

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Father Ian Grieves Tel: 01325 730191

Website: www.stosmunds.co.uk e-mail: enquiries@stosmunds.co.uk

Hogarth Partnership

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

Please remember in your prayers

Elizabeth Leeman who died recently.
Remember also Robert, Lucy, George, and all the family at this time of great sadness.

All healthcare professionals and key workers who are putting themselves at risk as they attend to the needs of other people.

All who are being impacted by the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.

More than 750,000 people have been affected by the terrible explosion in Beirut which has left families out on the streets with no food, shelter or emergency medical care.

God, our refuge in times of trouble we pray for our brothers and sisters in Beirut today. Lord, be with the emergency services as they battle to help the thousands injured. Lord, hold those who have lost loved ones in the palm of your hand.

Cafod emergency appeal: cafod.org.uk.
[Click here](#)

The sick of the parish:

Christopher Smith, Irene Mulholland, Cath Simpson, Patrick Doherty, Julie Hall, Joan Towers, Toni Neville and Fr. Wilfred Elkin.

Children's Liturgy:

A Children's liturgy from Cafod for this Sunday can be found on our website.

www.stosmunds.co.uk

You might also like to try the following site for a Children's Liturgy. It is hosted by a Primary School teacher from the Dunkeld diocese in Scotland. [Click here](#)

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. Cf. Rev 12: 1

St. Osmund's Re-opened for Private Prayer

On Friday 14th August St. Osmund's opened for Private Prayer. Since the government decision to close all churches on 23rd March, the church doors of St. Osmund's have remained closed to all parishioners. It is with great anticipation that we have now taken a small step by re-opening for Individual Prayer.

The church will also be open for Individual Prayer on the following two Fridays

Friday 21st August 10am - 11am

Friday 28th August 10am - 11am

No booking will be necessary for Private Prayer however should the capacity of the church be reached (20) there would be a need to wait.

The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales thank everyone for their patience and sacrifice during this enforced separation and for the solidarity shown in the collective responsibility taken as part of the fight against the pandemic.

Thank you to our volunteers

Much work has been going on behind the scenes in preparation for re-opening. A special thanks to the five volunteers who along with Fr. Grieves gave the church a 'deep-clean' prior to Friday's opening for Individual Prayer.

Food Banks

The Well: 46 East Green, West Auckland. DL14 9HJ. Opening times: Wednesday-Friday 9am - 3pm

Kings Food Bank: King’s Church, Prospect Place, Whessoe Rd., Darlington. DL3 0QT Opening times: Mon, Wed, Fri, 1pm -3pm

St. Columba’s: St Columba’s Church, Clifton Ave., Darlington DL1 5EE. Opening time: Fri 1pm -3pm.

If you happen to be passing, items may be left at the Foodbanks during their opening times or placed in St. Osmund’s Church porch. **Please do not make any unnecessary journeys.**

Stay Safe

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

This is the only account for donations to St. Osmund’s.



Thank you to all who, in the absence of our usual weekly Offertory collections, have used the parish bank details in this Bulletin to continue their contributions. It is much appreciated.

Thanks also to those who have continued with their regular standing orders. These are simple and secure ways of making an offering to the parish. If you wish to save your offerings until we return to church, this is also ok.

Remember: there is no need to drop your offerings off at Church.

Re-opening for Mass

To ensure appropriate social distancing the capacity of the church is limited to 20 individuals

It will be necessary to book a place, once Mass resumes. Dates and how to book your place will follow in subsequent Bulletins

“It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.”

Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster , Malcolm McMahon OP Archbishop of Liverpool, Bernard Longley Archbishop of Birmingham

There will not be a return to the normal. pre-Covid celebration of Mass, for the foreseeable future. Those in a vulnerable category must pay attention to the latest government directives and advice However the ideal would be that every parishioner who is able and would wish to attend Mass has the opportunity to do so on one day during a week.

To help Fr. Grieves plan the number, day and timing of Masses please would you complete the following Parishioner Response Form and e-mail to enquiries@stosmunds.co.uk or post to/ring Fr. Grieves

Parishioner Response Form

I/we intend to attend Mass when it becomes available:

Name of Parishioner:-

Number of individuals/family group:-

Telephone No.

As numbers are restricted to a maximum capacity of 20 individuals not everyone will be able to attend a Sunday Mass. Please answer the additional questions.

I/we wish to attend on Sundays. Yes/No

I/we would be prepared to attend on a day other than Sunday. Yes/No

Please name day/s

I/we will not be returning imminently to Mass but look forward to returning at a later date. Please tick here. _____

It should be possible to copy and paste this form into the above e-mail address and completed the responses on the e-mail page. Alternatively please ring or post your replies to Fr. Grieves. (An additional version of this form is attached for those receiving the Bulletin by e-mail, which may be easier to cut and paste)

Your response to the Form above will not be set in stone. It is to give Fr. Grieves an initial indication of the demand and how best this can be met.

Readings for: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. 16th August

In the Catholic tradition, a Homily, interprets the readings, shining a light on the present and asking each one of us what we must change in our lives, from today. The challenge is not so much about recounting the history or retelling the story, but living the gospel.

First reading Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10**A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman adorned with the sun**

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it.

Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready.

Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

Responsorial Psalm 44(45):10-12,16**On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.**

The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words.
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:
He is your lord, pay homage to him.
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.

Second reading 1Corinthians 15:20-26**Christ will be brought to life as the first-fruits and then those who belong to him**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
Mary has been taken up to heaven;
all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:39-56 ©**The Almighty has done great things for me**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:
'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me
blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me.
Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age
for those who fear him.
He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the
proud of heart.
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted
the lowly.
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent
empty away.
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of
his mercy
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'
Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then
went back home.

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Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my soul. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never let me be separated from You. Amen.

Reflection on the readings

Mary has a very special and unique place within Catholic devotion and tradition. But rather than being a woman whose life and example we cannot live up to, I believe the very opposite is true.

Mary is called personally by her name to be the mother of Jesus. After some very natural doubt, with God's encouragement, she says 'yes'. She said yes in faith, not knowing what lay ahead of her. Her 'yes' was not gentle or submissive, it was courageous and radical. As the gospel for the feast tells us, when Mary visited Elizabeth, she went to tell her cousin all that happened to her. Mary was the first to bear the Good News and the first to share the Good News. From the very beginning of her journey, Mary is a missionary disciple. She followed Jesus when others walked away. At the wedding at Cana, she led and pointed others to Jesus, not to herself. With the other women, she stood at cross and watched Jesus die. Even though she was the Mother of Jesus, she was not spared suffering or pain. We are told that she was with the followers of Jesus at Pentecost. She was present when the missionary church sprang into life. Mary is the prime example of what it is to be a dedicated, committed and radical disciple of Jesus. This is her greatness, importance and relevance for us today. She is the woman whose life, faith and discipleship that we are called to follow today.

Through the life and example of Mary, we are given a model of how to follow Jesus. We are also offered a role model of what God would like to do in and through the life of every believer. As Mary was called by her name, so too are you and I. As she became a missionary disciple and shared her Good News, you are I are called to and be the same. Just as she remained faithful to Jesus when others didn't, so too are we. As Mary pointed to and led people to Jesus, we are called to do likewise. Like Mary, we too are called to stand at the cross. We too are called to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to become missionary disciples in and for our world today. From the moment of the Annunciation to Pentecost Mary remained faithful to her initial yes and to what God asked of her. This is her greatness. This is the example she offers us.

Like Mary, we are called and invited to bear Christ in the world today through our words, actions and the quality of our daily lives and then live in the hope of eternal life with God, Mary and all the saints.

– Br Michael Moore OMI oblates.ie

Before Returning to Church

At this point, although the churches are beginning to open up it is important to stress that no-one should feel any compulsion to return. The Catholic Bishops urge that we must 'tread carefully' and the Sunday obligation remains suspended. We all still have the opportunity to keep Sundays Holy, for example through On-line Mass, reading and reflection on scripture and, of course, remembering

that Christ will not refuse us in a sincere Act of Spiritual Communion. (This Bulletin provides a weekly source.)

Those who are **clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable including those over 70**, are advised to stay at home as much as possible and, if they do go out, to take particular care to minimise contact with others outside of their household.

If you **suspect that you have Covid-19**, (high temperature, new persistent cough, lack of taste or smell) or if you are **living with someone who has or is suspected of having Covid-19**, you MUST self-isolate in accordance with HM Government guidance and contact the online 111 service to arrange for testing.

If you have **returned from overseas** you should review the latest guidance from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

If you **test positive** for Covid-19 after having recently attended church, you MUST contact your Parish Priest.

On Return to Church

On return to church we will all have to become familiar with new routines and new seats!!

We may have to book or check-in before attending (To be arranged)

All must wear a face covering

A state of the art hand sanitiser on entry!

Be guided to our place by a steward - (Great service) social distancing- alternate pews will be used. Family groups will be able to sit together if space allows.

We will remain seated throughout: This is to maintain social distancing at all times during the prayer/service - for some of us our joints may welcome the break from kneeling.

Mass will be shorter: This is to minimise the time people are sharing the same indoor space.

Communion: The final blessing will be given before approaching Fr. Grieves. It will be socially distanced by receiving the Host on outstretched hands. No words will be spoken.

Post Communion: As the final blessing will have already been given, we will each immediately leave the church by the side door at the back of church.

We are advised not to touch furniture or objects including statues as we move and not to stay around too long before leaving for home. There will be hand sanitising stations at appropriate places.

Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week.

Until next time

