sunday of Lent 9:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Des McLoughlin Mrs Staislawia Iwaszko Dec Members of Onono family	
Monday	27 th NO MASS TODAY		
Tuesday	28 th 9:15am	Bobby Oliver	
Wednesday	29 th 9:15am	Bridget Davison	
Thursday	1 st St. David 9:15am	Gerald Thomas	
Friday	2 nd 9:15am	Nan duffy-Currid	
Saturday	3 rd 10:00am	Ivy Campbell	
Sunday	4 th 2 nd Sunday of Lent 9:00am 11:00am 7:00pm	Des McLoughlin Dec Davison Family	
<u>Sunday 4th March 2012 2nd Sunday of Lent</u>			
Mass	9:00am	11:00am	7:00pm
Readers	K. Wilson A. Gorman	L. Flinders J. Ratcliffe	T. Edwards G. Sutcliffe
Eucharistic Ministers	M. Dewar D. Dewar A. Donaldson	A. Dawes P. Dawes C. Smith	P. Brown M. Brown J. Johnson
Altar Servers	J. Laux T. Boyle B. Donaldson D. Johnson	A. Turnbull D. Willis P. Glancey	P. Rule L. Brett P. Smith
Children's Liturgy	Leader Amy	Companion Ben	

Confessions: No Confessions on Wednesday. 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 Monday evening at 6.30pm and on Friday morning after Mass.

Last Sunday's collection was: £928.62.

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

New arrangements for Holy Communion. 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.

CWL - Meeting Monday 27th February at 7pm. Anne Swearman will speak on "The Golden Age of Northumbria". All visitors welcome.

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 get together.

Bereavement Support Group Meeting - There will be a meeting on 5th March at 6:30pm in the presbytery to discuss setting up a Bereavement Support Group in the Parish. Would all who have expressed an interest in this and anyone who is interested please come along.

Communications Meeting -- Several people expressed an interest in helping with the production of the Parish newsletter, possibly in a Parish Magazine and in the website. If you are one of those people, or if you are interested in helping in any of these, please come to a meeting on Tuesday 6th March at 6:30pm in the presbytery.

Thank you - A very big thank you to all who contributed to the Cake and Book stall last Sunday. £220 was raised – this equates to a month's living expenses for 2 in Tanzania. Andrew and Kelly.

A Musical Evening for Africa with Bombadinga - The Geordie Drummers who totally capture African sound and rhythms. Friday 9th March at the Conservative Club, Morpeth Town Centre 7 – 10pm. Also Chris Rich, Daniel Smith and Kathy Bainbridge (Folk singing) Cath Boden (Ukulele) and others. Light refreshments, drinks and auction of items that have been donated in aid of education for children in Tanzania.

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 theme is Sierra Leone. It will be held in the Methodist Church Hall on Saturday 25th February at 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 Tickets £5 on sale after Mass from next week or from Gerry Harber (517829).

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.

Music for Holy Week. If you are interested in helping please come to a meeting in the presbytery on Monday 19th March at 7.00pm in the presbytery. Pease note the change of date.

"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.

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 need 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.

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 3:45pm (Benediction is open to everyone in the Parish)

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.

Holy Land Pilgrimage – Fr Lawrence leaves very early on Monday morning for the Holy Land with 4 of our young parishioners and 20 more from around the diocese. He asks for your prayers.

LENT AT ST ROBERT'S

Fr Lawrence said last week: “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.”

The Purple Ribbon Campaign for Lent - Bishop Seamus writes: “The Diocesan Evangelisation Team has launched this campaign for Lent. The idea behind it is simple: we witness to our faith by wearing a purple ribbon. Wearing a ribbon of a particular colour is a statement in our society, so we are hoping that this will be taken up by parishes and schools especially secondary schools (all have been contacted through chaplains). When people ask the significance of the ribbon, it is an opportunity to explain that Lent is a time of penance and preparation for the Good News of

Christ's death and resurrection. We can perhaps explain why we call the day Christ died 'Good' Friday. This will hopefully lead on to a conversation about the Good News of God's love and forgiveness and our salvation through Christ's sacrifice of his life, not to mention the promise of eternal life. All good religious words that we take for granted until someone questions us! If we are open to encounters of this kind, we are actively evangelising those we speak to. "Always have an answer ready when you are called upon to account for your hope, but give it simply and with respect" 1 Peter 3:15. I encourage you to support this campaign in your parish"

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 - after 10am Mass on Tuesday and on Thursday at 7:00pm. For more details go to the parish website or visit www.faithcafe.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.

"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.