

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, Nico Human, Alexandra Jüngst, Kate Konig, Nino Volpe and Susan Hunton

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.



Beautiful pictures thanks to Rachel

The 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Follow me

'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

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 on Sunday 28th January



*During Advent the Children's Liturgy focused on the plight of refugees, with themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, whilst raising funds for **Cafod World Gifts**. Thanks to the hard work of the children, their catechists and the generosity of parishioners £325 was raised. This has been spent on the following:*



Safe Place to call home £49



Women refugees X2 £104



Emergency shelter X2 £80



Help a refugee child X2 £92

This is a wonderful example for us all of how we should 'live the gospel', through showing our faith by means of good deeds towards all of God's people, especially the most vulnerable and those in need.

Well done

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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The annual week of prayer for Christian Unity continues this week. Keep this important intention in your prayers. Churches Together in Gainford will be holding its service to pray for unity this Sunday (21 January) at 6.30pm at S. Mary's.

First reading Jonah 3:1-5,10**The people of Nineveh renounce their evil behaviour**

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: 'Up!' he said 'Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.' Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, 'Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.' And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour, and God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Responsorial Psalm 24(25):4-6,7b-9**Lord, make me know your ways.**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**The world as we know it is passing away**

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Gospel Acclamation Mk1:15**Alleluia, alleluia!**

The kingdom of God is close at hand:
repent, and believe the Good News.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:14-20**I will make you into fishers of men**

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

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Feast Day this week:

Monday 22nd January: St Vincent

Wednesday 24th January: St Francis de Sales

Thursday 25th January: The Conversion of St. Paul

Friday 26th January: Sts Timothy and Titus

Saturday 27th January: St Anthony Merici

The Cycle of Prayer**Christian Unity**

especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: 18–25 January.

Background

The Week of was originally begun in 1908 by the American Episcopalian clergyman Paul Wattson who later became a Catholic. The Week begins on 18 January and ends on 25 January—the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Material for the Week of Prayer is prepared in collaboration by Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and The Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. Each year this material is produced by Christians in a different country.

Prayer

*May the divisions among Christians be overcome
so that we may hasten
to your eternal Kingdom in the perfect communion
of the Church.*

cf. Roman Missal

Ordo and Northern Catholic Calendar

Copies of the Diocesan Ordo and Northern Catholic Calendar were delivered during the week. These contain the dates of the various feasts during the year, as celebrated in the Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. The cost to the parish is £7 for the Ordo and £3.50 for the Northern Catholic Calendar, donations encouraged to cover the cost but please do take a copy if you're interested.

Reflection on the Readings**3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time****21st 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.

Open to Change

We can all become rather set in our ways. We get into certain ways of doing things and it can be easy to stay with those ways and rather difficult to change from them. We develop routines and those routines keep us going. It often takes someone else to broaden our horizons a little, to open us up to areas of life that we would never otherwise have ventured into. We each might be able to identify such people in our own lives, those who introduced us to something that proved to be very enriching and that helped us to grow as human beings.

Jesus was such a person for the two sets of brothers in today's gospel. Peter, Andrew, James and John lived in a world that was very much defined by the Sea of Galilee. They were fishermen. The tools of their trade were their boats and their nets; the fruit of their trade was the fish that they caught and the money they received for selling on the fish. They had every reason to believe that this would always be their way of life. Their lives had a very particular rhythm and they probably intended go on living to that rhythm until they were too old or sick to work. Then, one day Jesus entered their lives and the impact he had on them was such that they left their boats and their nets, and even their families, to follow this man and to share in his mission. 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of people', he said to them. Instead of gathering fish into their nets, they would now share in Jesus' work of gathering people to God. It is hard to imagine a greater change of rhythm than the one which today's gospel puts before us.

The call that Jesus addressed to those two sets of brothers, 'Follow me', is addressed to each one of us. In our case that call will not mean leaving our jobs, if we are fortunate enough to have one, or, much less, leaving our families. Yet, the call of Jesus to follow him will always involve the opening up of some new horizon or other. In calling on us to follow him, Jesus is always opening us up to the horizon of God, to God's perspective on life. This will often mean looking afresh at the way we do things, the routines that we have built up and seem to keep us going, the rhythms that we have become used to and have learnt to live by. The Lord's call to follow him is addressed to us every day of our lives. It will mean something different every day, but it is always a call to keep making a new beginning in some way or other, to keeping setting out on a new journey, God's journey, which is the journey towards other people in selfless love, the journey towards a wider horizon.

Peter, Andrew, James and John were called to leave their natural family to embrace a much larger family, the future family of Jesus' disciples. The Lord's call to us to follow him today will always involve some element of that call to open ourselves up to a wider family, the family of the church or of humanity. The first reading is from the story of the prophet Jonah. He was a Jew and he had all the prejudices of some Jews at the time against non-Jews. Yet, God called him to head out and preach the message of God's merciful love to the pagans, to the people of Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, the arch enemies of the people of Israel. Here was a call that was stretching Jonah's horizon to breaking point and he ran away from it. Yet, God pursued him and did not give up on him until Jonah answered the call. In today's gospel we find Jonah doing just that and his message met with tremendous openness from the people of Nineveh.

God's horizon is always so much wider than ours. The call of Jesus to follow him always involves a call to allow our own limited horizons to be stretched to embrace God's vision for our lives. Before Jesus called on Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him, he announced, 'the time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent and believe the good news.' The kingdom of God is not like any human kingdom. It has no boundaries; it needs no mechanisms to keep people out. Our calling is to keep living out of the endless horizon of God's kingdom. To do that we need to keep on repenting, to keep on dying to whatever narrowness of vision and lifestyle may be there within us. Saint Paul in the second reading today calls on us not to become engrossed in the world, not to give ourselves over completely to what does not endure and is not of ultimate significance. While living in the world we are called to look beyond it towards that endless horizon of God's kingdom. Today is church unity Sunday. Regardless of the church to which we believe it is in responding to that fundamental call of Jesus that we will grow closer together.

associationofcatholicpriests.ie

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.

Crib Offerings

The crib collection remains in place until Candlemass (2 February) for those who wish to make donations; these all go to 'Mission Together' which is the children's branch of the Papal Mission Charity 'Missio'.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The annual week of prayer for Christian Unity began last Thursday, please keep this important intention in your prayers. Churches Together in Gainford will be holding its service to pray for unity this evening at 6.30pm at S. Mary's. Please see poster in the porch for more details.

It has become a normal part of our annual calendar, but there was a time when the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was quite a novelty. Certainly the idea of different groups of Christians gathering for joint prayers was surprisingly difficult for many to understand. But the idea of having this intention among our prayers goes right back to Christ himself, in what is often called his 'High Priestly Prayer' at the end of the last supper he says:

"I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (*John 17:20-21*)

Sadly, there have always been divisions within the Church; we hear S. Paul complaining to the Corinthians about different parties 'each one of you says I belong to Paul, or I belong to Apollos, or I belong to Cephas.' Today this division has become much deeper with various groups and individuals having broken away from the Church. The week of prayer for Christian unity is the natural response to this. The title is quite a mouthful, but it reminds us of the important point that our unity can only be found in Christ, that prayer for unity is the most important way of working to build that unity. The week was begun in the early twentieth century, at that time there was a feast of S. Peter's Chair at Rome on 18 January (his chair being the symbol of his authority) and then a week later the feast of the Conversion of S. Paul. Having those two Saints, the great founders of the Church, as the book end of the week seemed entirely natural – placing the efforts under the patronage of the first Pope, and the Church's greatest teacher.

Unity has a number of elements, and we can be glad that progress has been made. It is now entirely natural for all Christians to cooperate in charitable works, indeed cooperation stretches beyond Christians to all of those of good will. Praying together with other Christian communities and individuals has also become established – for example, it seemed entirely natural that Cardinal Nichols would be one of those offering prayers for the King at his Coronation, but this was not even contemplated back in 1953 when no Catholic cleric was present inside the Abbey.

When we look at the remaining divisions, we can see a mixture of elements. It cannot be denied that all sides have had moments of pride, both personal and corporate, which have worked to separate us from each other. These have produced historic wounds and memories of wrongs done. Overcoming these can be a slow process, but prayer and a renewed humility on our part is a major part. It has to be acknowledged that there are points where division is based on a genuine disagreement, and here we should recognise that unity has to proceed from truth. Again, the solution is to turn to God in prayer, recognising that Christ is 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life' and that in and through him we can be brought to a full and deep truth, which is the only source of unity. In terms of suitable prayers, a short one, familiar from its use at every Mass, presents itself quite naturally for this week:

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen. **Fr. Thomas.**

Youth Ministry Conference – February 3 2024

This Youth Ministry and Practical Theology Conference is YMT's first conference since the COVID-19 pandemic and we look forward to gather with youth ministers, catechists, clergy, teachers, staff and volunteer co-workers from across the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and beyond! The theme for the conference is "Investing in the Fearlessness of Youth", inspired by a quote from Pope Francis' letter, *Christus Vivit* (Chapter 7 no. 233). We hope you can join us for this Youth Ministry Conference. Booking is now open and you can either email nsalkeld@ymt.org or book online here: www.ticketsource.co.uk/youthministryteam Online booking will apply booking fees.

We are looking forward to welcoming keynote speaker, Reverend Professor David Wilkinson, Director of Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science, an international project based at St John's College, Durham, who will explore how we can engage young people in the Gospel when we live in a world of science. We are also pleased to welcome back David Wells,

international speaker, best-selling author and friend of YMT, to guide us to reflect on our theme.

For more information about the conference visit www.ymt.org/ymt-conference

Vacancies – Opportunities to work at the Emmaus Village

The Emmaus Village, home for the Youth Ministry Team, hosts all the residential retreats led by YMT for our Diocesan Primary and Secondary Schools. It also offers catering and hospitality to the biggest gathering of Catholic Schools, the YMT Summer Festivals, students named it "God Camp". With this we are looking for an Assistant Catering Coordinator and Kitchen Technician, who will help our catering team deliver this valuable service to all the groups that come to the Emmaus Village. If you or someone you know, wants to be part of the YMT team, please contact admin@ymt.org or click the link www.ymt.org/vacancies for more information with regards to our vacancies.

Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week ahead

