

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: gainford.stosmunds@rcdhn.org.uk Tel: 01325 730191

Website: 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

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 [Click here](#)

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



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 15th August

'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.

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

It will be necessary to book

To book please text [07796 282216](tel:07796282216) 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 Bishops Robert's 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 [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

Readings and Reflections 15th August - The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**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 1 Corinthians 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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Mass on-line

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

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

Walsingham: 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](#)

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.

The Assumption of Mary

*Today in union with the Church, we are honouring Mary as we celebrate her Assumption into heaven. Along her Annunciation, the Visitation, The Presentation, the Finding in temple, to her vigil at the cross and finally while she was with the others at Pentecost, this is the culmination of her faithful journey with Jesus. There is no actual gospel describing Mary's Assumption. The gospel we read today is The Visitation. This takes place after Mary is told that she is to be the mother of Jesus. We are told that she set out as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Having heard the word of God and being filled with the Holy Spirit, Mary went as fast as she could to share this good news with Elizabeth. She was the first to bear the word of God and the first to share the word of God. She is the first to bear the word of God in a uniquely profound and personal way and she is the first to share this good news with Elizabeth. She did not keep this wonderful experience to herself. Mary is truly a missionary disciple. As our current Oblate Rule reminds us, **Mary Immaculate is patroness of our congregation; she received Christ in order to share him with the world, whose hope he is. In her, we recognise the model of the Church's faith and our own. Wherever our ministry takes us, we make every effort to instil genuine devotion her.** (C10) (Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate)*

The teaching of the Assumption only became official in 1950, but it had been taught and believed in the Church for centuries as a truth that came from the genuine faith of the people. Christians could not believe Mary's body suffered any decay after being separated from her soul at death. They could not imagine or believe she underwent any change after the sacred and unique role she has in our history. The Assumption of Mary also asks to believe what God will do for us. We believe that our whole person, body and soul will also be assumed into the very presence of God. However, Mary's assumption is not limited to or just about offering us a message of hope about the afterlife. Mary is presented to us a strong, courageous and faithful woman whose life and example we are called to follow in our daily lives.

Perhaps in the past we have been guilty of praying to Mary. We are not asked to worship Mary from afar as if she is totally different from us. She does have a special and unique place within our faith and tradition, but she more like us than we have previously thought. We are called to follow her radical and faithful example. Like her, we are also called by our name by God so that we too can make Jesus present in the world today. Following her example, we too are called to 'yes' to God in our own daily lives.

Mary's greatness is that she points and leads us to Jesus, not to herself. She is not concerned with drawing attention to herself. As soon she was called to be the mother of Jesus, she went as fast as she could to Elizabeth. While she was at the wedding in Cana and saw that the wine was about to run out, she was concerned about the young couple. Having spoken to Jesus, Mary quietly went to the waiters and simply but firmly said to them, 'Do whatever he tells you.' This tells us something of her own self-confidence and of her faith in Jesus. She remained at the cross with the other woman and was with the followers and friends of Jesus at Pentecost. She was present when the missionary church was born. She said 'yes' every day of her life, not just once.

Today, of all days, may we look to Mary and listen to her words, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

-Br Michael Moore OMI

Life after the pandemic

Below is an extract from Pope Francis on life after the pandemic.

"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). **To read in full [click here](#)***

Feast Days this week:

Monday 16th August: St. Stephen of Hungary

Tuesday 17th August: Our Lady of Knock (Ireland)

Thursday 19th August: St. John Eudes

Friday 20th August: St. Bernard

Saturday 21st Aug: St. Pius X

YMT BBQ

The Youth Ministry Team would like to invite you to a BBQ at the Emmaus Youth Village with a Sing-Along: Live Hymns Old and New; on Sunday 15th August from 12-4 pm. The bar will remain open after 4 pm. tickets are £5 and covers BBQ and Quiz entry. Accommodation is available. Card payments only. Payment would be taken on the day of arrival; however, booking is essential.

For room pricing and to book rooms or tickets, please email phillip.salkeld@ymt.org.

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

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

- Parish Secretary, St Bede's, Bedlington. 10 hours per week. Closing date 20 August.
- Cleaner, St Matthew's, Jarrow. 6 hours per week. Closing date 17 August.

For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us on 0191 243 3301

Prayer on The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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 recently we cannot love God if we do not love and care for our neighbour.