

# St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**Parish priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: [gainford.stosmunds@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:gainford.stosmunds@rcdhn.org.uk) Tel: 01325 730191**

**Website: [www.stosmunds.co.uk](http://www.stosmunds.co.uk)**

## Hogarth Partnership

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

**FoodBanks: 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.

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**

### Please Pray for:

#### The sick of the Parish:

Pat Avison, Christopher Smith, Patrick Doherty, Julie Hall, Joan Towers, and Toni Neville

#### Recently deceased:

We Pray for Mary Marsh who died recently may she be granted eternal rest. We pray also for her family that they may be given strength and comfort in their time of sorrow.

We pray for the staff and children of our schools as the summer break begins and acknowledge the hard work of all over these very difficult times.

### Children's Liturgy

A Children's Liturgy that has been a very useful resource for parents and children throughout our Covid restrictions can be found by [Clicking here](#) It is delivered by a Primary School teacher from Dunkeld.

A Children's Liturgy from Cafod is available on [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) [Click here](#)

**Prayer Resources for Primary and Secondary age pupils** can be found on the Carmel College /Bishop Hogarth website [Click here](#)



## 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time - 25th July

**Theme: The hungry are fed**

*The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time.*

**St Osmund's will be open for Parish Mass on Sundays at 9.30am and Tuesdays at 10.00am**

**Sunday 1st August** Monsignor Keith Newton (Ordinary of the Ordinariate) will be visiting, and will celebrate and preach at all weekend Masses.

### It will be necessary to book

**To book please text 07796 282216 giving your Name, Number of individuals or number in family group and a contact phone number. (Please book by 7pm on Saturday evening)**

In considering attending Mass please particularly bear in mind your own health situation, that of others and current travel restrictions.

Fr. Thomas will also be celebrating the Saturday evening vigil Mass in Barnard Castle along with Ordinariate Masses on Sundays and Fridays in Gainford. Thursday Mass at Barnard Castle 10.00am

## Coronavirus- Move to step 4 from 19th July

### Message from Bishop Robert

**The following is an extract from Bishop Roberts letter.**

#### Protecting the Health of Our Clergy and Congregations

As you will be aware the Government has confirmed that it will proceed with taking the next step on the Roadmap out of lockdown, with most restrictions set to be lifted from Monday 19th July.

This comes at a time when COVID cases are rising rapidly across all areas of the Diocese, with some areas recording the highest infection rates in the country. When this is considered alongside the more elderly demographic of the Diocese, it would present a very serious situation if we were to abandon our existing COVID controls.....

I have taken both Clergy and Lay advice and due to the very high infection rates across all areas of the Diocese, I ask you to retain all of the COVID control measures and cleaning protocols that you are currently following in all our churches and church halls until at least the end of August 2021. To read the full letter go to [www.rcdhn.org](http://www.rcdhn.org) [Click here](#)

**For a reminder of St. Osmund's current Covid safety protocols see the back of this bulletin.**

**The Weekly Bulletin is available online at: [www.stosmunds.co.uk](http://www.stosmunds.co.uk)**

**Readings and Reflections 25th July - 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time****First reading 2 Kings 4:42-44****They will eat, and have some left over**

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing Elisha, the man of God, bread from the first-fruits, twenty barley loaves and fresh grain in the ear.' 'Give it to the people to eat', Elisha said. But his servant replied, 'How can I serve this to a hundred men?' 'Give it to the people to eat' he insisted 'for the Lord says this, "They will eat and have some left over."' He served them; they ate and had some left over, as the Lord had said.

**Responsorial Psalm 144(145): 10-11,15-18**

**You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,  
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.  
They shall speak of the glory of your reign  
and declare your might, O God.

The eyes of all creatures look to you  
and you give them their food in due time.  
You open wide your hand,  
grant the desires of all who live.

The Lord is just in all his ways  
and loving in all his deeds.  
He is close to all who call him,  
who call on him from their hearts.

**Second reading Ephesians 4:1-6****One Body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God**

I, the prisoner in the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

**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!

**Or: Lk7:16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;  
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

**Gospel John 6:1-15****The feeding of the five thousand**

Jesus went off to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – or of Tiberias – and a large crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. Jesus climbed the hillside, and sat down there with his disciples. It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

Looking up, Jesus saw the crowds approaching and said to Philip, 'Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' He only said this to test Philip; he himself knew exactly what he was going to do. Philip answered, 'Two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said, 'There is a small boy here with five barley loaves and two fish; but what is that between so many?' Jesus said to them, 'Make the people sit down.' There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand men sat down. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting ready; he then did the same with the fish, giving out as much as was wanted. When they had eaten enough he said to the disciples, 'Pick up the pieces left over, so that nothing gets wasted.' So they picked them up, and filled twelve hampers with scraps left over from the meal of five barley loaves. The people, seeing this sign that he had given, said, 'This really is the prophet who is to come into the world.' Jesus, who could see they were about to come and take him by force and make him king, escaped back to the hills by himself.

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**Mass on-line**

*St. Augustines Facebook - [Click here](#) Sun. 9.15*

*Other churches in the diocese [Click here](#)*

*Walsingham: [www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk) [Click here](#)*

*Other churches in the UK and Ireland [Click here](#)*

*Vatican - [Click here](#)*

*Mass by phone: 01642 130 120*

**[Bidding Prayers - St Osmund's](#) [Click here](#)****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**

*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.*

*Offering to Jesus whatever we have*

*For the next four Sundays the gospel will be taken from chapter six of John's gospel. There is no last supper or meal in John's gospel. But this chapter more than makes up for this. Next week we will hear Jesus say clearly I am the Bread of life.*

*Today the crowd follow Jesus because they were impressed by the signs he gave by curing the sick. He notices that there is a large crowd and that they are hungry. He asks Philip, 'where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?' Philip responded 'two hundred denarii would only buy enough to give them a small piece each.' This was about six month's wages – quite a lot then! Andrew says that there is a boy with five loaves of bread and two fish. This happens after Jesus had changed the water into wine at Cana and still his followers are not convinced about Jesus and who he is. This gospel is more than likely not about the lack of food but more about the lack of faith! Jesus took the meager bread and fish, gave thanks for them and gave it to all who were there and all had as much as they wanted. After teaching them and healing them Jesus then feeds them. He cares for them at all levels; mind, body and spirit.*

*There are clear images of the Eucharist in this gospel. Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks and distributed them to the people and all had as much as they wanted. Like those in the gospel who came to Jesus in need, many times so do we. While at mass, we offer ordinary bread and wine and through the power of the Holy Spirit, they are transformed into the extraordinary; the miraculous – they are given back to us as the Body and Blood of Jesus. Through the Eucharist, Jesus continues to feed, nurture and nourish each of us. Through sharing in and celebrating the Eucharist we too are transformed; we are renewed, restored and refreshed.*

*I believe that when we are at mass and we present the bread and wine we are also called to offer God our own daily lives. If we can offer ourselves generously and in faith God will accept us and whatever we offer. We too will be blessed and transformed. Then we will be asked to go to love and serve the Lord by loving and serving each other. Having been fed and strengthened by the Lord, we in turn are asked to feed and strengthen each other in whatever way we can. The multiplication of the loaves and transformation of the bread and wine at the Eucharist are miracles of generosity. During the Eucharist we experience the gracious generosity of God and then we are asked to be generous with each other. The experience of celebrating the Eucharist with each other should encourage us, broaden our outlook and enlarge our hearts so that we can be considerate and generous towards others, especially towards those who are poor in any way.*

*The Eucharist is God's greatest gift to us. It's not our right, we didn't earn it and we can't demand it. It is a celebration of love and generosity to which we are invited. Like those in the gospel Jesus continues to strengthen, feed and encourages us.*

*Through the Eucharist Jesus continues to love, heal and forgive us. As Pope Francis reminds us; 'The Eucharist is not a prize for the perfect, but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.' That's all and each of us!*

– Br Michael Moore OMI [oblates.ie](http://oblates.ie)

**The Cycle of Prayer;****Intentions**

Throughout Ordinary Time: Summer we are asked to pray for the following intentions:

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Human Life; Europe; Seafarers.

**Prayer for Europe**

*O God, who gave one origin to all peoples and willed to gather from them one family for yourself, fill all hearts, we pray, with the fire of your love and kindle in them a desire for the just advancement of their neighbour, that, through the good things which you richly bestow upon all, each human person may be brought to perfection, every division may be removed, and equity and justice may be established in human society.*

Roman Missal

St. Osmund's Parish Gainford

**Stella Maris**

Envelopes (and other donations) for Stella Maris can still be left in the baskets at the entrance and exit from church. Thank you for your generosity for this important cause.

**Feast Days this week:**

**Sunday 25th: St. James, Apostle**

**Monday 26th July: Ss Joachim and Anne**

**Thursday 29th July: St. Martha**

**Friday 30th July: St. Peter Crysologus**

**Saturday 31st July: St. Ignatius Loyola**

## ONGOING FAITH WITNESS AGAINST HASSOCKFIELD

In October, the Home Office plans to open an Immigration Removal Centre at Hassockfield on the site of the former Medomsley Detention Centre. This will be for 80 women seeking asylum in the UK. The proposal is inhumane, unjust and incompatible with our faith which calls us to recognise the intrinsic dignity of each person. These women are people like ourselves who have the right to a place of safety and to be treated with respect and compassion. **A monthly prayer vigil will be held at the barrier to Hassockfield on the first Sunday of each month at 3pm starting on Sunday 1st August.** This will last for about 30 minutes and will incorporate a time of silent witness. Please support this with your prayer and, if at all possible, come along. For further information, please contact [lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com](mailto:lizarchibald.justiceandpeace@gmail.com)

## Life after the pandemic

Below is an extract from Pope Francis on life after the pandemic. **To read in full [click here](#)**

“When evening had come” (*Mk 4:35*). For over one year now, it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people’s gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realised that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying “We are perishing” (v. 38), so we too have realised that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this. .... You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (*Mt 28:5*). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. *1 Pt 5:7*).

**Next Sunday, 1 August, Monsignor Keith Newton (Ordinary of the Ordinariate) will be visiting, and will celebrate and preach at all weekend Masses.**

## Virtual Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 2021     31st July- 7th August

As the Diocese is unable to travel to Lourdes this year, there will be a ‘Virtual Pilgrimage’, providing opportunities for our Pilgrimage Family to join together in prayer and worship over the course of a week which starts on 31st July with a day at Ushaw. Unfortunately, numbers are restricted and places do need to be booked in advance.

Following our opening day of reflection at Ushaw, all other Masses and services will be streamed via YouTube or Facebook. During the week there will be a Service of Healing and a Bereavement Service. You can access the links to the services via the Pilgrimage website: [www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk](http://www.hexhamandnewcastlelourdespilgrimage.co.uk) or searching YouTube for HN-Lourdes Hospitalite.

**Please see the parish notice board for two posters giving further information.**



### A reminder: Some of the current Covid 19 Security protocols for worship at St Osmund’s include:

- **We will continue to book** before attending. Text 07796 282216 with the details on the first page of the Bulletin.
- **All must wear a face covering**
- **Sanitise hands on entry to the Church** *A state of the art hand sanitiser has been provided!*
- **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 Mass, to avoid unnecessary touching of surfaces and to minimise air disturbance, as the virus and particularly the delta variant is easily transmitted through droplets in the air. - *for some of us our joints may welcome the break from kneeling.*
- **Mass will be short:** This is to minimise the time people are sharing the same indoor space.
- **Communion:** The final blessing will be given before approaching Fr. Thomas. Remove your mask and sanitise hands at the sanitising station at the front of church. Maintain social distancing by receiving communion with outstretched hands.
- **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

There will be customs during Mass that we all miss, such as standing, kneeling and sitting at specific points. Everyone is asked to forgo these, for the present, in a spirit of selfless sacrifice for others. Doing what we can for the wellbeing of others is a small but significant act of christian generosity and practice of our faith.

**God does not love us less by keeping our worship safe and simple. Indeed, as Fr. Thomas reminded us in his sermon last week(18<sup>th</sup> July) we cannot love God if we do not love and care for our neighbour.**