

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: gainford.stosmund@rcdbn.org.uk Tel: 01833 631457

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, Whesoe 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, Joan Towers, and Toni Neville.

Please pray for: all those impacted by the turmoil in Afghanistan;

Please pray for the children and staff of our schools.

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](#)



29th Sunday of Ordinary Time 17th October

Theme: Christ tested as we are

"Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?"

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 for the Sunday Mass. It will no longer be necessary to book for the Tuesday Mass.

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.

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Robert

Bishop Robert announces:

Diocesan Year of the Eucharist and preparation for the World Synod of Bishops in which 'The bishop in each diocese has a key role in listening to the people of God in his diocese, and under the power of the Holy Spirit, to hear and discern what is being said of that Church.'

Bishop Robert's letter can be read in full at the back of this bulletin

October

Month of the Holy Rosary

On the Sundays of October, there will be October devotions with the Rosary and Benediction at St. Mary Barnard Castle, 5.30pm.

Helping Hands

Please return your responses to the box at the back of Church or pass on to Fr. Thomas. Additional copies are available at the back of Church.

The Weekly Bulletin is available online at:
www.stosmunds.co.uk

Readings and Reflections 17th October - 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time**First reading Isaiah 53:10-11****If he offers his life in atonement, what the Lord wishes will be done**

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering.

If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done. His soul's anguish over, he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

Responsorial Psalm 32(33):4-5,18-20,22**May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.**

The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Second reading Hebrews 4:14-16**Our high priest is one who has been tempted in every way that we are**

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

Gospel Acclamation Jn14:6**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; No one can come to the Father except through me.

Alleluia!**Or: Mk10:45****Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Son of Man came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Mark 10:35-45**The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for many**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. 'Master,' they said to him 'we want you to do us a favour.' He said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' They said to him, 'Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory.' 'You do not know what you are asking' Jesus said to them. 'Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?' They replied, 'We can.' Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted.'

When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, 'You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'

Copyright: Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible are published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. Text of the Psalms: Copyright © 1963, The Grail (England). Used with permission of A.P. Watt Ltd. All rights reserved.

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 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time 17th October

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.

Willingness to Serve

The theme of the willing servant matches the missionary ideal perfectly. The ideal missionary is so devoted to the good of the people whom s/he is sent to serve that they plan both their activities and their life-style to match the real needs of those people. There is a huge effort of adaptation and inculturation involved, so that the Gospel can integrate into the lives of the local people. This goes well beyond the initial need to learn the local language, and the most effective symbols to use, so that the message of Jesus can be understood and loved.

In our world, where most of the celebrities highlighted in the media seem motivated by self-interest and self-assertion Jesus' call to total service seems unrealistic, and, one might think, unlikely to succeed. But today's Gospel offers the ideal of dedication to the service of others as fundamental to Christian discipleship. Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve" and this example must always be a guiding light for his followers. He went about doing good (cf. Acts 10:38), bringing justice, healing, forgiveness and kindness into people's lives. This is why those who believe in him are challenged to give themselves, their talents and their time, to the service of others without seeking any other reward than knowing that this is supremely worthwhile. The acted parable of the foot-washing at the Last Supper gives out the same message.

In practice what can we learn from our Lord's life and actions? He clearly said that he came to do the Father's will, and this thought stayed with him, even when it led to suffering and a cruel death. He was always about the Father's business, and made it his business. This prompts us too, with an active sense of duty, and a personal dedication to God's will for us. Normally, we discover our duty and God's will for us, not in world-changing plans or in heroic ideals but in the ordinary tasks of each day. At home or in the office, or the school or other workplace, or wherever the activity of the moment calls us, we try to be aware of duty and a sense of dedication. Whenever we work in a slipshod manner, or fail to offer the needed helping hand, we fall below our personal call to service. What a change it would make, if there was a widespread return to this spirit, with regard to people's daily work. We need to be reminded that in rendering to others the service of a job well done we are imitating the serving Christ and being his fellow-workers in building up the kingdom of God on earth.

It is tempting to be selfish with our time and energy. There are so many plausible excuses for excluding ourselves from the work that needs to be done. How easy to join the many who just live for themselves and let society fend for itself. But today's Scripture calls us to examine our conscience, and to face the question, "What can I do for my community, rather than what can my community do for me?" It is one of the most basic values we have to keep on learning throughout our lives. The approach of James and John, in today's Gospel, is not unlike the way many of us come to God. We approach him in prayer with the greatest fervour; whenever we want something for ourselves. Jesus responds to their request with a request of his own, thereby showing that what he wants for us must take priority over what we want for ourselves. The only request worth making is that which he taught us to make, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10.) His will, as expressed in today's Gospel, is that we should share in his cup and in his baptism, that cup which he was to ask the Father to take from him (Mk 14:36), and that baptism of fire which he knew he had to undergo. His death on the cross was but the final expression of that total service which characterised the whole of his life. Everyday he died to himself, because he lived "not to be served, but to serve." His life was a daily emptying of self (Phil 2:7), a self-emptying which was only complete when he gave his last breath on the cross The complete missionary! associationofcatholicpriests.ie

We live in a world that is so competitive that it seems a lot of us need to be first at everything in our lives. Will we be great in His eyes or a servant as He wishes us to be? Jesus doesn't grade us on what we have, He judges us on what we do. What more can we do for others that Jesus will reward us for one day? Will we be a servant to others or a slave to our own needs? notredamesisters.org

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Lourdes Pilgrimage

Preparations are beginning for our annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Friday 29th July - Friday 5th August 2022. It is hoped that this year, we will be able to travel together as a Diocese once more.

In order to aid the planning stages, it would be helpful if you could indicate your interest in travelling to Lourdes in July 2022 and state if you would be willing to offer any help or volunteer for any of the roles that support the smooth running of the Pilgrimage. Please contact lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk for an 'expression of interest' form.

Pastoral Letter**to be read at all Masses on the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 9/10 October 2021**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges the wealthy man who kneels before him to leave everything and follow him. The man is eager to do so but 'his face fell ... and he went away sad.' Then Peter asks the Lord: 'What about us?' When Jesus invites us to follow him, he knows the demands and challenges set before us. It is in the miracle of his presence that brings hope and life beyond the boundaries we set for ourselves and others. The Lord changes the direction in which we have let our lives grow and removes whatever hinders goodness. He heals our wounds and renews our strength. He promises us eternal life.

Peter's question: 'What about us?' has been asked in many ways during the past eighteen months of the pandemic. Despite the suffering, anxiety, and disruption, we have learned a great deal about the goodness of people in our neighbourhoods and beyond. We thank God for the selfless service of the NHS and other care workers in their support of the sick and the dying, the isolated and the lost.

Next Sunday, I will launch our Diocesan Year of the Eucharist during the 6.30pm Mass in the Cathedral. We will also begin the diocesan stage of preparation for World Synod of Bishops. Clergy and laity are invited to join me for that Mass either in person or via live stream. The Year of the Eucharist celebrates the Eucharist at the heart of the life and mission of the Church as we gather people back to Mass and the Sacraments. It will be celebrated throughout the diocese, in every church and school. I hope it will help us to grow as a Diocese in our love of the Eucharist and to deepen our appreciation of it through the liturgy. I pray that we will revitalise and renew our faith through a deepening prayer and devotion of the Eucharist, and be strengthened and nourished to go out and serve the world.

The Synod of Bishops has been called by Pope Francis who has urged us to have a vision of missionary communion focused on evangelisation. For the first time, the Synod process of 'walking together' begins in each diocese before the Bishops meet nationally, regionally and finally at the Universal Church with the final Synod Gathering of Bishops in 2023 with the Pope. More information will be circulated in due course by the Vicariate for Faith & Mission, which is coordinating both the Year of the Eucharist and the Synod process.

The bishop in each diocese has a key role in listening to the people of God in his diocese, and under the power of

the Holy Spirit, to hear and discern what is being said of that Church. Each local Church is a fundamental part of the Universal Church, so what happens in each local Church contributes to the whole.

The Synod is also a pilgrimage of the whole People of God in discerning the way the Church needs to be renewed in our present post-pandemic time. Like any pilgrimage, the journey is part of the whole experience. Our Year of the Eucharist will open our hearts to the Holy Spirit in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. We will speak and listen with confidence and to help the Church '...[to go] out from herself, open herself to a new horizon, and when she comes home, she is no longer the same, so her home won't be the same.' (Pope Francis, Let Us Dream)

Therefore I invite you to join me in reflecting on what we have learnt as a Diocese since the first pandemic lockdown in March 2020. There will be ample opportunities to meet as a parish, partnership or in a specific group and details of these opportunities will be announced. We will look at our response to the conditions created by the pandemic and to any other issues we feel we can learn from. We need to take good time to pause and reflect, as did the disciples and others who were challenged by the Lord as he accompanied them. We will reflect on what we should do more of, on what we might need to do less of, and indeed on what we should stop doing, so that we will better sustain the healthy life of our Diocese for the preaching of the Gospel through stronger communion, participation, and mission. These reflections will feed into our discernment of what we contribute to the Synod.

These challenging times for the Church and her mission demand that our love of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist is deep and abiding. He is the source of our life and meaning. His outpouring for us on Calvary, celebrated in the Holy Eucharist draws us on in our pilgrimage. Jesus feeds us on our life's pilgrimage as we discern together the way ahead.

I look forward to celebrating with you all the Year of the Eucharist and joining you in discernment of what the Holy Spirit is stirring in us for the future of our Diocese and of the Universal Church. Let us pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, for the bishops and for all the People of God in our re-dedication to communion, participation and mission.

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ Robert Byrne Co.

Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

