

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 Mobile: : 07876 308657

Website: 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, 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, 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 [Click here](#)



The Baptism of the Lord

9th January

Theme: The beloved son

He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

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.

Feast Days this week:

Wednesday 12th January: St. Aelred of Rievaulx

Thursday 13th January: St Hilary of Poitiers, St. Kentigern (Mungo) (Scotland)

Saturday 15th January: Bl. Louis Variara, St. Ita (Ireland)

Crib Offerings

As the rest of the decoration are removed at the end of Christmas, the crib stays in place until Candlemass (2 February). There is a collection basket in front of it for those who wish to make donations; these all go to 'Mission Together' which is the children's branch of the Papal Mission Charity 'Missio'. Further details can be found on the poster at the back of church.

The Weekly Bulletin is available online at:

www.stosmunds.co.uk

Readings and Reflections**Baptism of the Lord Sunday****9th January****First reading Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it

'Console my people, console them' says your God.
'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion.
Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.
Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah,
'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm 103(104):1-4,24-25,27-30

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling.
You make the clouds your chariot,
you walk on the wings of the wind,
you make the winds your messengers
and flashing fire your servant.

How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up:
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.

Second reading Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7

He saved us by means of the cleansing water of rebirth
God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that

what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to *set us free from all wickedness* and to *purify a people so that it could be his very own* and would have no ambition except to do good. But when the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation cf.Lk3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I.
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 3:15-16,21-22

'Someone is coming who will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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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

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**The baptism of the Lord****9th January**

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.

Called for a mission

Seamus was a young man who couldn't believe what he had just done. In the middle of the priest's homily, he suddenly left his wife and children in the pew and walked out. He felt angry inside, so angry that he couldn't sit still a minute longer. But he had no idea what his anger was about. Rather than embarrass his family further, he walked home from Mass on his own.

That afternoon he talked the matter over with his wife Sue, but neither of them could work out why he felt so angry. So he made an appointment with his priest for the following Tuesday night. Fr Smith suggested: 'Tell me everything you remember about Sunday morning, starting with all you spoke to when you arrived at church, and everything you can remember about the Mass.' Seamus outlined all the people he had spoken to, and what was said as best he could remember. But nothing stood out from the conversations which shed light on the source of his anger. He then made a summary of the flow of the Mass up till the gospel. He couldn't remember which gospel had been read and what it was about.

It's interesting,' Fr Smith said, 'how you remember well the first two readings, but haven't got a clue about the gospel. So, let me remind you.' The priest pulled a missal down from the shelf and read the gospel. As Seamus heard the familiar words about John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus, he became aware that he did remember hearing them on Sunday, but it was not till Fr Smith came to the last words of the text that he knew what his anger was about: And a voice spoke from heaven, 'You are my Son, the one whom I love; I am very pleased with you.'

'That's what I always wanted to hear from my father,' Seamus said bitterly, 'and now it's too late, because he's dead.' Tears came to his eyes as he let himself feel for the first time the deep hurt he had been carrying for far too long. 'Perhaps there is something you can do about it,' Fr Smith replied. 'Let's pretend that your dad is sitting right here in this chair.' He pulled an empty chair over and placed it in front of Seamus. 'Tell him how you feel. Don't leave anything out.'

Seamus stumbled over his words at first, but after a few moments he spoke passionately, pouring out everything he wanted to say to his father. When he was finished, Fr Smith looked at him and said, 'What do you think your father would say to all that?' John thought for a minute and then he replied: I think he would say what he used to say when I was upset and afraid as a child. He would pick me up, give me a big bear hug, and say: "Seamus, I love you. There's nothing to worry about. That's my boy". When he left Fr Smith's office, he felt that a heavy load had dropped from his shoulders. For the first time since his father died, he felt at peace.

There are times in our lives when we need our parents, or some significant other to re-assure and encourage us, someone to tell us who we are, why we matter, and why they have high hopes for us. The time came in the life of Jesus when he too needed re-assurance and encouragement to find a new direction in his life. It happened at his baptism by John in the Jordan River. What happened is cast in dramatic language. From the open heavens the comforting and empowering Holy Spirit came down on him like a dove. A voice from heaven spoke: 'You are my Son the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

It's after this experience of hearing God speaking to him on the banks of the Jordan River, that Jesus understands that the time has come for him to begin his work on earth as God's Son and Servant. The words of the prophet Isaiah, heard in the First Reading, come to Jesus. "Console my people, console them," says your God." It's as though Jesus has just heard God the Father say to him: 'I have chosen you for this mission of Good Shepherd. Go to my people. Tell them that I love them. Show them that I love them. Gather them together and bring them back to me.' Now that he knew what was expected of him there would be no holding back. As we heard in our Second Reading: 'He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people ... who would have no ambition except to do good.' That's why he laid down his life for others to his very last breath and his last drop of blood.

*We too, all of us, are dearly and deeply loved by God. He is our Father too. We are his sons and daughters, made so by our baptism. We are also sisters and brothers of Jesus. We have been joined to his person at our baptism and sent out on the very same mission as Jesus – to show and tell people everywhere just how much God loves them. Can we re-open our hearts to God as persons called and sent, as people on a mission? Can we hear him saying to us those words spoken to Jesus: 'I have chosen you for this mission. Go to my people. Tell them that I love them. Show them that I love them. Bring them back to me?' **Brian Gleeson associationofcatholicpriests.ie***

The Cycle of Prayer**Peace on Earth****Background**

The World Day of Prayer for Peace is marked on 1 January. As this day is when the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God and it is the beginning of the new year in England and the day is transferred to 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Prayer

*O God of peace, who are peace itself
and whom a spirit of discord
cannot grasp,
nor a violent mind receive,
grant that those who are one in heart
may persevere in what is good
and that those in conflict
may forget evil and so be healed*

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.

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>

Epiphany chalk

Traditionally chalk is blessed at Epiphany, and then used to mark the entrance to houses asking for God's blessing on the house during the coming year. The numbers of the year (2022) are written and in the middle are added the letters C, M, B with crosses in between (as above). The three letters represent the traditional names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar; as well as Christus Mansionem Benedicat (may Christ bless this house). There are pieces of blessed chalk available at the back of church, please do help yourself.

The following prayer of blessing can also be used:

Bless, + O Lord God almighty, this home, that in it there may be health, purity, the strength of victory, humility, goodness and mercy, the fulfillment of your law, thanksgiving to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And may this blessing remain upon this home and upon all who dwell herein. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.

Epiphany Reflection from Bishop Robert

Bishop Robert has produced an epiphany reflection which can be accessed on-line at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuzXXMXroZiU>

From Fr. Thomas

I hope that everybody associated with S. Osmund has been enjoying a thoroughly happy and blessed Christmas. Please can I express my great thanks for all of the good wishes, cards, and presents which you have given over this festive season. May God bless you all throughout the new year.

Best wishes for a safe happy and healthy week ahead

