

# St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: [gainford.stosmund@rcdbn.org.uk](mailto:gainford.stosmund@rcdbn.org.uk)**

**Tel: 01833 631457 Mobile: : 07876 308657**

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

## Hogarth Partnership

**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.

### 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](#)



**4th Sunday of Advent 19th December**

**Expectant Mothers**

*Theme: Visitation*

*'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.'*

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

**It will no longer be necessary to book for the Sunday or Tuesday Masses.**

**However, the capacity limits to allow safe social distancing remain in place. Should the safe capacity of the church be reached there will, unfortunately, be no further admittance .**

**In considering attending Mass please particularly bear in mind your own health situation and that of others.**

**Following the Government announcement on December 7th it is now mandatory to wear a mask in Church unless medically exempt.**

## Christmas Services

### Parish Masses at Gainford

**Friday 24 December, 6pm, Carols followed by Vigil Mass at 6.30pm**

**Saturday 25 December, 9.30am, Mass**

**Booking will be required for both of these services**

**To book please text 07796 282216**

**Congratulations to Peter and Carmel Green on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary**

## Advent

To assist our journey through this season the Diocese has prepared booklets with reflections for each week in Advent. A few copies of these will be available in church, or they can be found on-line:

<https://diocesehn.org.uk/living-the-faith/liturgy-prayer/#seasonal>

**The Weekly Bulletin is available online at:**

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

**Readings and Reflections 4th Sunday of Advent [Expectant Mothers] 19th December****First reading Micah 5:1-4****He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord**

The Lord says this:

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
the least of the clans of Judah,  
out of you will be born for me  
the one who is to rule over Israel;  
his origin goes back to the distant past,  
to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them  
till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth.  
Then the remnant of his brothers will come back  
to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock  
with the power of the Lord,  
with the majesty of the name of his God.  
They will live secure, for from then on he will extend  
his power  
to the ends of the land.  
He himself will be peace.

**Responsorial Psalm 79(80):2-3,15-16,18-19****God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**Second reading Hebrews 10:5-10****God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will**

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:  
You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation,  
prepared a body for me.  
You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin;  
then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book,

‘God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.’

Notice that he says first: *You did not want* what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and *you took no pleasure* in them; and then he says: *Here I am! I am coming to obey your will*. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation Lk1:38****Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let what you have said be done to me. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel Luke 1:39-45****Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?**

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.'

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](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

**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 4th Sunday of Advent****19th December**

*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.*

**Holding our breath**

*The readings invite a final pause, one further holding of the breath, before the birth of Jesus. The Visitation, in particular, with its explicit and implied encounter(s), may help us reflect on all the encounters of this season, not forgetting “the” encounter to which we are all invited.*

**Two great women**

*The two pregnant women in our Gospel today are different in age, yet both full of joy and concern for each other. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth because of the dangers attendant on so late a pregnancy. That she went with haste, halfway across the country, to make the visit is a clear sign of Mary’s generosity and goodness. Through the light of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth recognised Mary’s privilege as the mother of the longed-for Messiah. She greets Mary in the words we are so familiar with in our Hail Mary. And Mary responds in the equally familiar words of the Magnificat. These two great women understand the miracle of conception and birth. But in each case there was divine intervention in a truly exceptional way. The Gospel says that both were informed of this fact by the words of an angel; they each had a message from God telling them so.*

*The fact that these two women had this divine intervention is a reminder that our own lives too are a gift of God; what we might call ordinary grace. It is from this understanding that the Church takes its position on all life issues.*

*At some moments we may recognise the hand of God in our lives. Maybe at the point when we felt we had a priestly or religious vocation or when we finally decided on our partner in marriage. Maybe it was at the birth of a child, a change in job circumstances, or the death of a parent. Maybe it was a moment in prayer, the grace of a sacrament, advice in the confessional, wise words from a friend or relative at a critical moment.*

*God continues to work with us and for us. God takes the long view and there are periods of seeming barrenness, seeming aloneness. But these are all part of that gestation which is life on earth. We were born into this world and we will be reborn into eternal life.*

*Every now and then like John the Baptist we leap in this womb which is our life on earth. Every now and then we recognise God’s presence, as John recognised Jesus’ presence, and we leap with joy. But life is always moving on and God is always with us. It was God caused us to come into being, who sustains and feeds us, and who will welcome us into life eternal. As well as the birth of Jesus, we celebrate our own birth too at Christmas — a birth, a life that flows towards death and final resurrection.*

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

Throughout Advent and Christmas we are asked to pray for the following intentions: **Openness to the Word of God:**

**Migrants and Refugees; Expectant Mothers**

**Expectant Mothers****Background**

The Gospel on the 4th Sunday of Advent focusses on the role of Mary in our salvation. Over the three year cycle the gospel tells of the betrothal of Mary to Joseph, the Annunciation and the Visitation. The stories prepare us for the Birth of our Lord at Christmas.

**Prayer**

*God has brought gladness  
and light to the world  
through the Virgin Mary’s  
delivery of her son.*

*Grant the prayer of all mothers to be  
as they ask for the birth  
of a healthy child.*

*May they safely deliver  
a son or daughter*

*to be numbered among your family,  
to serve you in all things,  
and to gain eternal life.*

adapted from the **Book of Blessing**

### **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](mailto:lourdes@rcdhn.org.uk) for an 'expression of interest' form.

**Handel's Messiah during Advent** – Organised by St. Mary's Church of England Parish Gainford. Over the course of four Tuesday evenings we will listen to the whole of the oratorio followed by a talk on the music and biblical texts by Canon Neil Russell. There will be time for discussion before closing with a short act of worship. We will meet from 7-30pm till 9-00pm in the Supper Room of Gainford Village Hall on the following Tuesdays: 30th November, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 21<sup>st</sup> December. Please phone (01325 733140) or email ([canonneil@gmail.com](mailto:canonneil@gmail.com)) if you would like to join the course. There is no charge but a donation towards the cost of the hire of the hall would be appreciated./

### **Northern Catholic Calendar and Diocesan Ordo 2022**

Copies are available of the Northern Catholic Calendar and the Ordo (listing of all feasts &c. within the diocese), both produced by the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle are available at the back of church. Suggested donation £1.

### **Holy Island Vinnie Camp 2022**

Holy Island Camp will be running holidays for children in 2022. Our helpers are all volunteers and in order to go ahead successfully in 2022 we urgently need new volunteers to help in the kitchens, preparing food, washing up and clearing the dining hall. We also need caretaking staff who would be able to carry out a cleaning role. The work is tiring but also fun (you would be joining an established and very welcoming team) and the young people benefit enormously from a traditional seaside type holiday. The commitment can be for as little as three days a year in Term Time or more if you are able to help on multiple weeks or through the Summer Holidays. All helpers will be required to obtain a free Diocesan DBS check and some training. If you are interested please visit our website <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/about-camp>

### **Call for Donations - Seafarers Mission**

At Christmas last year the joint Stella Maris and Mission to Seafarers efforts brought some 800 Christmas packages to seafarers – and thus some light into their lives. They came into Teesport and Hartlepool over Advent and the 12 days till Epiphany. Donations from parishes in the region were the main contributors. This year we would like to match these numbers. We are looking for donations of shoeboxes made up with woolly hats, gloves, socks, and/or toiletries (incl. for women), chocolates or other treats and assigned card. Contributions can be left at Church

### **Organ Recital**

Peter Locke will give an Organ Recital at the Cathedral Church of Saint Nicholas, in Newcastle, on Monday, the 20th December, at 1.05pm. The recital will have an Advent and Christmas theme, and will feature music inspired by the Gregorian Chant of the Church.

### **Feast Days this week:**

**Tuesday 7th December: St. Peter Canisius**

**Thursday 23rd December: St. John of Kety**

**Saturday 25th December Christmas Day**

### **Churches Together in Gainford Carol Service**

**Sunday 19 December, 2pm on the village green. All most welcome, especially families and children.**

**Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week ahead**

