

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](#)



22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time - 29th August

Theme: Submit to God's Word

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.

Pure, unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it,...

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 29th August - 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**First reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8****Observe these laws and customs, that you may have life**

Moses said to the people: 'Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land that the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them, and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, "No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation." And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?'

Responsorial Psalm 14(15):2-5**The just will live in the presence of the Lord.**

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart;
he who does not slander with his tongue.

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever.

Second reading James 1:17-18,21-22, 27**Accept and submit to the word**

It is all that is good, everything that is perfect, which is given us from above; it comes down from the Father of all light; with him there is no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a change. By his own choice he made us his children by the message of the truth so that we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he had created. Accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you and can save your souls. But you must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.

Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.

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 7:1-8,14-15,21-23**You put aside the commandment of God, to cling to human traditions**

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

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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.

In need of pruning?

To some extent, most of us are creatures of habit. We have traditionally done things in a certain way and it can be hard at times to start doing things differently. The personal habits, or traditions that we have developed can serve us well; yet, there can come a time when they begin to hold us back. As well as personal habits or traditions, we also have communal traditions, traditional ways in which we as a society or as a church have done things. Those communal traditions can serve us well, but there can come a time when they can restrict us.

In the gospel Jesus comes into conflict with the Pharisees who had a great regard for what is referred to in that gospel as 'the tradition of the elders.' These were traditions that had been passed down orally for hundreds of years and that applied the Jewish Law to all the details of daily living. These traditions were not written in the Scriptures but they had come to acquire an authority that was equal to that of the Scriptures. In the course of his ministry, Jesus challenged the prominence that the Pharisees and other religious leaders gave to these religious traditions. In the gospel Jesus contrasts these human traditions to the commandment of God and he declares that in their zeal to uphold these human traditions, the religious leaders have ended up undermining the commandment of God. Jesus is implying that what mattered so much to the Pharisees did not matter to God. God had other priorities. Long standing traditions about ritual washings of hands and of cups and pots do not matter to God; what does matter to God, according to Jesus, is what is in our heart and what comes from out of our heart.

Those of us who are into gardening know we have to prune our bushes and shrubs. Otherwise, they can get too big and the flower or fruit loses its quality. Jesus was in many ways a pruner. He pruned back the traditions that had come to acquire an importance they did not deserve. In his pruning he tried to highlight what was most important in God's eyes. Jesus did not jettison the Jewish tradition completely. In today's gospel he critiques the traditions of the Pharisees by drawing upon the tradition of the prophet Isaiah. Jesus was able to identify in the Jewish tradition what really mattered to God and what did not. Jesus did not dismantle the Jewish tradition in order to start completely afresh. Rather, he wanted what was best in that tradition to flourish. He highlighted those elements of the Jewish tradition that revealed God's desire for our lives, most fully. Jesus was very aware that religious tradition can hide God as well as reveal God. An important dimension of his work consisted in pruning back those elements of the tradition that were hiding God.

Our own religious traditions are always in need of pruning, be they our own personal traditions or the traditions of the church. What has become important to us over time may not be as important to God. That is why we need to keep going back to the New Testament and to the gospels in particular to learn over and over again what Jesus says is important to God. We have to keep going back to the source of our Christian tradition, which is the word of God, to allow that tradition to be purified and pruned. The Lord continues to speak to us through his word, reminding us of what is important to God and what, therefore, should be important to us. Today's reading from the letter of James calls on us to 'accept and submit to the word which has been planted in you.' The word of the Lord is not just outside of ourselves in a book; it has been planted in us, through baptism. In attending to the Lord's word we are attending to what is deepest within ourselves. James reminds us in that reading that accepting and submitting to the Lord's word means not just listening to it but doing it, doing what the word tells us. If we submit to the Lord's word in that full sense, then what is important to God will become important to us. The letter of James is very clear about what is important to God. In the words of our second reading, 'pure unspoiled religion in the eyes of God our Father is this: coming to the help of orphans and widows when they need it, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by the world.' I have no doubt that Jesus would have been very happy with that way of expressing what is important to God.

The first priority in God's eyes is how we relate to one another, in particular how we relate to the weakest and most vulnerable among us. Jesus did not hesitate to heal the sick on the Sabbath even though the tradition of the elders held that this constituted work and so was unlawful. The words and deeds of Jesus are always are best guide to what is of real value in our own religious tradition and what it is that may need to be put aside. 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 30th August: Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward

Tuesday 31st August: Aidan and the saints of Lindisfarne

Wednesday 1st September: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

Friday 3rd September: St. Gregory the Great

Saturday 4th September: St. Cuthbert

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@diocesehn.org.uk

Recent Collections

- Lay Training Fund - £236.07
 - Peter's Pence - £107.46
 - World Communications Day - £117.57
 - Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) - £217.21
- Thank you so very much for your generosity!

The Cycle of Prayer

Throughout Ordinary Time: Autumn we are asked to pray for the following intentions: **The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation, Students and Teachers The Spread of the Gospel Justice and Peace in the World, Prisoners and their Families All Victims of War, Young People**

World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation Background

Pope Francis has established 1 September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

He calls us all to celebrate this opportune moment to "reaffirm [our] personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation, as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live." "The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation

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to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live." "

This World Day of Prayer also falls at the beginning of the Season of Creation, which runs until 4 October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. This is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

Cafod have provided resources to to help us respond to the World Day of Prayer they can be found on the CAFOD website www.cafod.org.uk [Click here](#)

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.

The Gospel and Reflection in the Bulletin this week carry a timely reminder of what is important.

Best wishes for a safe , happy and healthy week ahead

