

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, Bernadette Wyr, Patrick Heffernan and Susan Hunton

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.

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.

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancies:

Administrator, St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle – full-time. Closing date: 16 April

IT Field Engineer (two posts)

Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, 9-month fixed term contract. Closing date: 21 April

Please visit www.diocesehn.org.uk for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.



3rd Sunday of Easter

Theme: Prince of life

'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed.'

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

Children's Liturgy:

The Children's Liturgy will resume next Sunday 21st April

Mass Times

As noted earlier this year, the new schedule of weekend Masses will begin in May. The principle used is that on the even Sundays of each month (second and fourth) there will be Mass at Gainford at 9.30 on Sunday as now; but on the odd Sundays of each month (first and third) there will be a vigil Mass on Saturday evening at 6.30pm. There will always be a notice on the porch door giving details for forthcoming weeks. It will inevitably take a while to get used to the new pattern, so do take particular care of times as it beds in.

4/5 May (first Sunday of the month) – Mass at Gainford, **Saturday 6.30**

11/12 May (second Sunday of the month) – Mass at Gainford, **Sunday 9.30**

18/19 May (third Sunday of the month) – Mass at Gainford, **Saturday 6.30**

25/26 May (fourth Sunday of the month) – Mass at Gainford, **Sunday 9.30**

1/2 June (first Sunday of the month) – Mass at Gainford, **Saturday 6.30 &c.**

First reading Acts 3:13-15,17-19

You killed the prince of life: God, however, raised him from the dead

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Responsorial Psalm 4:2,4,7,9

Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

When I call, answer me, O God of justice; from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!

It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he loves; the Lord hears me whenever I call him.

'What can bring us happiness?' many say.
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Second reading 1 John 2:1-5

Jesus Christ is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and the world's

I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning; but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just; he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away, and not only ours, but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments.

Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth.

But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

Gospel Acclamation cf.Lk24:32

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 24:35-48

It is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

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Feast Days this Week

Saturday 20th April: St Beuno (Wales)

The Cycle of Prayer**New Members of the Church**

In many communities and dioceses the Easter Season is a privileged time to celebrate the Sacraments of First Communion and Baptism.

Prayer

Father, you give your Church

*constant growth by adding new members
to your family.*

*Help us put into action in our lives the baptism
we have received in faith. Roman Missal*

Reflection on the Readings**3rd Sunday of Easter****14th April**

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.

The gift of forgiveness

If we look back over our lives most of us will find something or other that we very much regret. We might remember speaking or acting in ways that hurt or damaged others. We might be aware of not doing something that we could have done and, that in our heart of hearts, wanted to do. Sometimes these experiences of personal failure can leave us very burdened. We can find it hard to move on from them; they trouble us and we struggle to be free of them. They can weigh heavily on us and drain us of energy. We can find ourselves going back in memory to them over and over again.

The first disciples of Jesus must have felt like this in the aftermath of Jesus' crucifixion. During the days of Jesus' final journey, they had all deserted him. Their mood in the aftermath of Good Friday can only have been one of deep regret. They must have felt that their relationship with Jesus was over. According to today's gospel, however, the first words the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples were, 'Peace be with you'. These words assured the disciples of the Lord's forgiveness. For those first disciples, the initial experience of the risen Lord took the form of a profound experience of forgiveness. This was the risen Lord's gift to them. The gift of forgiveness can be difficult to receive at times. We wonder if we are really forgiven. According to the gospel, when Jesus said 'Peace be with you', they responded with alarm and fright and thought that they might be seeing a ghost. The risen Jesus then questioned them, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts?' It took the disciples a while to realise that they were forgiven.

It is only after the disciples had come to receive this gift of forgiveness that they were sent out as messengers of the Lord's forgiveness to others. According to our gospel, the risen Lord, having assured them that they were forgiven, went on to commission them to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins to all the nations. It is forgiven sinners who are entrusted with the task of proclaiming the good news of God's forgiving love to all. This is what we find Peter doing in today's first reading. He declares to the people of Jerusalem that, although they had handed Jesus over to Pilate, God's forgiveness was available to them if they turned to God by believing in Jesus. The church has been faithful to the mission entrusted to the disciples, proclaiming down the centuries the good news that God's forgiveness is stronger than human sin. In raising Jesus from the dead and sending him back to those who had rejected him and failed him, God was declaring that he can raise anyone from their sins. The risen Jesus reveals a faithful, forgiving God. Today's 2nd Reading states this clearly: 'If anyone does sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just'.

Before we can receive the Easter gift of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the risen Lord, we must first acknowledge our need of that gift. In the words of today's 2nd Reading, we need to admit the truth. The truth is that we are always in need of the gift of God's forgiveness. Recognising our need and asking God for the gift of forgiveness is what we call repentance. Peter in the first reading calls on the people of Jerusalem to repent and turn to God so that their sins may be wiped out. The risen Lord in the gospel sends out his disciples to preach repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a privileged opportunity to admit the truth, to acknowledge our need of God's forgiveness and to ask directly for it. In that sacrament that the risen Lord says to us, 'Peace be with you'. The words of absolution include the prayer, 'through the ministry of the church may God grant you pardon and peace'.

The first disciples, having received the gift of the Lord's forgiveness, were sent to spread that forgiveness to others. In a similar way, we who receive the same gift are sent out on the same mission. As forgiven sinners we proclaim with our lives the presence of a forgiving and faithful God. We extend to others the gift we have received from the Lord. This will not always come easy to us. Who was it who said, 'to err is human, to forgive is divine'? If that is true, we need divine help to do what is divine. In the verses that immediately follow where today's gospel ends, the risen Jesus promises his disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit upon them. It is only in the power of the Holy Spirit that they would be able to engage in the task that Jesus was entrusting to them. We need the same Spirit if we are to forgive as we have been forgiven. In the weeks ahead that lead up to the feast of Pentecost, we might pray the prayer, 'Come Holy Spirit, fill my heart and enkindle in me the fire of your love'. We could pray this prayer especially during those times when we find ourselves struggling to pass on to others the gift of forgiveness that we continue to receive from the Lord. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

There can be no doubt that one of the most popular pilgrimage sites in the whole world is Lourdes, ever year many thousands visit (often on an annual basis) the place where Our Lady appeared and where so many miraculous healings have taken place. This week we celebrate the person with whom this all started, S. Bernadette Soubirous. We can always learn from the Saints, and in this case we can also learn a great deal about how God works with us as human.

In human terms, Bernadette's early life was very far from auspicious; her family lived in extreme poverty, four of her siblings died in infancy and a further died aged ten. During her childhood she was frequently sick suffering from cholera as a toddler, and severe asthma on an ongoing basis. But yet, as the book of Samuel tells us: "the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

At the age of 14 she was out gathering firewood with her sister and a friend when she saw a vision at what we now know universally as the Grotto. She stated that she had seen 'a small young lady'; however, those with her saw nothing. She returned a few days later and saw the vision again, and this time was asked to return every day for a fortnight.

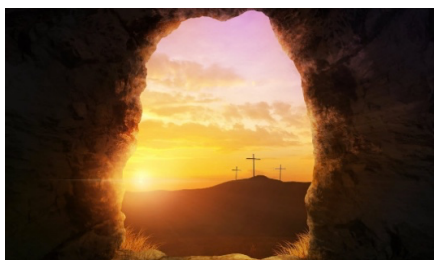
This naturally caused confusion among the adults who heard of it, and her parents tried to stop her going back. She persisted, and eventually the vision confirmed her identity by saying '*Que soy era immaculada councepciou*' which translates from Occitan (the local language) as 'I am the immaculate conception'. It is notable that this was shortly after Pope Pius IX had formally defined the Immaculate Conception as a dogma of the Faith, a significant act in the life of the Church, but hardly something which would have been discussed in a remote French village.

There was significant division among the local population about the truth of the vision; many rapidly accepted it on the basis of Bernadette's testimony, but others were deeply opposed – the mayor decided to barricade the grotto to prevent anybody going to the site, and so the final vision was given to Bernadette from a distance.

Both government and Church officials interviewed Bernadette several times, and often in far from a sympathetic manner; however, she was absolutely consistent in her account. The Church is always cautious about approving of any claimed vision, but came to accept it in this instance. Bernadette's testimony was a significant part of this approval, combined with a number of miracles connected with the spring of water which appeared at the grotto.

Naturally she was at the centre of the growing attention being given to Lourdes, but disliked this, and entered the convent of the Sisters of Charity not least to escape it and be able to live a life of prayer and charity. When she was asked about her return to obscurity, she replied: "the Virgin used me as a broom to remove the dust. When the work is done, the broom is put behind the door again." Her childhood illnesses have permanently affected her health, and she died of tuberculosis aged 35. Among the statements made to her by Our Lady was the promises that she would be made happy 'not in this life, but in the other' – a promise which certainly turned out to be true.

It is a common theme among the Saints that they often do not have a good start, in human terms. They are not the sort of people which the world would typically choose – but yet, God seeing something much deeper does choose them and use them for great purposes. In S. Bernadette's case, the innocency of her life and her humility are the main characteristics which strike us (characteristics which are often shown among those who receive visions of Our Lady). When we ask for the prayers of the Saints, and certainly of S. Bernadette, we would do well to ask for these graces in particular. **Fr. Thomas.**



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.



Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week ahead

