

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

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.

Children's Liturgy at home

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](#)

Please Pray for:

The sick of the Parish:

Pat Avison, Christopher Smith, Patrick Doherty, Joan Towers, Toni Neville, Ian Burns and Nico Human.

AWAKENING 2022

Eucharistic Adoration of 100 days organised by Jesus Youth that began on Ash Wednesday lasting till Pentecost across the UK and Europe. St Augustine's will be partaking on Sunday March 20th from 11am till 2pm. We will be praying for various intentions, especially for our parish communities, world peace, especially in Ukraine, and therefore kindly request your participation.



3rd Sunday of Lent

Theme: *Jesus the new Moses*

'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

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.

During Lent, Stations of the Cross will follow the Mass on Tuesdays

Peace for the people of Ukraine

Bishop Robert has published a statement of Solidarity for Ukraine. It can be found on the diocesan website

diocesehn.org.uk [Click here](#)

Pope Francis has offered a special prayer for peace. The prayer is available at the back of this bulletin.

Offering Accommodation for Ukrainian Refugees

Caritas UK has begun discussions with the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales to consider how the Church can respond in an organised and supportive way, through offering available Church properties for Ukrainian refugees.

A member of our Hogarth Partnership took part in this meeting and will be in discussion over the coming weeks with St. Osmund's and other parishes in the partnership about how we may be able to respond in a practical way.

Children's Liturgy

There are weekly sheets with activities for children available at the back of church. They can be used by children during the service.

The next Children's Liturgy will take place on Sunday 27th March

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

First reading Exodus 3:1-8,13-15**'I AM has sent me to you'**

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush.

Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' Moses answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers,' he said, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.'

At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow, the home of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites and the Jebusites.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I Am has sent me to you."' And God also said to Moses, 'You are to say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm 102(103):1-4,6-8,11**The Lord is compassion and love.**

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.

St. Osmund's Parish Gainford

Second reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12**The life of the people under Moses in the desert was written down to be a lesson for us**

I want to remind you, brothers, how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert.

These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer.

All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Gospel Acclamation Mt4:17**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**Gospel Luke 13:1-9****'Leave the fig tree one more year'**

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

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

Reflection on the Readings**3rd Sunday of Lent****20th March**

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.

Inviting us to think again

Some unnamed people spread the news about the slaughter of some Galileans in the holy precincts of the Temple. The perpetrator has been acting on the orders of Pontius Pilate. They add the horrifying detail that the victims' blood has been mixed with the blood of animals that were being offered in sacrifice. We don't know why they brought the news to Jesus. Did they want him to express solidarity with the victims? Or did they want him to explain what sin those victims could have committed to merit such a shameful death? Or why God allowed them to be murdered in the sacred area of the temple?

Instead of a direct answer, Jesus recalled another tragedy that happened in Jerusalem: the death of eighteen people crushed by a falling tower near the pool of Siloam. Then he made two comments about both events. First, that victims were no more sinners than anyone else. And second, that any such tragedy can serve as a warning about the shortness of life. "Unless you repent you will all perish as they did".

This roundabout answer should make us stop and think. Jesus rejects the popular myth that all misfortunes are divine punishments.. We are not to imagine a stern, punitive God who metes out sickness, accidents, misfortunes, as a response to people's sins. Then he changes the topic and invites them to examine their own lives. They must listen to God's call to conversion and to a change of lifestyle.

On our mass-media we often learn of tragic earthquakes, hurricanes and floods. We hear daily of the tragedies and injustices of the war in Ukraine. How can we reconcile such tragedies with our belief in divine providence? Jesus suggests that rather than asking how God could let them happen, we should wonder what positive lesson we can learn from them. Rather than ask, "why does God allow this misfortune", let's ask, "how can we leave so many human beings to live in misery, so defenceless and ill-provided for?" We won't find salvation by protesting at God, denying his existence or even by going to Mass on Sundays and religious observance, but by doing our bit to mitigate suffering in our world. Then, maybe, our heightened awareness of the fragility of life will bring us closer to God. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

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.

The Cycle of Prayer**Candidates for the Sacraments:**

Especially on the Sundays of Lent

Background

For those preparing to be initiated into the Church at Easter, Lent marks the final stage of preparation, the period of Purification and Enlightenment. It begins with the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent. During the season of Lent the Scrutinies are celebrated on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays in preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Many parishes will also receive candidates for Reception into the Church.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

St. Osmund's Parish Gainford

"The people of God, as represented by the local Church, should understand and show by their concern that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all the baptised." "During Lent, the period of purification and enlightenment, the faithful should take care to participate in the rites of the scrutinies and presentations and give the elect the example of their own renewal in the spirit of penance, faith, and charity. At the Easter Vigil, they should attach great importance to renewing their own baptismal promises." RCIA 9
The celebration of other Sacraments, such as Confirmation and First Holy Communion, will often take place within the Easter season so that candidates for these Sacraments will also be preparing in Lent. These candidates should also be remembered in the prayers of the community.

Prayer

*Father of love and power,
it is your will to establish everything in Christ
and to draw us into his all-embracing love.
Guide the elect of your Church:
strengthen them in their vocation,
build them into the kingdom of your Son,
and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.*

Pope Francis also offered the following prayer for peace in Ukraine:

Forgive us for war, O Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners!

Lord Jesus, born in the shadows of bombs falling on Kyiv, have mercy on us!

Lord Jesus, who died in a mother's arms in a bunker in Kharkiv, have mercy on us!

Lord Jesus, a 20-year-old sent to the frontlines, have mercy on us!

Lord Jesus, who still behold armed hands in the shadow of your cross, have mercy on us!

Forgive us Lord, if we are not satisfied with the nails with which we crucified Your hands, as we continue to slake our thirst with the blood of those mauled by weapons.

Forgive us, if these have which You created to tend have been transformed into instruments of death.

Forgive us, O Lord, if we continue to kill our brother.

Forgive us, if we continue like Cain to pick up the stones of our fields to kill Abel.

Forgive us, if we continue to justify our cruelty with our labours, if we legitimise the brutality of our actions with our pain.

Forgive us for war, O Lord. Forgive us for war, O Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we implore You! Hold fast the hand of Cain!

Illumine our consciences; may our will not be done; abandon us not to our own actions. Stop us, O Lord, stop us.

And when you have held back the hand of Cain, care also for him. He is our brother.

O Lord, put a halt to the violence. Stop us, O Lord.

Amen.

Lent

Lent is upon us. It is useful to think how we can get the best out of this season. It is a powerful time for us to re-set our relationship with God, and even if things are going well to take the opportunity to deepen that relationship. There are three traditional ways of engaging with Lent: prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. These are flexible so that they can be adapted to your particular circumstances.

Prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God, and so it is useful to stretch our usual prayer life during Lent. This might mean coming to Mass during the week, taking some time to reflect on the readings from Mass each day, saying the rosary more often, going to confession, doing some spiritual reading (either Holy Scripture, or a good spiritual book)...the list of possibilities is endless.

Fasting is when we take some legitimate and proper pleasure and put it aside to focus our minds on God. Traditionally this was centred around food, and many still find this a useful discipline to adopt – giving up a

particular food or drink, or deliberately eating less. It can also be applied to other aspects of life – limiting the amount of television we watch, or our use of social media. Again the possibilities are endless.

Alms-giving reminds us of that central truth of the Christian faith that our love of God is linked to our love of neighbour. It can be useful to put some money aside each week which can then be given to charity, if you're giving up something using the money saved from that fasting is a good idea. But it can also be done in a non-financial way. Finding ways to reach out to people, giving practical support to those who are in some need.

Each of these three in their own way contributes to that deepening of our relationship with God which means that when we arrive at Easter we are fully prepared to celebrate that great feast.

Walk with Me

A Lenten Journey of Prayer Booklet is available at the back of church (£1). It includes a Reading, Reflections and Prayers for each day of the season.

Stations of the Cross

Tuesdays 10.30am following the morning Mass.

Lent Lunches

Churches together in Gainford is organising two lent lunches this year, the first was on Tuesday (8th) at St. Mary's; the second will be on 29 March here at St Osmund. These offer us a chance to engage in the alms-giving part of our Lenten devotions, as they seek to raise funds for Stella Maris and the Mission to Seafarers. These two charities work together to provide support to those who work at sea, often in very challenging conditions.

Diocesan Lenten Reflections

The Lenten Reflections are now available to download (in two parts) from the Diocesan website.

diocesahn.org.uk

Father Sean Hall continues to offer his weekly reflections on the Sunday Readings – available to read online or download.

Feast Days this week:

Wednesday 23rd March: St. Turibius of Mongrovejo

Thursday 24th March: St. Oscar Romero

Friday 25th March: The Annunciation of the Lord

Tea & Coffee after Mass

As we are able to continue relaxing our Covid measure and progress safely toward normality; our weekly tea and coffee has been able to resume following the 9.30 Mass – all are most welcome to join this moment of fellowship as a parish.

Best wishes for a safe happy and healthy week ahead

