

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 during the summer break and acknowledge the hard work of all over these difficult times.

Please pray for: all those impacted by the turmoil in Afghanistan; those killed in the recent shootings in Plymouth -for the families and the whole community; for all suffering as a result of the earthquake and tropical storm in Haiti.

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](#)



21st Sunday of Ordinary Time 22nd August

Theme: To whom else would we go?

'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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 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 and that of others.

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 22nd August - 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time**First reading Joshua 24:1-2,15-18****We will serve the Lord, for he is our God**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm 33(34):2-3,16-23**Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

Second reading Ephesians 5:21-32**Christ loves the Church, because it is his body**

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for

her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. *For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body.* This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation cf. Jn:63,68**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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

Gospel John 6:60-69**Who shall we go to? You are the Holy One of God**

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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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.

Religion A-La-Carte ?

Many of the hearers left him, while others decided to stay with him. What do we make of that? Fishing fascinated me when I was young. The tackle was basic and the catches were modest. One of the memories that stands out in my mind today was hunting for the best place to fish. As soon as someone caught a fish further along the river or lakeshore, I'd gather my gear and run off to fish there. What often happened was that soon someone else hooked a fish just at the place I had left! Maybe that's why I was not such a great fisherman! Stability and sticking at it were not my greatest virtues!

Today's Gospel is about coming to a decision and sticking by it. Jesus had the rare ability to offer a straight option—you were either for him, or against him. He himself was fully committed to his mission, and to all that was best for us, even if at times his disciples complained. He was used to being criticised by his enemies, but when he could not depend on the loyalty of his friends, he had to call them to account.

In a way it was hard on the disciples, because, by the nature of what Jesus offered, it could not just be some sort of an a la carte menu, from which they could choose whatever suited them. When some of his followers began to walk away, he didn't run after them and try to reason with them. That was not his way. Rather he turned to those who stayed and challenged them to commit themselves. There are three types of people in every gathering: those who cause things to happen; those who watch things happening; and those who don't know what is happening! Peter was the one who stepped up to the occasion.

“Lord” he said “You alone have the words of eternal life. We know, and we believe that you are the Christ, the Holy One of God.” For Jesus, losing the others was worth it, if it left him with loyal followers like Peter.

A group of Christians were gathered for a secret prayer meeting in Communist Russia, at the height of the Stalinist era. Suddenly the door was broken down by the boot of a soldier, who entered the room, and faced the people with a gun in his hand. They all feared the worst when he said, “If there are any of you who don't really believe in Jesus, get out now while you have a chance.” There was a rush to the door and in the end only a small group remained. The soldier closed the door and stood in front of those who remained, gun still in hand. Finally, a smile appeared on his face, and as he turned to leave the room he whispered “Actually, I believe in Jesus, too. And believe me, you're much better off without those others!”

associationofcatholicpriests.ie

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 23rd August: St. Rose of Lima

Tuesday 24th August: St. Bartholomew

Wednesday 25th August: St. Louis, Bl. Maria Troncatti

Thursday 26th August: Bl. Ceferino Namuncura, Bl.

Dominic Barberi, St. David Lewis (Wales)

Friday 27th August: St. Monica

Saturday 28th August: St. Augustine

FIRST STEPS – Exploring the Catholic Faith Online

Are you wondering about your relationship with God and not sure where to start?

Join us on a journey this Autumn and see if the Catholic Church can help your relationship grow. This may be the right path for you. It may even help you take the next steps towards coming into the Church. We gather weekly via Zoom and invite you to come along to find out more. Starts Wednesday 22nd September at 7pm.

If you are interested to find out more, you can enquire at adminfaith.mission@dioceschn.org.uk

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.

Fr. William (Bill) O’Gorman RIP

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that Fr. Bill O’Gorman died on Thursday 12 August 2021.

His funeral details will be published when they are available.

Please remember Fr. Bill and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace.

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancies:

- Diocesan Department for Education:
- Senior Administrator – permanent, full-time
- Administrator (maternity cover), full-time

Closing date for applications is 2 September. For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us on 0191 2433301

Cafod Haiti Earthquake Appeal

A devastating magnitude-7.2 earthquake struck Haiti on Saturday 14 August at around 8.30am local time. As the search continues through the rubble, the current death toll is more than 1,200 people and up to 6,000 people are injured.

Buildings have collapsed including an estimated 10,000 homes, churches, schools and hospitals. The southern peninsula is a remote area of the island, and fears are now growing that tropical storm Grace will add further to the urgent humanitarian needs of vulnerable people.

[Donate to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal](#)

Many churches have also been damaged by the earthquake. In Les Cayes, the residence of Cardinal Chibly Langlois, bishop of the diocese and president of the Haitian Bishops' Conference, was damaged, and the Cardinal was injured. A priest staying in the bishop's residence was killed. Saturday's earthquake was stronger than the magnitude 7.0 earthquake in 2010, that killed more than 200,000 people.

cafod.org.uk