

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, 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.

We pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Rawling whose funeral took place during the week. We ask that she may be granted eternal rest and that all who were close to her are give strength and comfort at this time of sorrow.

Celebrating the gifts of the Holy Spirit: A Mass for Pentecost

Date: Saturday 28th May 2022 Time: 1:00 pm

Venue: The Cathedral Church of St Mary Clayton Street West, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 5HH

Other information: 1:00 pm Praise and worship 1:20 pm Mass



5th Sunday of Easter

15th May

Theme: God lives among those who love

I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

May - The Month of Our Lady

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

Peace for the people of Ukraine

We continue to pray earnestly for peace in Ukraine, joining the Holy Father in his consecration of Russia and Ukraine to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart – may her prayers bring a swift end to the conflict, and consolation to the bereaved and to the many thousands of refugees.

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.

There is a Children's Liturgy at this Mass

Little Sisters of the Poor Appeal

The Little Sisters of the Poor at St Joseph's Home in Newcastle are finding the current economic climate increasingly more difficult. We are appealing for urgent donations to help us continue with our work of caring for the Elderly. In these uncertain times, small acts of kindness can make a huge difference in helping our Home.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We are extremely grateful to you for the kindness shown to us.

Cheques made payable to 'Little Sisters of the Poor' can be sent to: St Joseph's Home, Westmoreland Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7QA.

Alternatively, secure, online donations can be made by visiting:

www.littlesistersofthepoor.co.uk/donate-here/

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.

Bulletin available online at: www.stosmunds.co.uk

Readings and Reflections**5th Sunday of Easter****15th May****First reading Acts 14:21-27****They gave an account to the church of all that God had done with them**

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

Responsorial Psalm 144(145):8-13a**I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign.

Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age.

Second reading Apocalypse 21:1-5**A vision of the heavenly Jerusalem, the bride of the Lamb**

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'

Gospel Acclamation Jn13:34**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I give you a new commandment: love one another just as I have loved you, says the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Gospel John 13:31-33,34-35**In the Son of Man, God has been glorified**

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified.

If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon.

'My little children,

I shall not be with you much longer.

I give you a new commandment:

love one another;

just as I have loved you,

you also must love one another.

By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

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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.

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

Feast Days this week

Wednesday 18th May: St John I

Thursday 19th May: St Dunstan of Canterbury

Friday 20th May: St Bernardine of Siena

Saturday 21st May: St Christopher Magallanes and his companions

Advance notice – Thursday next week (26th May) is the Solemnity of the Ascension. Parish Mass at Gainford will be at 12noon.

Reflection on the Readings**5th Sunday of Easter****15th May**

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.

“My little children.” - God loves us

Why is it that so many people live in a kind of perpetual fear of God? They are, maybe, able to say that “God loves me”, but everything in their conversations and actions make clear that deep in their hearts they are still people without real joy or hope or happiness. This fear manifests itself in, perhaps, a preoccupation with sin, an inordinate need to do penance or a difficulty in accepting the forgiveness of God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation or a need to keep confessing the same sins over and over in the Sacrament.

In today's Gospel Jesus calls us, “My little children,” Think about that for a moment: “My little children.”

If any child hears a parent call them ‘my little child’, then we can be certain that that child knows with certainty that they are loved, and forgiven, and accepted and protected. Why then, when Jesus says, ‘my little children’ do we find it so difficult to accept it?

It is almost as if we cannot truly hear these particular words repeated by God again and again. We are “made in God's image and likeness”. At Mass, every time we attend, we say, just before Communion, “Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” It seems to me that we hear the first part of that statement but not the second. Don't we realise that “the word has been said, and we are healed”? Isn't this exactly what we celebrate at Easter? The Cross and Resurrection makes us God's ‘little children’ or, it may be truer to say, confirms that we have always been God's ‘little children’.

If we cannot love ourselves, then how can we ever love another?

“Just as I have loved you, you must love one another.” The key here is the first part of the statement, “Just as I have loved you...”; I must accept, truly and completely, that I am loved by God before I will be able to love another person.” Elsewhere, in Mark 12:31 Jesus says it more simply: “You must love your neighbour, as yourself.”

This tiny Gospel today contains, for me, the greatest challenge of the entire Gospel; accepting and believing that we are both lovable and loved before we can ever love anyone else.

Jesus is very clear about it, “By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.”

We are called to be disciples of Jesus in our world. People are meant to look at the way we live together and see peace, joy, acceptance, forgiveness and patience. Until each of us is absolutely convinced within ourselves that we truly are loved by God, we can never be those disciples.

The thing we are called to do today, in the light of the Easter mystery of Death and Resurrection, is allow ourselves to hear God call us, “My little children.” If I can close my eyes, hear God say those words to me, gently and tenderly, and in my heart accept them, then, not only am I fortunate, but I can be a disciple as Jesus calls me to be a disciple – one who knows they are loved now and always by God, and in turn can share that love and joy and peace with others.

Many thanks, Brian. adapted from Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate- oblates.ie

Love one another as God loves us

‘My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.’

Did God ask that we love only those like ourselves? Or to love only those who follow Christ? Did Jesus teach a love that excludes any who do not follow Him, or are the wrong colour, or have different customs, or live in another country? There are some calling us to love only the right kind of people, we are asked to fear those different from us, we are asked to build walls. How can we justify a wall in Christ's name? The One who came to tear down walls, to teach universal love for all God's creatures. Indeed, Christ is teaching us that we are only his disciples if we have love for one another.

Can anyone truly say they are followers of Christ without keeping this new commandment? And each day, we are called to reflect on how we have loved that day, have we embraced all people in our hearts. To exclude others is a human trait, to strive each day to be inclusive in our love, is to follow the yearnings of our heart to be disciples of Christ. notredamesisters.org

This Tuesday is the day of prayer for survivors of sexual abuse.

So many people have been deeply hurt by these terrible acts, we ask that God's loving kindness would fill them and help them to overcome their wounds. May we always work to build a safe community where all are truly loved and cherished, and where none are exploited or violated.

Mystagogical Catechesis and The Year of the Eucharist – Part 4

We have reflected on Christ's presence among us in the Eucharist, and have seen that the Mass is structured to assist us prepare to receive him well. Looking at the way that the Mass does this can help us as we come to Mass week-by-week, so that we can have a more fruitful participation in the sacrifice being offered and a greater openness to the grace which God offers us in Holy Communion.

The Mass is divided into two major sections: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. There is also a small preparatory section which comes before the Liturgy of the Word. That preparatory section has the aim of gathering the community together. We arrive at Mass as an array of individuals and families, but when we worship we become the congregation. On Sundays this often begins with an opening hymn or chant – these chants are often ancient and derived from the Psalms. When Mass is celebrated without singing, this is sometimes read by the Priest as he approaches the altar. The Priest greets the people with the words 'the Lord be with you', this greeting is used in the Bible a number of times (particularly when the person greeted was being given a mission). It shows that this is not merely a group of people but the gathering of the people of God. The penitential act or confession reminds us that when we come to God we need to do so with a pure heart – we recall our sins not to dwell on them, but to be freed from them by God's mercy. On most Sundays and some feasts the hymn 'glory to God in the highest' is sung; this begins with those words sung by the angels at the birth of Christ, and has a strong theme of joy – it is put aside during the two penitential seasons of Advent and Lent when our joy is temporarily subdued.

Having gathered and prepared ourselves, the 'Collect' is prayed. This prayer is there to collect us together; it varies with the season or feast and often expresses the purpose of the particular celebration. We then hear from the word of God. This is a truly ancient practice going back even before the time of Christ. God has revealed himself to us in the Bible and it is a treasure for us to explore. Vatican II referred to these biblical readings as 'rich fare' at the 'table of God's word' – we feed on them in our hearts and are nourished by them. But they are also part of the worship of God – in reading them we give thanks for the wonderful revelation of Scripture. The homily seeks to unpack some part of the readings or another element in the liturgy, this seeks to inform the Faithful and to assist them in their Christian lives. On Sundays and the greatest feasts we also praise God by proclaiming the central truths of the Faith by reciting the Nicene Creed. The prayers of the faithful may also be offered, these give us the chance to reflect on the needs of the world, and to entrust these needs to God.

These elements all seek to worship and honour God, but have that particular focus on preparing us to take the next step – to offer the Eucharist. **Fr. Thomas.**

Accommodation for Ukrainian Refugees

Thank you for your generous support for the emergency relief appeal during Lent, this raised £280 which has been passed on to Caritas Ukraine.

The Parish Pastoral Council met to discuss the possibility of making a direct and practical contribution to ease the

St. Osmund's Parish Gainford

suffering of innocent Ukrainians. As the first floor flat of the presbytery, and another parish-owned property in the village are currently vacant; it was felt that these should be offered to house Ukrainian refugees. We are working to make sure that they are suitably furnished &c., and we have registered them with the Diocese which is working to match-up refugees with suitable accommodation. We are confident that the parish would provide a strong welcome to refugees. Further appeals may be forthcoming to assist with the various practicalities.

Celebration of Marriage and Family Life

Bishop Robert will celebrate a Celebration of Marriage and Family Life Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 21 May 2022 at 12:00pm. This open invitation will focus on couples celebrating significant anniversaries in 2022 but is open to engaged couples preparing for marriage, those who have been married since our last Mass in 2021 and all married couples. We include those widowed and bereaved who were unable to visit wives and husbands in hospital and homes prior to their deaths. In these unprecedented times, we remember couples in crisis and individual adults and children experiencing difficulties and abuse in their family relationships. We wish all to know that no-one is forgotten and that the Sacramental life, despite our Covid experiences over the past two years, is very much alive and prayed for.



If you are celebrating a special anniversary and would like a certificate, please scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/SNTIqj0C

Laudato Sí Week

Laudato si' is the second encyclical of Pope Francis. The encyclical has the subtitle "on care for our common home".

"The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change. The Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home..... I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet....All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture." **Pope Francis**

The full encyclical can be found on the Vatican website www.vatican.va [Click here](#)

Pope Francis invites Catholic communities around the world to participate in Laudato Sí Week 2022 from May 22-29.

The weeklong global event will mark the seventh anniversary of Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on creation care and unite the world's 1.3 billion Catholics to listen and respond to the cry of God's creation. We will celebrate Laudato Sí week within our Diocese by holding a Mass at St Mary's Cathedral at 7pm on Monday May 23. Bishop Robert will preside at the Mass and Fr Chris Hughes will give the homily on hearing the cry of the poor and the earth. Music will be provided by pupils from Sacred Heart High School, Fenham. Everyone is welcome to attend this special Mass focusing on creation care.

Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week ahead

