

# 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

**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:** Patrick Doherty, Ian Burns Nico Human, Alexandra Jüngst, Kate Konig, Susan Hunton and John Mulholland

### Tea & Coffee after Mass

Tea and coffee are available after Mass in the parish centre— all are most welcome to join this moment of fellowship as a parish.

### 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.

Sort Code 40-34-18.

### Significance Grand Draw

Fr Dermott Donnelly, Director of Youth Services in our Diocese until his death in July 2022, founded the charity 'Significance' to enable young people to become all that God has created them to be. Significance has recently launched a fundraising appeal including a Grand Draw: First prize is 2 tickets for a live TV show in 2024 plus Meet and Greet with Ant and Dec, first class LNER travel and overnight stay in a London hotel (there are two first prizes); and there are other exciting prizes. Each ticket costs £5 and the aim is to raise £20,000 by selling 800 books x 5 tickets. The draw will take place on Youth Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Please support by buying a ticket or taking a book to sell. Raffle tickets can be sent to you by contacting Mary Hughes at [significance316@gmail.com](mailto:significance316@gmail.com)



## 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time 15th October

**Theme: Everyone is invited**

*The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding."*

### October: Month of the Holy Rosary

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

### Children's Liturgy

**There will be a Children's Liturgy this  
Sunday 15th October**

**Mass today is being offered for George Norris - RIP**

### 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.*

### General Assembly - Synod

The General Secretariat of the Synod publishes the "Instrumentum laboris", the document that will guide the work of the two-part General Assembly that will meet in Rome in October 2023 and October 2024. Deliberately conceived as a starting point and not a point of arrival, the *Instrumentum laboris* brings together the experiences of dioceses around the world over the last two years, starting from 10 October 2021, when Pope Francis set in motion a journey to discern what steps to take "to grow as a synodal Church."



### First Holy Communion

We are looking to gather details of those children in Year 4 or upwards who wish to receive first Holy Communion this academic year so that plans for their preparation can be made. Application forms are available at the back of church, please return to Fr. Thomas.



**First reading Isaiah 25:6-10****The Lord will prepare a banquet for every nation**

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.

On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever.

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.

We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

**Responsorial Psalm 22(23)****In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.**

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

**Second reading Phillipians 4:12-14,19-20****With the help of the One who gives me strength, there is nothing I cannot master**

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gospel Acclamation Jn1:14,12**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. **Alleluia!**

**Gospel Matthew 22:1-14****Invite everyone you can to the wedding**

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

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**Feast Day this week:**

**Monday 16th October:** St Margaret Mary Alacoque

**Tuesday 17th October:** St Ignatius of Antioch

**Wednesday 18th October:** St Luke

**Thursday 19th October:** Sts John Brebeuf, Issac Jogues and their companions

**Saturday 21st October:** Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Memorial Acclamation**

We have got used to singing the memorial acclamation using the first option. So that there is some variety today we will sing the second text ('When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again'), the tune is very similar and I'm sure that we will get used to this over the next few weeks.

**November Lists for the departed**

Next month we will be keeping the annual remembrance of our beloved departed. Forms are available at the back for the names of the departed who will be kept on the altar to be prayed for throughout November. The blessing of the graves will take place immediate following Mass on Sunday 5 November.

**Reflections on the Readings****28th Sunday of Ordinary Time****15th October**

*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.*

**Tomorrow's World**

*What does tomorrow hold for us? What is there to hope for? Often our imagination projects into the future. As children, we wondered "What will it be when like when we grow up?" Parents promised new freedoms and new possibilities "When you are older." Human nature lives in vital tension between the Already and the Not Yet. As adults we may indeed have to trim down and focus our hopes and fantasies into more precise channels, with the passing years. But we are still gripped with interest in what lies ahead—not just for oneself and family, but for the wider society and world. What steps in science and technology lie just around the corner? How will society develop, between now and the year 2050? The changing balance between richer and poorer countries; the unstable marital climate of our own nation; proposed educational changes and law reforms; new employment initiatives; the provision of better medical and recreational facilities—all are subject to our keen analysis and hopeful projections.*

*Elderly people may ponder more on the past than the future and to dwell on bygone events and treasured relationships. Their looking forward is more often marked with resignation or anxiety than with hope. In the dignity of their mature years, they accept that "Que sera, sera; whatever will be, will be". And, if they have learned the habit of prayer, they peace-fully leave their future in God's hands.*

*Today's Scriptures invite us all to raise our sights, and our hearts, when thinking of the future. Beyond this present life, God has planned a great future for all of us. Isaiah's prophecy of the heavenly banquet is an invitation to think of our eternal destiny. There is more to live for than what we see in this present world, interesting and challenging though it is. What really counts, indeed, is whether we succeed in reaching our eternal happiness with God.*

*Perhaps our predecessors in the faith had a stronger sense of the afterlife than we have today. Like Saint Paul, they believed that history is in God's hands and that divine justice will have the last say. Difficulties in one's present life could then be seen as growth-pains, or as a means of purifying the spirit from selfishness and sin. Under it all, the world was "in travail," in process of bringing a new era into existence. So it was that Paul—and many other men and women of faith—could be inwardly at peace, no matter how hard the circumstances in which they found them-selves. We can "do all things in Him who strengthens us," if we hold on to the hope of everlasting life.*

*The eternal banquet must not be abandoned as so much "pie in the sky"! Christians don't literally expect to sit down to an everlasting meal, an eternal eating and drinking festival somewhere in the stratosphere. While heaven is described in vivid anthropomorphic images, we realize that "eye has not seen.. nor can the human heart imagine, what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor 2:9.) Still, the banqueting atmosphere of friendly conviviality is a good image for that perfect loving communion with God and with others towards which our lives are destined.*

*Jesus emphasises that this wedding-banquet is open to all people indeed, that God sends his messengers out to scour the highways and byways in order to fill his house with guests. It is a comforting thought that God wants us to be saved, even more than we do ourselves.*

*On the other hand, there is a special regalia or wedding-garment that must be worn. This is the level of personal commitment required, in order to accept our place at the wedding feast. I like to think that this refers primarily to community spirit, an ability to share our well-being with other people, in the presence of God. Though founded on faith in God's creative love, Christian hope retains a strong ethical dimension. Our wedding-garment is therefore being woven daily, by the quality of our interaction with others. In this sense, we hold tomorrow in our own hands, as with the help of God's grace we build our own eternal future. [associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://associationofcatholicpriests.ie)*

**The Cycle of Prayer - The Spread of the Gospel**

especially on *Evangelii Gaudium* Day: 3rd Sunday in September & World Mission Day: the penultimate Sunday in October

**Background**

Home Mission day is on the 3rd Sunday in September. There may be a collection to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship.

World Mission Day is on the penultimate Sunday in October. A Mass 'for the Spread of the Gospel' may be celebrated on this Sunday. Each year the Holy Father

writes a message for World Mission day. In England and Wales material is produced for parishes by the Pontifical Mission Societies. There may be a collection for their work on this day.

**Prayer**

*O God, whose will it is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, look upon your abundant harvest and be pleased to send workers to gather it, that the Gospel may be preached to all creation and that your people, gathered by the word of life and sustained by the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the path of salvation and love.*

**Roman Missal**

We use the term 'Catholic' to describe the Church, and ourselves as parts of it, rather easily today; however, as with all terms it has to have a beginning. In this case, the word (which means 'universal') is first attested by S. Ignatius of Antioch, whom we celebrate on Tuesday. S. Ignatius is one of the earliest of the Church Fathers, and gives us several important insights into the life of the Church at the very earliest moments of her existence.

Little is known of his early life, some traditions claim that he was one of the children whom Christ took into his arms and blessed (cf. Mark 10:16); it is widely said that he converted to Christianity at an early age, what is clear is that he established a reputation for himself within the community quite rapidly. He became the third Bishop of Antioch, with S. Peter himself having been the first. We know nothing about his time as Bishop, his fame arises in his martyrdom and especially in his correspondence written as he prepared for it.

During a persecution under the Emperor Trajan he was arrested and sent to Rome for execution. It is unclear quite why he wasn't simply killed in Antioch, but in the workings of providence it provided us with clear information about the Church at the time. As he was traveling to Rome, Ignatius wrote a series of letters to various local churches, very much in the style of S. Paul's epistles in the New Testament. These tell us much about the life of the Church and the development of teaching which had taken place.

He wrote movingly and extensively about the Eucharist. He recognises this as 'medicine of immortality', as something which transforms those who receive it. He connected the Eucharist with the martyrdom which he knew he was about to undertake and expresses this in rather graphic terms: "I am the wheat of God and am ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, that I may be found the pure bread of Christ." (Epistle to the Romans.)

Perhaps his greatest contribution is the image of the Church which he presents. We see a clear presentation of the local church being formed in unity with its bishop. He makes reference to the Bishop presiding over the people, assisted by his priests and deacons. He notes that performing any services without the authority of the Bishop is unlawful. This continues today, and is the reason why at Mass the Bishop is named in the Eucharistic Prayer – a reminder that we do everything in union with the Bishop.

The Bishop is also presented as the source of communion with the whole of the Church. "Wherever the Bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church." (Epistle to the Smyrnaeans.) The Bishop, through his union with his brother bishops in other local churches, is the sign of the union of the people in his care with all other Catholics. This important teaching on the position of the Bishop was re-emphasised by Vatican II.

It is easy for us to think of the Catholic Church in terms of the various institutions which are part of it, and many of them are necessary for the well-functioning of such a large body of people; however, reflection on S. Ignatius and his writings can help us to understand the most fundamental reality of the Church, the communion of God's people. Communion which is marked most clearly by our common sharing of the Eucharist. **Fr. Thomas.**

### Church Sound System

You may have noticed, or not noticed! that the sound system in the church is no longer operating effectively. Although it can have a very nice 'hiss and crackle' at times.

A new sound system is to be installed which will ensure that everyone will be able to hear and participate fully in our Mass and liturgies.

It will be especially valuable at times such as Easter, Passion tide, Christmas and for weddings and funerals when there is a full church and several readers.

A date for installation is set for early December which will mean that the system is in place for Christmas.

Over the coming months there will be some fund raising to offset the cost where we will all have the opportunity to contribute, ensuring that our beautiful church remains welcoming not only for our present congregation but for generations to come.

### Harvest Supper

There will be a harvest supper on Thursday 19 October. Soup, bread, and cheese will be provided; and offers of puddings are most welcome. Please do sign-up at the back of church. There are two lists, one for attendees, and one for puddings. All are most welcome.

### Second Collection next week – world missions

Next week there will be the collection for World Mission Sunday. Pope Francis has said: 'everyone has the right to receive the Gospel and we as Christ's followers have the duty to proclaim it without excluding anyone.' Praying for this important intention, and offering what material support we can, helps to achieve this.

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

