

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

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

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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, 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 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](#)

Updated Covid Guidance

The Diocese has updated its guidance on Covid in-line with the changing situation. Main points include:

- If you have any symptoms then you should remain at home
- We are encouraged to spread out in church
- Face-masks are still encouraged in church,
- The holy water stoups have been refilled
- The sign of peace may be given, but we would recommend that this is not by the customary hand-shake but by a nod or a smile.



6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

13th February

Racial Justice Day

Theme: Good News for the poor

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.'

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.

Children's Liturgy

A Children's Liturgy will be offered at Sunday Mass each fortnight, starting this Sunday 13th February. We hope that the return of the Children's Liturgy, following lockdown and Covid restrictions, will be a welcome encouragement for families and help us all to join in more fully and joyfully in our Sunday celebration of Mass here at St. Osmund's.

Diocesan Synod update

Our Diocesan synod process has been moving ahead over the last couple of months, and we are now starting to collate the responses from all the diocesan groups and parishes.

On Saturday, February 12th, representatives from all the partnerships gathered with the Bishop, and together, they reflected on the input and the process so far. Following this meeting, the partnerships were asked to finalise their responses and to pass these to their respective Episcopal Area meetings. The Lay Pastoral Forum, which includes representatives of all the Partnership and lay groups in the diocese will compile all the responses received into a submission to the Bishop in early March.

Bernadette and Sean along with Fr. Thomas represented St. Osmund's at the Synod meeting for our area partnership last week. A summary of the meeting is included with this Bulletin.

The Weekly Bulletin is available online at:

www.stosmunds.co.uk

First reading Jeremiah 17:5-8**A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord**

The Lord says this:

'A curse on the man who puts his trust in man,
who relies on things of flesh,
whose heart turns from the Lord.
He is like dry scrub in the wastelands:
if good comes, he has no eyes for it,
he settles in the parched places of the wilderness,
a salt land, uninhabited.

'A blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord,
with the Lord for his hope.

He is like a tree by the waterside
that thrusts its roots to the stream:
when the heat comes it feels no alarm,
its foliage stays green;
it has no worries in a year of drought,
and never ceases to bear fruit.'

Responsorial Psalm 1:1-4,6**Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.**

Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.

He is like a tree that is planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind:
for the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 15:12,16-20**If Christ has not been raised, you are still in your sins**

If Christ raised from the dead is what has been
preached, how can some of you be saying that there is
no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not
raised, Christ has not been raised, and if Christ has not
been raised, you are still in your sins. And what is more
serious, all who have died in Christ have perished. If our
hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are the
most unfortunate of all people.
But Christ has in fact been raised from the dead, the
first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation Mt11:25**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children. **Alleluia!**

Or: Lk6:23ab**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven. **Alleluia!**

Gospel Luke 6:17,20-26

Happy are you who are poor, who are hungry, who weep
Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece
of level ground where there was a large gathering of his
disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of
Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region
of Tyre and Sidon. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples
he said:

'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom
of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out,
abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account
of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and
dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in
heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the
prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your
consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This
was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

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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**6th Sunday of Ordinary Time****13th 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.

Seeking happiness

How often we hear optimistic news about the progressive recovery of the economy. They tell us that we are now witnessing economic growth, but growth of what? Growth for whom? They are hardly telling the whole truth of what's happening. Economic growth in the developed world often masks the gulf between those who can better their standard of living more and more and those who are going to stay cut off, without work or future in this macro-economic system.

We must be uneasy at how the provocative consumerism of those whom the system favours clashes with the misery and insecurity of so many. Let's not forget the economic, financial and social mechanisms denounced by John Paul II which "function almost automatically, making more rigid the situations of wealth for some and of poverty for others." We cannot settle for a society that is profoundly unequal and unjust. In his clear and Gospel-based encyclical Sollicitudo rei socialis, John Paul II called this situation clearly sinful.

We can offer all kinds of technical explanations, but when the final result is in, it's the always greater enrichment of those who are already rich and the collapse of the poorest. We see easily why even today there are many who follow Nietzsche and think that Jesus' attitude is the fruit of resentment and the powerlessness of those who can't attain justice any more and who seek God's vengeance.

Jesus' message isn't born out of the powerlessness of cast-aside and resentful people, but out of his intense vision of God's justice that can't allow the final triumph of injustice. It's been twenty centuries, but Jesus' word keeps being decisive for the rich and for the poor. Word of denouncing for some and of promise for others, it's alive and well and challenges us all. [José Antonio Pagola]

If we cannot honestly count ourselves among the poor, the hungry, and the suffering, we can do more than just take to heart the warnings that follow. We can remember that the beatitudes here are especially addressed to the poor and hungry. We can take up the invitation to do something about the situation of the poor and hungry. We can recall that we, the comfortable people with resources at our command that are denied to others, are called to be the instruments of the kingdom of God, a kingdom that is one of justice, love and peace. For justice, love and peace, there is a price to pay.

associationofcatholicpriests.ie

The Cycle of Prayer**Background**

11th February is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. On this the Church all to pray and give attention to the sick and those who care for them. Each year the Holy Father writes a message.

Prayer

*Accept the prayers we offer
for our brothers and sisters
who are ill,
that, having been anxious
for them in their danger,
we may rejoice
at their recovery of health. cf. Roman Missal*

Racial Justice Sunday

On Racial Justice Sunday, 13 February 2022, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales encourage us to mark the day by praying these words of Pope Francis, taken from his encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti:

*Come, Holy Spirit, show us your beauty,
reflected in all the peoples of the earth,
so that we may discover anew
that all are important and all are necessary,
different faces of the one humanity
that God so loves.
Amen.*

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>

Feast Days this week:

Tuesday 14th February: Sts Cyril and Methodius {Valentine's Day}

Thursday 17th February: Seven Holy Founders of the Service Order

Saturday 19th February: Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Best wishes for a safe happy and healthy week ahead

