

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

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Hogarth Partnership

St Anne, St Augustine, St Mary, St Osmund, Holy Family, St Teresa, St Thomas Aquinas, SS William & Francis De Sale

FoodBank: The Well:

46 East Green, West Auckland. DL14 9HJ. Opening times: Wednesday-Friday 9am - 3pm
Items may be left at the Foodbanks during their opening times or placed in St. Osmund's Church porch.

Please Pray for:

The sick of the Parish: Patrick Doherty, Nico Human, Alexandra Jüngst, Kate Konig, Nino Volpe, Bernadette Wyer, Patrick Heffernan, Hilary Fletcher, Mike Griffiths, Cecil Chin, Luca Gallucci, and Susan Hunton

Offertory

If you wish to make your donations directly to St. Osmund's. Bank account details are:

HSBC: D.H & N Gainford St. Osmund's.

Account No. 41164015.

Sort Code 40-34-18.

Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Details of our Parish Safeguarding Representative can be found on the notice board in the porch and the Parish Centre, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on [0191 2433305](tel:01912433305) or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Parish Council

A Finance Committee meeting and Parish Council meeting took place on Thursday 2nd May.

The minutes from the previous meeting in December were approved and can be seen on the notice board in the Parish Centre.



Month of the Holy Rosary

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: The Kingdom is worth every sacrifice

Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.'

St Osmund's will be open for Parish Mass on Tuesdays at 10.00am.

Sunday 13th October: 9.30am

Saturday 19th October: 6.30pm

Sunday 27th October: 9.30am

Saturday 2nd November: 6.30pm

Sunday 10th November: 9.30am

Children's Liturgy:

The will be a Children's Liturgy on Sunday 13th October

Peace for the people of Ukraine

We continue to pray earnestly for peace in Ukraine, joining the Holy Father in his consecration of Russia and Ukraine to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart – may her prayers bring a swift end to the conflict, and consolation to the bereaved and to the many thousands of refugees.

First Holy Communion

We will soon be beginning the preparation for those children who are due to celebrate the first Reconciliation and first Holy Communion during this school year. Application forms are available at the back of church, please do take one to complete, or to pass on. If you have any queries, please let Fr. Thomas know. The whole congregation can play their part in this preparation by praying for those who are making this important step in their journey with Christ. As S. Pius X said: "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven."



Harvest Celebration and Supper - Saturday 19th October Following 6.30pm Mass

A basket will be placed at the back of Church for dry food donations.

We will be supporting the Well and Barnard Castle TCR Hub.
Please see Flyer for items to donate

First reading Wisdom 7:7-11**I esteemed Wisdom more than sceptres or thrones**

I prayed, and understanding was given me;
 I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came to me.
 I esteemed her more than sceptres and thrones;
 compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
 I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer, for
 compared with her, all gold is a pinch of sand, and beside
 her silver ranks as mud.
 I loved her more than health or beauty, preferred her to
 the light, since her radiance never sleeps.
 In her company all good things came to me, at her hands
 riches not to be numbered.

Responsorial Psalm 89(90):12-17**Fill us with your love so that we may rejoice.**

Make us know the shortness of our life
 that we may gain wisdom of heart.
 Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
 Show pity to your servants.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
 we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
 Give us joy to balance our affliction
 for the years when we knew misfortune.

Show forth your work to your servants;
 let your glory shine on their children.
 Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
 give success to the work of our hands.

Second reading Hebrews 4:12-13**The word of God cuts more finely than a double-edged sword**

The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts
 like any double-edged sword but more finely: it can slip
 through the place where the soul is divided from the
 spirit, or joints from the marrow; it can judge the secret
 emotions and thoughts. No created thing can hide from
 him; everything is uncovered and open to the eyes of the
 one to whom we must give account of ourselves.

Gospel Acclamation Mt11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of
 heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the
 kingdom to mere children. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Mark 10:17-30**Give everything you own to the poor, and follow me**

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up,
 knelt before him and put this question to him, 'Good
 master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said
 to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but
 God alone. You know the commandments: You must not
 kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal;
 You must not bring false witness; You must not defraud;
 Honour your father and mother.' And he said to him,
 'Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.'
 Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said,
 'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you
 own and give the money to the poor, and you will have

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treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face
 fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a
 man of great wealth.

Jesus looked round and said to his disciples, 'How hard it
 is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of
 God!' The disciples were astounded by these words, but
 Jesus insisted, 'My children,' he said to them 'how hard it
 is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel
 to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man
 to enter the kingdom of God.' They were more
 astonished than ever. 'In that case' they said to one
 another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at them. 'For
 men' he said 'it is impossible, but not for God: because
 everything is possible for God.'

Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked him. 'We
 have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'I tell
 you solemnly, there is no one who has left house,
 brothers, sisters, father, children or land for my sake and
 for the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid a
 hundred times over, houses, brothers, sisters, mothers,
 children and land – not without persecutions – now in
 this present time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'

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Feast Days this Week

Monday 14th October: St Callistus

Tuesday 15th October: St Teresa of Avila

Wednesday 16th October: St Richard Gwyn, St Margaret Mary Alacoque

Thursday 17th October: St Ignatius of Antioch

Friday 18th October: St Luke

Saturday 19th October: Sys John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues and their Companions

The Cycle of Prayer**Prisoners and their Families**

especially on Prisoners Sunday (2nd Sunday on October)
 and in Prisons Week (2nd Week in October)

Background

Prisoner's week was a Catholic initiative begun in 1975
 by Bishop Victor Guazelli which has since ecumenical
 support and observance. It reflects the work of the
 Prison Advice and Care Trust which builds on its origins
 as the Bourne Trust — the Catholic Prisoner's Aid
 Society. The Sunday and the following week seek to
 focus attention not only on the needs of prisoners but
 on all those involved the field of prison care, prisoners
 families, victims of crime, prison staff and many
 volunteers.

Prayer

*Almighty and merciful God,
 to whom alone the secrets of the heart lie open,
 who recognize the just and make righteous the guilty,
 bear our prayers for your servants held in prison,
 and grant that through patience and hope
 they may find relief in their affliction
 and soon return unbindered to their own.*

Roman Missal

Reflection on the Readings**Engaging in serious conversation**

Jesus gave his full attention to people who turned up out of the blue, wanting to talk to him. In today's gospel, we are told that Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put the question to him, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' At this point in Mark's gospel, Jesus is on his way from Galilee to Jerusalem; this was the most important journey of his life. When the gospel says that Jesus was setting out on a journey, the evangelist was stating that Jesus intended to journey on further in the direction of Jerusalem. Although the unexpected arrival of this man with his burning question held Jesus back and prevented him from setting out on his planned journey, Jesus gave him his full attention. The present moment was all important to Jesus. What he had planned to do always took second place to the call that was made on him in the here and now. Jesus teaches us to take seriously the call of the present moment. This man who turned up out of nowhere made a call on Jesus, and Jesus responded, even though the call was unexpected and cut across what he had planned. The call of the present moment can take all kinds of unexpected forms for us, and, yet, it is there that the Lord very often meets us and we meet him.

The man made an unexpected call on Jesus, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus went on to make an unexpected call, on this man, 'Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor — then follow me.' There is no other person in Mark's gospel who receives this particular call from Jesus. This was a call for this man. This was his call of the present moment. This is what the Lord was asking of him here and now. Jesus' call on this man was as unexpected as this man's call on Jesus. The man's reaction to this call of Jesus shows how unexpected it was. Whereas he had run up to Jesus, breathless, with his burning question, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?', in response to Jesus' answer to his question we are told that 'his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.' His excited running to Jesus gave way to his sad walk away from Jesus. The call of the present moment was too much for him to bear, and the fruit of his refusal to hear it was a sadness of heart, a heaviness of spirit. He was attached to his possessions; he couldn't let go of them, even though letting go of them and throwing in his lot wholeheartedly with Jesus was his particular calling in life. In the words of today's second reading, the call of Jesus, the words Jesus addressed to him, were alive and active, cutting into him like a two-edged sword.

If we approach the Lord, as the man in the gospel did, if we seek out the Lord and enter into a personal relationship with him, he will call out to us too. His particular call to us will probably not be the precise call the man in today's gospel received. However, his call to us will have something in common with that man's call. It will always be a call to give ourselves more fully to the Lord's way, and to let go of whatever it is that is holding us back from living according to the values of the gospel that Jesus proclaimed and lived. His call to us will be a call to go and do whatever it is we need to do in order to walk in the Lord's way more wholeheartedly. There will be moments when we will hear that call very strongly — perhaps when we are least expecting to hear it. If the particular call that the Lord is addressing to us seems daunting, we can find reassurance in the Lord's words to his disciples in the gospel, 'everything is possible for God.' What we cannot do on our own, we can do with the Lord's help. The Lord's grace at work within us can empower us to live as he is calling us to live.

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New Lectionary

A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024. Visit the [CBCEW website \(cbcew.org.uk\)](http://cbcew.org.uk) to find out more.

Synod on Synodality

The second Rome session of the Synod on Synodality began on Wednesday after a two-day retreat for participants and a public penitential service. Speaking of the synodal process, Pope Francis said that it is not just a momentary event but a continuous journey, one in which the Church learns to better understand herself and discern the most effective ways to carry out her mission. He described the synodal Assembly as a "plural subject," where bishops, laypeople, priests, and consecrated men and women work together in service to God's mercy.

S. Teresa of Ávila and the Carmelites

As we drive into Darlington we rapidly come across 'Carmel Road', and many have had contact with Carmel College – both of these titles refer back to the Carmelite Convent which was formerly located in the West of the town. The Carmelite order emerges in the early 13th century, gaining its name from Mount Carmel in Palestine where groups had gathered to live lives based around prayer. While the first members were brothers, women were also attracted to the way of life and soon convents of nuns formed. A significant step was taken when a young lady, Teresa, entered the Carmelite convent in Ávila, Spain. We now know her as S. Teresa of Ávila, and her impact of the Carmelite order has been profound.

Born into a wealthy Spanish family, her mother raised her to have a deep practice of the faith. Her mother died when Teresa was only 11, and in her grief she turned more deeply to her devotion, especially to Our Lady. Despite this deep faith, she resisted the idea of a religious vocation until the age of 20, when she entered the Carmelite convent in the town. At the time the convent had developed a significant laxity, in particular allowing the silence of the cloister to be breached with numerous guests each day.

Teresa's personal life was one of significant mortification, which led to a great closeness with God, and powerful mystical experiences. As is often the case, these were misunderstood by many, with some suggesting a demonic origin. Teresa was cautious, but became convinced that these experiences were from God, and so should be accepted. Her personal mortification placed her at odds with her own community; eventually she found the situation to be unbearable, and founded a new 'reformed' convent – seeking to return to the original charism of the Carmelites. There was local opposition to her new convent, not least because of its poverty; however, with the support of the local Bishop it managed to remain active, and with time its good fruits won people over. A few years later, the community won papal approval for its renewed way of life.

The reformed practice spread and new houses were established in various parts of Spain. This included convents for nuns, but also attracted men who wanted to become friars. Among those men who were strongly influenced by Teresa was S. John of the Cross, who himself became a significant mystic, teacher, and preacher.

The success of the reformed Carmelite life which Teresa promoted was not universally welcomed, many members of the Order opposed the strictness causing a division within the order. Teresa was ordered to enter a 'voluntary' retirement in one of her convents – she obeyed the order, but this did not end the division. There continued to be attacks, often including accusations to the Inquisition, on her movement and the many associates which she had gained. Following appeals to the King of Spain and Pope Gregory XIII, a separate province for reformed Carmelites was created. Teresa was then able to continue the work of founding new convents, and promoting the deepening of Carmelite life within them.

Her legacy has been powerful, she kept a spiritual autobiography which gives great insight into her life and her own journey of faith. She also wrote 'The Way of Perfection' and the 'Interior Castle' which seek to assist others as they progress in faith. In particular she wrote about contemplative prayer, and the union of the soul with Christ. Her writings were recognised in 1970 when she was proclaimed as the first female Doctor of the Church. As we celebrate her, we also give thanks for the witness of her daughters and sons of the Carmelite Order, and pray that through her intercession they will continue and draw others closer to God. – Fr. Thomas.

Volunteer as a Marriage Preparation Course Facilitator

Are you a confident communicator? Would you like to help couples prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage? The Diocese is looking for volunteer couples and individuals who would like to train with Marriage Care in this exciting role. For more information, please contact Moira Graham at: marriagecare.tyneside@gmail.com

Roof Repairs

For some time now it has become increasingly clear that significant work needs to be undertaken on the roof of the church and presbytery. Following the various processes which the Diocese requires, we are now moving forward. We expect scaffolding to go up at the beginning of September, with the work beginning immediately. During this time access to the church for Mass will be maintained. Obviously this is a costly exercise, we are very fortunate that Miss Alice Eddleston's bequest remains available thanks to careful financial management over the years (often with this precise need in mind); however, we will be undertaking fundraising, and your generosity will help to preserve our beautiful church for future generations.

Tea & Coffee after Mass

Tea and coffee are available after Mass in the parish centre – all are most welcome to join this moment of fellowship as a parish.

Best wishes for a safe happy and healthy week ahead

