

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: gainford.stosmund@rcdbn.org.uk

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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 Wyrer, 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

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Christ tested us as we are

Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

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

Saturday 19th October: 6.30pm

Sunday 27th October: 9.30am

Saturday 2nd November: 6.30pm

Sunday 10th November: 9.30am

Saturday 16th November 6.30pm

Children's Liturgy:

The will be a Children's Liturgy on Sunday 27th 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

A final call for application forms for first Holy Communion. We will be beginning the preparation shortly, and so need the details of those wishing to be involved. 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.

Harvest Celebration and Supper - **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 Isaiah 53:10-11**If he offers his life in atonement, what the Lord wishes will be done**

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done.

His soul's anguish over, he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

Responsorial Psalm 32(33):4-55,18-20,22**May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second reading Hebrews 4:14-16**Our high priest is one who has been tempted in every way that we are**

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

Gospel Acclamation Jn14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Mark 10:35-45**The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink

you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

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Feast Days this Week

Tuesday 22nd October: St Pope John Paul II

Wednesday 23rd October: St John of Capistrano

Thursday 24th October: St Anthony Mary Claret

Friday 25th October: The six Welsh Martyrs and their Companions (Wales)

Saturday 26th October: Sts Chad and Cedd

The Cycle of Prayer**The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation**

especially on World Day of prayer for the Care of Creation (1 September) and on last Sunday in September or whenever Harvest Festivals are held.

Background

The Church has long celebrated the agricultural harvest. This intention also includes all human work. In all circumstances of human life there are choices to be made regarding the environment and our reverent stewardship of the God's gift of creation.

"The external deserts in the world are growing, because the internal deserts have become so vast. Therefore the earth's treasures no longer serve to build God's garden for all to live in, but they have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction" (Benedict XVI, homily at Inaugural Mass, 2005). "

Prayer

O Lord, good Father, who in your providence have entrusted the earth to the human race, grant, we pray, that with the fruits harvested from it we may be able to sustain life and, with your help, always use them wisely

Roman Missal

November – month of the Holy Souls

As November is soon to be upon us, there are forms for you to write the names of your departed loved ones. These will be kept on the altar throughout November to be included in our prayers for the departed. As usual, Masses during November will be Requiem Masses where possible

Friday 1st November – All Saints' Day, parish Mass at roam

Saturday 2nd November – All Souls' Day, parish Mass at roam

Reflection on the Readings

Willingness to Serve

The theme of the willing servant matches the missionary ideal perfectly. The ideal missionary is so devoted to the good of the people whom s/he is sent to serve that they plan both their activities and their life-style to match the real needs of those people. There is a huge effort of adaptation and inculturation involved, so that the Gospel can integrate into the lives of the local people. This goes well beyond the initial need to learn the local language, and the most effective symbols to use, so that the message of Jesus can be understood and loved.

In our world, where most of the celebrities highlighted in the media seem motivated by self-interest and self-assertion Jesus' call to total service seems unrealistic, and, one might think, unlikely to succeed. But today's Gospel offers the ideal of dedication to the service of others as fundamental to Christian discipleship. Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve" and this example must always be a guiding light for his followers. He went about doing good (cf. Acts 10:38), bringing justice, healing, forgiveness and kindness into people's lives. This is why those who believe in him are challenged to give themselves, their talents and their time, to the service of others without seeking any other reward than knowing that this is supremely worthwhile. The acted parable of the foot-washing at the Last Supper gives out the same message.

In practice what can we learn from our Lord's life and actions? He clearly said that he came to do the Father's will, and this thought stayed with him, even when it led to suffering and a cruel death. He was always about the Father's business, and made it his business. This prompts us too, with an active sense of duty, and a personal dedication to God's will for us. Normally, we discover our duty and God's will for us, not in world-changing plans or in heroic ideals but in the ordinary tasks of each day. At home or in the office, or the school or other workplace, or wherever the activity of the moment calls us, we try to be aware of duty and a sense of dedication. Whenever we work in a slipshod manner, or fail to offer the needed helping hand, we fall below our personal call to service. What a change it would make, if there was a widespread return to this spirit, with regard to people's daily work. We need to be reminded that in rendering to others the service of a job well done we are imitating the serving Christ and being his fellow-workers in building up the kingdom of God on earth.

It is tempting to be selfish with our time and energy. There are so many plausible excuses for excluding ourselves from the work that needs to be done. How easy to join the many who just live for themselves and let society fend for itself. But today's Scripture calls us to examine our conscience, and to face the question, "What can I do for my community, rather than what can my community do for me?" It is one of the most basic values we have to keep on learning throughout our lives. The approach of James and John, in today's Gospel, is not unlike the way many of us come to God. We approach him in prayer with the greatest fervour, whenever we want something for ourselves. Jesus responds to their request with a request of his own, thereby showing that what he wants for us must take priority over what we want for ourselves. The only request worth making is that which he taught us to make, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10.) His will, as expressed in today's Gospel, is that we should share in his cup and in his baptism, that cup which he was to ask the Father to take from him (Mk 14:36), and that baptism of fire which he knew he had to undergo. His death on the cross was but the final expression of that total service which characterised the whole of his life. Everyday he died to himself, because he lived "not to be served, but to serve." His life was a daily emptying of self (Phil 2:7), a self-emptying which was only complete when he gave his last breath on the cross. The complete missionary!

associationofcatholicpriests.ie

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.

Synod on Synodality

The second Rome session of the Synod on Synodality began on Wednesday last week 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.

Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ – cont'd

A few weeks ago we looked at the first five books of the Bible, and saw how they combined providing the history first of all humanity and then of the people of Israel along with God's giving of the Law to his people. These end with the people gathering just outside the promised land. At that point Moses dies, he had already been told that he would not enter the promised land himself – though of course, he has now entered the true promised land of heaven.

The next two books of the Bible continue the historical narrative, and do so in a manner which not only relates to us what happened, but also teaches us about our own lives. Joshua takes over from Moses as leader of the people, he has long been Moses' close servant and has learnt much from him in practical terms – more importantly, he is firm and faithful to the Lord. Unsurprisingly he gives his name to the next of the biblical books.

The book opens with Joshua succeeding Moses; this is presented to us as God's choice, and indeed God promises Joshua 'Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' A promise which he continues to make to us all today.

Having been confirmed as leader by the various tribes, he leads them across the River Jordan into the promised land. The crossing of the River should take our minds both back to the crossing of the Red Sea, the people were led by God through the Red Sea as they left slavery in Egypt, and now they are again led through waters as they enter God's promised land. Our minds should also go to that profound moment involving water – baptism – both of these crossings point forward to that way that we ourselves are brought into the realm of God's promise by means of water.

There follows the conquest of the land, a clear pattern emerges here – when the people are faithful and trust in God they prevail (for example in the famous story of the walls of Jericho falling), but when they depart from his instructions disaster follows. This also shows us that the giving of the land to the people is an action of God, it is not something which humans do for themselves. Having gained the land, it is shared out among the various tribes. The important point here is that people were given their own land, but it was as a gift from God – as we celebrate harvest, it is good for us to recall how what we have comes to us from Him.

The people of Israel are now settled in their lands, but living well in them is a different matter. The Book of Judges gives a series of cases where God continued to provide for his people when they were in need. The same pattern of the people falling away from God and suffering as a result continues, but importantly God does not abandon his people and raises up a series of judges (hence the name of the book) who rally the people, draw them back to God, and restore matters.

Among these we find the famous stories of Gideon, who sent most of his army home to emphasise that true victory is found only in God. Samson whose great strength was from God, but could be lost by disobedience to Him. Deborah, who directed the army, promising that the Lord would go with them.

The history of many of these stories seems far removed from our own circumstances; however, the fundamental message is as true today as ever. God has given us so much, but we can only truly enjoy it by living in line with his commands...but even if (or should I say, when) we fall away from this, God does not abandon us, he always remains faithful, and in due course offers us the means to restore ourselves. As we read these stories, we can also see clearly how God is laying the ground; the judges all brought freedom as well as peace and prosperity back to the land, but each was a temporary solution. In due course the permanent solution would come – that permanent solution is, of course, Christ himself. – Fr. Thomas.

Oppose Assisted Suicide

Bishops are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and compassionate action to oppose assisted suicide. On Wednesday, 16 October, the House of Commons heard the first reading of a new bill on assisted suicide tabled by Kim Leadbeater MP. The proposed legislation undermines the sanctity and dignity of human life. We are a praying community. Please pray that our lawmakers will act wisely and will value human life. Please contact your local MP to express your views. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this with a provided factual letter. It can be found on the Bishops' Conference website together with materials explaining the Church's grave concerns about the proposed legislation at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/> Thank you for your prayers and action. Bishop Stephen.

Youth 2000 is holding a holy hour of prayer & praise, rosary, reflection and social on Saturday 26th October from 2.00pm to 4pm at St Cuthbert's RC Church Old Elvet. Open to Young people aged 16-35 (under 16s will need to request a Parent Consent form) Further enquiries email irishanthony12@gmail.com

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

