

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

FoodBank: The Well: 46 East Green, West Auckland. DL14 9HJ. Opening times: Wednesday-Friday 9am - 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: Christopher Smith, Patrick Doherty, Joan Towers, Toni Neville, Ian Burns and Nico Human.

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.

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 children's Liturgy will be taking a break for the summer and will resume again after the holidays.

Children's Liturgy at home

A Children's Liturgy from Cafod can be found at www.cafod.org.uk [click here](#)

Recent Second Collections:

Peter's Pence £94.41

Stella Maris £118.00

Ukraine Appeal 09/05/22 £49.00

Ukraine Appeal 01/08/22 £57.67

Thank you for your generosity.

Offertory

If you wish to make your donations directly to St. Osmund's. Bank account details are:
HSBC: D.H & N Gainford St. Osmund's.
Account No. 41164015.



19th Sunday of Ordinary Time 7th August

Theme: The virtuous saved

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks.'

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.

Healing Mass: Wednesday 17th August 2.30pm at St. Anne's Church.

Celebrated by Brother Robert. After mass Coffee and Cake will be provided in the Church Hall.

Liturgical Formation and Days of Reflection

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission is pleased to share their Autumn calendar for Liturgical Formation and Days of Reflection for Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion and Readers. Please visit bit.ly/Liturgy2022

More details at the back of this bulletin

Encountering the Holy Spirit

The Vicariate for Faith and Mission has now produced the 'Encountering the Holy Spirit' booklet, which is the third of a series of reflection booklets to accompany the Year of the Eucharist. The booklet is available on the Diocesan website from the following link: <https://bit.ly/3R2gJRZ>

Readings and Reflection**19th Sunday of Ordinary Time****7th August****First reading Wisdom 18:6-9****You made us glorious by calling us to you**

That night had been foretold to our ancestors, so that, once they saw what kind of oaths they had put their trust in, they would joyfully take courage.

This was the expectation of your people, the saving of the virtuous and the ruin of their enemies; for by the same act with which you took vengeance on our foes you made us glorious by calling us to you.

The devout children of worthy men offered sacrifice in secret and this divine pact they struck with one accord: that the saints would share the same blessings and dangers alike; and forthwith they had begun to chant the hymns of the fathers.

Responsorial Psalm 32(33):1,12,18-20,22**Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Second reading Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19**Abraham looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God**

Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen. It was for faith that our ancestors were commended.

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. By faith he arrived, as a foreigner, in the Promised Land, and lived there as if in a strange country, with Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. They lived there in tents while he looked forward to a city founded, designed and built by God.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

All these died in faith, before receiving any of the things that had been promised, but they saw them in the far

distance and welcomed them, recognising that they were only strangers and nomads on earth. People who use such terms about themselves make it quite plain that they are in search of their real homeland. They can hardly have meant the country they came from, since they had the opportunity to go back to it; but in fact they were longing for a better homeland, their heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, since he has founded the city for them. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 11:25

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

Gospel Luke 12:32-48**You too must stand ready**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming," and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will

cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.’

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Feast days this week

Monday 8th August: St. Dominic

Tuesday 9th August : St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

Wednesday 10th August: St. Laurence

Thursday 11th August: St. Clare

Friday 12th August: St. Jane Frances de Chantel

Saturday 13th August: Sts Pontian and Hippolytus

Reflection on the Readings

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

7th August

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.

Living responsibly

“See that you have your belts done up and your lamps lit.” What meaning can these words have for us, after so many centuries of Christianity? The belts and the lamps indicate the attitude that the servants should have as they await the return of their master. Whenever he comes, they need to be there with their sleeves rolled up and ready for action. They need to be there with the lamps lit, to have the house lit up and to keep themselves awake.

We are called to live responsibly, not in a state of passive lethargy. In the Church's history it sometimes seems very dark. That does not justify us simply turning off the lights and abandoning hope. It's the time to awaken our faith and try to plan the future, even in an old and tired Church. The main obstacle to the renewal our Church needs today is the passivity of so many Christians. Unfortunately, for centuries we have been taught to be submissive to authority, rather than be active agents in our own church. But today, we all need to think, project and promote new paths of faithfulness to Jesus.

We need our leaders to encourage the laity to live their discipleship actively. This was one of the main aims of Vatican II, the first council that was concerned directly and explicitly about vocation of lay people. Individual believers today can be the leaven of our parishes in a renewed following of Jesus. They are the greatest potential for the health of Christianity. We need them more than ever to build a Church that is both open to the problems of today's world and that is close to actual men and women.

associationofcatholicpriests.ie

Saint Bernadette Relic Tour

The Catholic approach to relics sometimes seems to be one of our ‘odd’ devotions. Why would we want to have anything to do with the old bones of those who have died? Even if we are deeply impressed by their lives, keeping their bones as a focus of prayer seems a little weird. But when we reflect a little more deeply, it seems to be deeply rooted in our human nature to keep relics of those we love; and the practice of using these in our religious practice goes right back to the beginning of Christianity.

For example, how many of the parents among you have a lock of your children's hair? Or what about a possession of a deceased family member? Maybe it's not something that you particularly like for its own merits or style, but when we look at it our minds are flooded with memories of somebody we loved and want to remain close to. Both of these examples are relics, in a non-religious sense. There are objects which connect us to a person and time which we wish to keep alive in our minds – whether a person we were close to and loved deeply, or those precious early years of a child's life as they changed so quickly. So, having ‘relics’ of our family and other loved ones is very widespread, and that reflects something deep within us as humans.

When we think about the Saints, we are thinking about members of our family. The Church is a family, and the Saints are those members who have finished their journey here on earth and are now in heaven. We should all seek to be close to them, tied by bonds of love. We ask them for our help, just as we ask those close to us on earth for help when we need it – the Saints, being in heaven, being so close to God, can help us through their prayers. As we seek to be close to them, to keep them in mind, we might well have pictures or statues of those we are especially close to. The Church as a whole also keeps them in mind by keeping their relics. First the actual remains of the Saints' bodies; and also items which belonged to them, or were close to them.

Having this respect for even the bones of those important in the faith is truly ancient. When the Israelites were liberated from Egypt, Moses carried with him the bones of Joseph – even centuries after his death they were held to be important (Exodus 13:19). In the Old Testament relics were even the source of a miracle; when the prophet Elisha was being buried, another body was thrown into the grave as well, on touching Elisha's bones the body revived (2 Kings

13:20-21). In the New Testament, as the persecution of the Church began and S. Stephen was martyred, it is noted that great care was taken to bury his body (Acts 8:2); and handkerchiefs were carried from S. Paul to the sick, and the touch of them was used by God to cure illness (Acts 19:11-12). From the earliest days, Christians met to celebrate Mass at the tombs of the Martyrs; being close to their relics as they celebrated their memory. This practice was extended to including relics of the Saints in altars – one of the reasons why the Priest kisses the altar at Mass is to show love and respect to the relics encased within it.

With these thoughts in mind, and that desire to be close to the Saints; the relics of S. Bernadette are going to be touring Britain in the autumn. S. Bernadette was a young girl in the town of Lourdes; her family lived in poverty, and suffered from a number of illnesses. At the age of fourteen she was given a vision of Our Lady – the now famous Lourdes apparition. She never had good health due to the lingering effects of childhood illness, but entered the Sisters of Charity and led a quiet life of service before dying at the age of 35. The visions had been approved even during her lifetime, and pilgrimage to Lourdes remains very popular; Bernadette herself was quickly recognised as a Saint, being canonised in 1933.

Her relics arrive in England on 1 September and go round the various cathedrals and certain other churches until 30 October. **They will be at our own cathedral in Newcastle 1-2 October**, after which they go to **Middlesbrough Cathedral on 2-3 October** (which some may find more convenient), grow closer to her and therefore to God. Registration is needed for visits, but is free. This, along with much other information, can be found at <https://stbernadette.org.uk> **Fr. Thomas.**

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

2022-2023

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is managed and awarded by the Board of Religious Studies on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The programme seeks to ensure that participants have a basic understanding of the central beliefs of the Catholic faith. This programme is available for catechists, lay leaders and other adults wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith and Catholic education, serving teachers in Catholic and other schools, and teachers in training preparing to take up posts in Catholic schools. The CCRS course programme is now available for 2022-2023 and there is a short presentation shown on the Diocesan website: <https://diocesehn.org.uk/education/continuing-professional-development-and-formation/#ccrs>

If anyone would like further information, they can contact Eamonn Diffley at the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, Department for Education on 0191 243 3313 or email education@diocesehn.org.uk

Hiroshima & Nagasaki 6th - 9th August

At this time we remember the devastation caused in Hiroshima and Nagasaki when the atomic bombs were dropped, on 6 and 9 August 1945, and we pray that nuclear weapons will be abolished so that they can never be used again.

In his message, 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace', Pope Francis asks, 'How many resources are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care'. Pope Francis calls on us to 'strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another'.

Liturgical Formation / Days of Reflection

Please visit bit.ly/Liturgy2022

The Diocesan Liturgy team are planning more Liturgy courses for formation and Days of Reflection for the Autumn, including:

- Courses for new Readers and new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- A study day for leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- Days of Reflection for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
- Refresher evenings for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Liturgy Courses / Days confirmed:

Tuesday 13 September 2022 – Formation for new **Readers** (Day 2 on 17 September). [View here.](#)

Saturday 24 September 2022 – Day of Reflection for **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (an alternative date will be offered in October). [View here.](#)

Wednesday 28 September 2022 – Refresher evening for **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (this day will take place in the north of the Diocese). [View here.](#)

Tuesday 4 October – Refresher evening for **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** (this day will take place in the South of the Diocese). [View here.](#)

Saturday 15 October – Day of Reflection for **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.** [View here.](#)

Further information about each of the courses/events, along with booking information, is available on [Liturgy and Prayer webpage.](#)

St. Augustines Ukraine Appeal

It is expected that a further trip to Ukraine will take place in September/October. If anyone wishes do donate any food or medical supplies these can be dropped off on Sunday mornings in August at the parish centre.

Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week ahead

