

Sick and Retired Priests Collection

There will be a Retiring Collection TODAY for the Sick and Retired Priests Fund that is maintained by the Northern Brethren Fund. This fund remains open until Sunday 29th April.

Little Sisters of the Poor Collection

There will be a Retiring Collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor, towards their work in caring for the elderly and sick of our diocese at St Joseph's Home, Westmorland Road, Newcastle. The collection will be on Sunday 23rd April. The Little Sisters do a wonderful work in looking after our elderly and especially priests of the diocese who are not well.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



We have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on a Friday morning before Mass and it is a wonderful time for quiet prayer. Please come along if you are able to. *[all we ask is that is that you come in quietly as voices can be easily heard in Church].*

Tea and Coffee after Mass

We have Tea and Coffee available after the Vigil Mass each Saturday evening and we invite you to come along and join in. Over the last couple of months the monies received from this have raised **£606.86** which is being donated to the Diocesan Lourdes Hospitalité to buy two specialised "proMoves" for transferring a sick pilgrim from wheelchair to bed or onto the airplane. For the next few weeks we will be supporting a family with disabled children in our area. More details about this next week.



Mass Intention Envelopes

It is very difficult receiving Offerings for Masses without an envelope. When requesting Mass Intentions please use the brown envelopes available in the Narthex and ensure the offerings are sealed inside, and the details completed on the front of the envelope. Thank you.

Rosary on the Coast

We are taking part in "Rosary on the Coast" on Sunday 29th April. Our Partnership will meet at St Bartholomew's Anglican Church at Church Point, Newbiggin and the Rosary will be prayed together outside, as an Act of Witness. You can find full details of this initiative on the website www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk/ and why we are doing this in the UK. We hope you will feel able to join in this great act of witness.



Northern Scripture Festival

The Northern Scripture Festival is being held on Saturday 12th May 2018, from 10am – 4.30pm at All Saints School, York. This is a day for Christians to experience the Bible afresh through informative and inspiring talks, workshops, and worship. Further details on the poster on noticeboards.

SPUC Petition

SPUC has launched a petition calling on the Prime Minister not to give parliamentary support to moves to decriminalise abortion. Such an action will take away from the unborn any remaining legal protection from abortion. A petition form is now in the Narthex... will you support this please?



Communications Group

The Partnership Development Group wishes to establish a group of people that will be responsible for 'Communications' across the partnership. We want people who have some skill and initiative to produce a regular Partnership Newsletter, and someone who can help develop and maintain a Partnership Website and Facebook page. Do you have any desktop publishing skills, word processing skills, or IT/web design skills that we can use to help develop the way we communicate with each other. Please contact your Parish Priest or speak to Fr Peter Stott or Fr Shaun Purdy for further information or if you can offer your skills.

Baptism Preparation

The next meeting for Baptism Preparation will be held on Thursday 19th April at 6.30pm at St Bede's. Any parents wishing to organise a Baptism should make an appointment to discuss this with Fr. Peter. 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. These meetings alternate between Morpeth and Bedlington. Parents should meet with Fr Peter to complete the paperwork. After the Baptism Course, the parents should then make an appointment to fix a date for a Baptism. PLEASE NOTE: dates are not usually given before the Baptism Preparation Meeting.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Booking forms for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes are now available from the Parish Office. The Pilgrimage is from 27th July to 3rd August, with a direct flight from Newcastle Airport. 2018 marks the 160th Anniversary of the Apparitions in Lourdes to St Bernadette. See Fr Peter for further details or for a Booking Form. The pilgrimage has a Youth Section for all 15 to 25 year olds. The pilgrimage also runs a special section for those who need care and assistance. Please speak to Fr Peter for further details.



Celebration of Marriage



Bishop Séamus will celebrate Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 5th May at 11.00am to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage.

He has invited each parish community to be represented by at least two couples, young or old, newly married or celebrating a significant anniversary. In addition, everyone is welcome to attend. 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.

CaFE Course on Our Lady

During May St Robert's, Morpeth will be holding a video Course from CaFE on Our Lady. This will begin on Thursday 10th May at 10am in the Church Hall at St Robert's. The first day will consist of two videos (a double session), so will be a little longer than normal, but then all other sessions will be on Thursday 17th, 24th and 31st May at 10am for about one hour.



Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 8th April	8.00pm Vigil Mass	People of Parish	2nd Sunday of Easter
Monday 10th April	10.00am Mass	Roy Miller	Annunciation of the Lord
Tuesday 11th April	10.00am	<i>Word & Communion Service</i>	Weekday of Easter
Wednesday 12th April	10.00am Mass	John & Sarah Sutherland	St Stanislaus
Thursday 13th April	10.00am	<i>Word & Communion Service</i>	Weekday of Easter
Friday 14th April	10.00am Mass	George & Ellen Arkle	Weekday of Easter
Saturday 15th April	5.30pm Vigil Mass	Cavanagh & Land families	3rd Sunday of Easter

Devotions this week

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Friday	9.20am - 9.50am
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Saturday	5.00pm - 5.15pm
The Rosary	Saturday	5.00pm

Please pray for:

- all who are sick, especially the housebound and those in hospital,
- all who have died,
- all whose anniversaries occur at this time



Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for April 2018

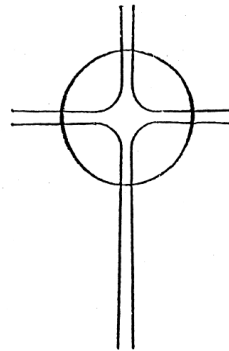
For those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters: That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.

"Immortal Diamond" Group

We are offering a series of sessions of group reflection and sharing based on Richard Rohr's book "Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self" (required reading). Group meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm, beginning on 25 April; at Our Lady and St Joseph's Parish House, New Hartley. If you are interested in this course, please contact; Mary McCullough on ' 01665 712247 or mary.mccullough@yahoo.co.uk

Helping our young people

A conference will take place on Saturday 12th May at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn to help parishes and partnerships engage with young people in their communities. The conference is for everyone who is concerned about our young people, for all catechists, and will offer inspiring examples of good practice. The conference fee is £10 and includes lunch. Further details are in the booking forms available in parishes, downloadable from www.ymt.org or contact admin@ymt.org



ST BEDE'S BEDLINGTON

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Parish Deacon: Rev Stephen Boulter

The story of St Thomas and his failure to believe Jesus could have appeared to the disciples, is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord, yet are asked to believe. So are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening?



In today's gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn't the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn't. He wasn't the sort of person that could pretend that he didn't have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives. There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks. Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap.

For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that doubt isn't the same thing as disbelief. Doubt can be a good thing even. Doubt means that we are still questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use to carve a mature faith. Belief isn't something we either have or haven't got ... belief is a process, and the end product of that process, is one's own spiritual self.

Second Sunday of Easter | Feast of Divine Mercy | 8th April 2018