

# St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

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## 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.

### 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](#)



**2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**16th January**

*Theme: Bride and Groom*

*'...but you shall be called 'My Delight' and your land 'The Wedded'; for the Lord takes delight in you and your land will have its wedding.'*

**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.

## Children's Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

For children in Year 4 or above, who are not accessing preparation in a Catholic school.

There will be five sessions starting in early February with the Sacrament of Reconciliation taking place before Easter. Further sessions will prepare the children for their First Holy Communion in June.

**Please give Father Thomas details of the child's name, date of birth and date of baptism as soon as possible and before Sunday 30th January.**

Father Thomas and Clare will guide the children and their families through the programme.

**The Weekly Bulletin is available online at:**  
[www.stosmunds.co.uk](http://www.stosmunds.co.uk)

**Readings and Reflections****2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time****16th January****First reading Isaiah 62:1-5****The bridegroom rejoices in his bride**

About Zion I will not be silent,  
 about Jerusalem I will not grow weary,  
 until her integrity shines out like the dawn  
 and her salvation flames like a torch.  
 The nations then will see your integrity,  
 all the kings your glory,  
 and you will be called by a new name,  
 one which the mouth of the Lord will confer.  
 You are to be a crown of splendour in the hand of the Lord,  
 a princely diadem in the hand of your God;  
 no longer are you to be named 'Forsaken',  
 nor your land 'Abandoned',  
 but you shall be called 'My Delight'  
 and your land 'The Wedded';  
 for the Lord takes delight in you  
 and your land will have its wedding.  
 Like a young man marrying a virgin,  
 so will the one who built you wed you,  
 and as the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,  
 so will your God rejoice in you.

**Responsorial Psalm 95(96):1-3,7-10**

**R: Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

**Second reading 1 Corinthians 12:4-11****The Spirit distributes gifts to different people just as he chooses**

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. One may have the gift of preaching with wisdom given him by the Spirit; another may have the gift of preaching instruction given him by the same Spirit; and another the gift of faith given by the same Spirit; another again the gift of healing, through this one Spirit; one, the power of miracles; another, prophecy; another the gift of recognising spirits; another the gift of tongues and another the ability to interpret them. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses.

**Gospel Acclamation IS3: 9,Jn6:68****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
 you have the message of eternal life.

**Alleluia!****Or: cf.2Th2:14****Alleluia, alleluia!**

Through the Good News God called us  
 to share the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Alleluia!****Gospel John 2:1-11****'My hour has not come yet' - 'Do whatever he tells you'**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water', and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

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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](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****2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time****16th 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.*

**THE LANGUAGE OF GESTURES**

*John the Evangelist doesn't say that Jesus did «miracles» or «marvels». He calls them «signs» because they are gestures that point toward something deeper than what our eyes can see. Concretely the signs that Jesus performs point to Jesus' person and describe his saving power to us. What happened in Cana of Galilee is the beginning of all these signs. It is the prototype of those that Jesus will go about performing throughout his life. In that «changing of water into wine» we find the key to understand the type of saving transformation that Jesus works and that his followers must work in his name. It all happens in the context of a wedding feast, the human party par excellence, the most expressive symbol of love, the best image of the biblical tradition to express the definitive communion of God with human beings. Jesus' salvation must be lived and offered by his followers as a party that gives fullness to all human parties when these end up empty, «without wine» and without being able to fill our desire for complete happiness.*

*The story suggests something more. The water can only be tasted as wine when it's «drawn out» –following Jesus' command– of six large stone water jars used by the Jews for their purifications. The religion of the law that is written on stone tablets is worn out; there's no water capable of purifying human beings. That religion needs to be freed by the love and the life that Jesus communicates. We can't evangelize just any old way. In order to communicate the transforming power of Jesus, words aren't enough: gestures are needed. Evangelizing isn't just talking, preaching or teaching; even less is it judging, threatening or condemning. We need to bring about the signs that Jesus did with creative fidelity in order to interject the joy of a God who brings happiness to the hard life of those peasants.*

*Many of our contemporaries find themselves indifferent in the presence of the Church's word. Our celebrations bore them. They need to see signs that are closer and more friendly on the part of the Church in order to discover in us Christians Jesus' capacity to alleviate the suffering and the hardness of life. Who today wants to listen to something that no longer seems to be joyful news, especially if the Gospel gets invoked with an authoritative and threatening tone? Jesus Christ is awaited by many as a power and a reason to exist, and a path to live more sensitively and joyfully. If people only know a “watered-down religion” and can't taste something of the festive joy that Jesus spreads, many will continue walking away. (José Antonio Pagola) *associationofcatholicpriests**

**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*

**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.*

**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.

**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.

**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.*

**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=Su2XMXroZiU>

**Feast Days this week:**

**Monday 17th January: St. Anthony**

**Tuesday 18th January:** (Octave of Prayers for Christian Unity begins)

**Wednesday 19th January: St. Wulstan**

**Thursday 20th January: St. Sebastian**

**Friday 21st January: St. Agnes**

**Saturday 22nd January: Bl. Laura Vicuna, St. Vincent**

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

The annual week of prayer for Christian unity begins on Tuesday so that it concludes on the feast of the Conversion of S. Paul. Please keep this important matter in your prayers – Christ wished for his followers to be united and he himself prayed that we might all be one, may we always work and pray for the fulfilment of that desire from Christ.

Churches Together in Gainford will be holding a Service of Christian Unity next Sunday (23 January) at 4pm in S. Mary's. The Preacher will be the Rev'd Graham Cutler, minister of the Barnard Castle and Teesdale Methodist churches.

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

