

# 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 König, 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](mailto: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.



## November – month of the Holy Souls

### 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time

### Theme: Loving God and neighbour

*To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.'*

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

**Saturday 2nd November: 6.30pm**

**Sunday 10th November: 9.30am**

**Saturday 16th November 6.30pm**

**Sunday 24th November 9.30am**

**Saturday 30th November 6.30pm**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints' Day, parish Mass at 10am**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – All Souls' Day, parish Mass at 10am**

### Children's Liturgy:

The will be a Children's Liturgy on Sunday 10th November

### 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.*

**Second Collection** – the second collection today for *Missio*, the Papal Missionary charity remains open this week. There are envelopes for those who can gift-aid their donation, as well as the opportunity to donate electronically Next week there will be a second collection for clergy training.

**World Gifts** – the catalogue for CAFOD's world gifts is available. This offers the chance to buy something of significant benefit in the developing world alongside Christmas presents. During Advent, the parish will be collecting for its own world gifts with the assistance of our children's liturgy group.

**First reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6**

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart**  
 Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord the God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow.  
 'Listen, Israel: the Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

**Responsorial Psalm 17(18):2-4,47,51****I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, Lord, my strength,  
 my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
 My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
 my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
 The Lord is worthy of all praise,  
 when I call I am saved from my foes.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
 Praised be the God who saves me,  
 He has given great victories to his king  
 and shown his love for his anointed.

**Second reading Hebrews 7:23-28****Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood**

There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

**Gospel Acclamation cf. Jn6:63,68**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel Mark 12:28-34****'You are not far from the kingdom of God'**

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all

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your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

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**Feast Days this Week**

**Monday 4th November:** St Charles Borromeo

**Wednesday 6th November:** St Illtyd

**Thursday 7th November:** St Willibrord

**Friday 8th November:** All Saints of Wales (Wales), Bl John Duns Scotus (Scotland)

**Saturday 9th November:** Dedication of the Latin Basilica

**The Cycle of Prayer****All Victims of War**

especially on Remembrance Sunday (2nd Sunday in November)

**Background**

Remembrance Sunday falls on the Sunday nearest Armistice Day, 11 November, which marks the end of the First World War. On this day are remembered all those who gave their lives for their country, all who suffered and died through acts of war and those who were left behind to grieve and mourn. In England and Wales one Mass for the Dead may celebrated on this Sunday.

**Prayer**

*O God, merciful and strong,  
 who crush wars and cast down the proud,  
 be pleased to banish violence swiftly from our midst  
 and to wipe away all tears,  
 so that we may all truly deserve to be called your children..*

Roman Missal

**Oppose Assisted Suicide**

Bishops are calling on Catholics in England and Wales to unite in prayer and passionate 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 legalisation 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.**

**Reflection on the Readings*****With all your heart***

*At first sight, today's gospel seems to contain nothing new or startling that was not already known by the Jews of the Old Testament. Indeed the words, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind," were words written on the heart of every Jew, and to this day they form part of the daily prayer a devout Jew is required to say. This prayer is referred to as the Shema, because it begins with the Hebrew words, "Shema Yisrael," meaning "Listen Israel." "Listen Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord," and it continues with the words just quoted. And yet, there is a certain paradox about today's gospel reading, in that it tells us that love of God is realised by our love for each other.*

*In other words, our love of God is illusory if it stops short with God, if it does not result in our loving each other, reaching out to everyone without exception, even our enemies. But then, a word of caution, love of neighbour, if it is divorced from love of God, can well become refined self love. For one can easily end up loving others purely for the response one gets from those loved, for the feeling of satisfaction and self-gratification one derives from being generous and kind to them. A Jewish Rabbi, named Hillel, a renowned scholar, a spiritual and ethical leader of his generation, who had a great following just before the birth of Christ, when asked, "Which is the greatest commandment?," gave the famous reply, "What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole law; the rest is commentary."*

*Jesus, however, stated that love of God linked with love of neighbour jointly form the greatest commandment. Commenting on that, the advice of St Augustine was, "Love God first, and then do what you will," meaning that if we love God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, then we cannot but be obedient to his will, which wants others to share in that love. St John, the evangelist, who saw all the events of Christ's life on earth in terms of love, and kept preaching about this virtue to the early Christians, to the extent that they became wearied of it, and asked him to talk about something else, St John in his first letter puts it forcibly like this, "Anyone who says, "I love God," and hates his brother, is a liar, for how can a man who does not love the brother that he can see, love God whom he has never seen. So this is the commandment that he has given us, that anyone who loves God must also love his brother" (1 Jn 4:20f).*

*If we embrace this commandment, if we try and put it into practice, as did the saints, then we will be doing something which is truly radical, which to the non-Christian outsider will often be seen as odd, a seeming contradiction, difficult to understand. These seeming contradictions abound in our faith. For we believe that life comes from death, that gain comes from loss, that receiving comes from giving, and that Christ had to die and come to life again that we might share a new life with him in heaven. We profess to be followers of Christ, who made a complete offering of himself to the Father – "Not my will but yours be done" – who gave his life, his energies, his time in the service of others, who returned to his Father devoid of any earthly goods – the clothes he had worn ceasing to be his before he yielded up his spirit, having being made over by lots into the possession of his executioners.*

*All this does not imply that we have to tread exactly the same path as Christ. What it does indicate, however, is that our surrender to God does not mean that we retreat into a paradise of unreal spirituality. It means that if we love God, then we have to concern ourselves with others, with the members of our family and community. It means that we must rise above ourselves, and our own interests, and become convinced from Christ's words that St Paul, has given us, that "there is greater happiness in giving than in receiving" (Acts 20:35).*

*"The world is too much with us," the poet Wordsworth wrote, "late and soon, getting and spending, we lay waste our powers." We pass this way but once, and while we are on our way let us do as much good as we possibly can with our God-given powers, the gifts that each of us has, in serving God and others. But always keep in mind as well the promise of Jesus (Jn 15:5), "Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty," and because of the presence of Jesus, this fruit will last. [associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://associationofcatholicpriests.ie).*

**Volunteer census.** The Diocese is carrying out a volunteer census, the aim is to gather information on those who so generously give of their time and talents for the church, not least so that proper support and training can be offered. If you volunteer, even if it seems like a tiny contribution to you, please complete one of the short forms, either on paper or on-line.

**Saint Charles Borromeo and the Catholic Reformation**

When the Reformation started to spread across Europe, at first the Catholic Church was somewhat on the back foot; but over the following decades managed to begin a significant response which prevented the reformers' ideas from spreading even further. It is important for us to note that when Martin Luther and the other reformers started their campaign, there was essentially two different points which they were making: first, that the Church had a significant number of corruptions within it, and secondly that several of its teachings were departures from the pure truth of Christianity. The Church, inevitably somewhat slowly, acknowledged that the first was true; and sought to remove those corruptions. But at the same time, reflected carefully on its teachings, and presented them in a clear fashion to show how they are the natural outworkings of established truths. One of the most significant figures in this 'Catholic Reformation' was S. Charles Borromeo, whom we celebrated on Monday.

Born in 1538, into a powerful northern Italian family; he was given the opportunity to live a comfortable life, being given the revenue from a wealthy Benedictine abbey, however beyond what he needed to support his studies he donated all of this to the poor. His uncle was elected as Pope Pius IV, and Charles was rapidly given a number of positions in Rome (appointing family members to wealthy positions was standard at the time); but again Charles decline to exploit his position to his own benefit, and rather worked to reform the Roman Curia. He was a significant figure in the Council of Trent, at which the Church formally gathered and organised its response to the growing protestant movement.

In 1560 he was appointed as administrator of the Diocese of Milan, and then as Archbishop in 1564; at the time he wasn't even a Priest, but was ordained quickly. For many decades before, the Archbishops of Milan had not lived in the city – one of the corrupt practices which had grown up was for a person to be appointed to a job, to receive the (often very significant) pay for that job, but to live elsewhere and ignore the duties associated with it. Charles took a significantly different line, and lived in the city becoming well acquainted with all aspects of Church and civil life. He found the Diocese in a very poor state, having lacked effective leadership for many years. This was no small matter, as Milan with the largest diocese in Italy, having over 3000 clergy, many of whom had drifted into disorder and laziness. As Archbishop he visited the churches in the Diocese, and worked hard to restore the dignity of worship, and the proper work of charitably groups. Above all, he worked to ensure that the faith was clearly and well taught – both in terms of education of the clergy before ordination, and by providing catechesis in churches, particularly for the youth. During his time in office, Milan became well-known as a place for English Catholics. Many were living in exile, to avoid Elizabeth I's persecution, and found a welcoming home. S. Edmund Campion and S. Ralph Sherwin both spent some time with him on their way to England (where they would both be martyred); and among his officials he appointed a Welshman (Grudfydd Robert) as canon theologian, and an Englishman (Thomas Goldwell) as Vicar General.

When he died, the local population immediately and spontaneously recognised him as a Saint, marking the anniversary of his death as a holiday; this was ratified by the Church when he was canonised a mere 26 years after his death. Contrary to his wishes expressed before death, his tomb in Milan Cathedral was made into a shrine in his honour. Along with several other Saints of his time, S. Charles stands as a reminder that even when problem grow up in the Church, they do not detract from the truths which are taught. He also reminds us that what we need above all, is sanctity, and closeness to God. – **Fr. Thomas.**

**Ceilidh – 16 November, 7pm.** A fundraising ceilidh is being organised for Saturday 16 November by S. Mary's Barnard Castle, and Gainford parishioners are most welcome to join, do add the date to your diaries and spread the word (all most welcome). Please see poster at the back of church. Fr. Thomas has tickets for sale.

**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.

**November – month of the Holy Souls**

As November is 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 1<sup>st</sup> November – All Saints' Day, parish Mass at 10am**

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November – All Souls' Day, parish Mass at 10am**

**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**

