

# St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: [gainford.stosmund@rcdbn.org.uk](mailto:gainford.stosmund@rcdbn.org.uk)**

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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.

### Safeguarding

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) and Diocese's policies and procedures at all times. Details of our Parish Safeguarding Representative can be found on the notice board in the porch and the Parish Centre, or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on [0191 2433305](tel:01912433305) or at [safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk)

### Parish Council

A Finance Committee meeting and Parish Council meeting took place on Thursday 2nd May.

The minutes from the previous meeting in December were approved and can be seen on the notice board in the Parish Centre.



## May - Month of Our Lady Pentecost Sunday

### Theme: Receive the Holy Spirit

*The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words,*

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

**Saturday 18th May: 6.30pm**

**Sunday 26th May: 9.30 am**

**Saturday 1st June: 6.30pm**

**Sunday 9th June: 9.30 am**

**Saturday 15th June 6.30pm**

### Children's Liturgy:

There will be a Children's Liturgy on  
**Sunday 26th May**

### 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.*

### 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.

### Second Collection

This week there will be a second collection for the Lay Training Fund.

**First reading Genesis 11:1-9****The tower of Babel**

Throughout the earth men spoke the same language, with the same vocabulary. Now as they moved eastwards they found a plain in the land of Shinar where they settled. They said to one another, 'Come, let us make bricks and bake them in the fire.' (For stone they used bricks, and for mortar they used bitumen). 'Come,' they said 'let us build ourselves a town and a tower with its top reaching heaven. Let us make a name for ourselves, so that we may not be scattered about the whole earth.' Now the Lord came down to see the town and the tower that the sons of man had built. 'So they are all a single people with a single language!' said the Lord. 'This is but the start of their undertakings! There will be nothing too hard for them to do. Come, let us go down and confuse their language on the spot so that they can no longer understand one another.' The Lord scattered them thence over the whole face of the earth, and they stopped building the town. It was named Babel therefore, because there the Lord confused the language of the whole earth. It was from there that the Lord scattered them over the whole face of the earth.

**Responsorial Psalm 103(104):1-2,24,27-30,35****Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

Bless the Lord, my soul!  
Lord God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe!

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
Bless the Lord, my soul.

All of these look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up:  
you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.

**Second reading Romans 8:22-27****The Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words**

From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free. For we must be content to hope that we shall be saved – our salvation is not in sight, we should not have to be hoping for it if it were – but, as I say, we must hope to be saved since we are not saved yet – it is something we must wait for with patience.

The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.  
**Alleluia!**

**Gospel John 7:37-39****'If any man is thirsty, let him come to me!'**

On the last day and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood there and cried out:

'If any man is thirsty, let him come to me!

Let the man come and drink who believes in me!

As scripture says: From his breast shall flow fountains of living water.

He was speaking of the Spirit which those who believed in him were to receive; for there was no Spirit as yet because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

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**Feast Days this Week**

**Monday 20th May:** Mary Mother of the Church

**Tuesday 21st May:** St Christopher Magallanes and his Companions

**Wednesday 22nd May:** St Rita of Cascia

**Thursday 23rd May:** Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest

**Friday 24th May:** Mary, Help of Christians

**Saturday 18th May:** Se Bede the Venerable

**Message from Bishop Stephen**

Dear Sisters & Brothers

In order to grow as a synodal Church it is important that we all have a chance to pray and discern how the Holy Spirit is inviting us to grow in mission in our parishes and communities. To facilitate this, I together with others, offer an initial Diocesan vision for your prayerful reflection. Our discerned Diocesan commitments are: To Walk with Jesus and Enable Others to Encounter Him; To grow as One Diocesan Family- Rebuilding Relationships; Forming and Developing People for Mission; Living Justly and Caring for Our Common Home. Each of these commitments are developed in the vision. It is not my intention to impose this vision. It is offered for further reflection and I invite all of our parishes and communities to prayerfully reflect on them. We offer accompanying resources and support to enable this reflection. All of these resources are available on the diocesan website.

With assurances and prayers

+ **Stephen**

**Reflection on the Readings****Pentecost Sunday****19th May 2024**

*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 Spirit who bears fruit***

*In our churches there is no shortage of images, mostly statues, paintings or stained glass. They are mostly images of Jesus, Mary and the saints. There are also images of some Old Testament figures like Abraham and Sarah, or Moses and Miriam. There is a long tradition of images within the church, beginning with the paintings in the Roman Catacombs. The Holy Spirit, whose feast we celebrate on Pentecost, does not lend itself easily to imagery. The traditional image of the dove is drawn from the scene of the baptism of Jesus. But the language in that passage is rather vague; the Holy Spirit descended like a dove, or in the way that a dove might descend. There are two other images of the Holy Spirit in today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Luke says that all who gathered in one room heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven; he goes on to say that something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire. Just as the evangelists do not portray an actual dove at the baptism of Jesus, Luke does not say that the wind and fire at Pentecost were tangible phenomena. The Holy Spirit is impossible to visualise, because the Spirit cannot be seen as such. Yet the Holy Spirit is profoundly real.*

*Many things in our universe are real even though invisible to the naked eye. What we see with our eyes is only a fraction of our physical world. The Holy Spirit belongs to the spiritual world, and it naturally cannot be seen with our eyes. Yet, there are helpful ways of imagining the Holy Spirit. St Paul uses an image drawn from nature when he says that the Spirit bears fruit. He means the visible effect of the Spirit on one's life. We may not be able to see the Holy Spirit, but we can see the effect of the Spirit in our life, just as we cannot see the wind but can see the effect of the wind on people and objects of various kinds. Paul is saying that wherever we find love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control, the Spirit is there at work. The Spirit becomes visible in and through these qualities and virtues. The person who most of all had those qualities was Jesus because he was full of the Holy Spirit, full of the life of God. The Holy Spirit is essentially the very life of God, and that life is a life of love. It is that divine life, that divine love, which was poured out at Pentecost, initially on the first disciples but through them on all who were open to receive this powerful and wonderful gift. Paul expresses it simply in his letter to the Romans, 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us'. It is that Spirit of God's love we have received who bears the rich fruit in our lives that Paul speaks about in today's 2nd Reading. The Spirit is constantly at work in our lives, making us more like Jesus. The ordinary, day to day expressions of goodness and kindness, of faithfulness and self-control, of patience and gentleness, are all manifestations of the Spirit that has been given to us by God. We can recognise the Spirit's presence in the common happenings of everyday life. The spiritual is not something other-worldly; it is humanity at its best.*

*Humanity is at its best in today's first reading. Pentecost brought about a wonderful bonding of people from all over the Roman Empire. They were united in admiring and praising the marvels of God. In spite of differences of language and culture there was a real communion among them. Wherever communion of heart and mind exist among people of different backgrounds, the Holy Spirit is at work. Unity in diversity is the mark of the Spirit. Jesus points out another manifestation of the Spirit: the pursuit of truth. Only the Spirit can lead us to the complete truth. If someone is genuinely seeking for truth, and willing to engage in good works with others, there the Spirit is at work. Fullness of truth and love is always beyond us; but the Spirit is given to lead us towards the complete truth and love, in all its height and depth.*

*associationofcatholicpriests.ie*

**Job Vacancies**

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following job vacancy:  
 HR Administrator, Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – 15 hours per week. Closing date: 21 May  
 Please visit [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) for full details or contact us on 0191 243 3301.



It's difficult to image what it must have been like for the early Christians on the first Pentecost. They had been given a promise that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on them, they spent time in prayer following Christ's ascension waiting for it...but even with the expectations which they had been given, the reality must have far exceeded anything which they imagined.

This outpouring of the Holy Spirit was not entirely random, we read in Acts of how Jerusalem will filled with pilgrims who had come for the festival. This day was chosen by God both for its significance in the existing Jewish thoughts as well as for the greater audience who could hear the preaching of the Apostles.

The festival in question was Shavuot, also known as the Feast of Weeks. This fell seven weeks after Passover, and drew together two themes. First it was the feast of the first fruits; that is the grain harvest. Over the preceding weeks barley and wheat would have been harvested, and this was followed by a thanksgiving where some of the produce would be offered to God. It is easy to imagine the importance of this first harvest in an agricultural society, where the stocks of winter food were probably running low; rejoicing and thanksgiving for replenishing them follows quite obviously. It also recalled the giving of the Law, the Torah. The biblical account of the giving of the Law following the Exodus doesn't give a precise date, but it would have been within a few days.

The combination of these two celebrations makes it a particularly apposite time for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. First there is the purely practical point that Jerusalem would have been packed full of pilgrims, several of whom came great distances; this would give them the best possible change to hear the preaching of the apostles. The message of Christ could be given the best possible start to the widest possible audience.

But there is also a much deeper point. In celebrating the harvest those ancient Jews were celebrating God's loving provision for them, celebrating the way that he was giving them the food for the next year. In the outpouring of the Holy Spirit God was feeding his people again; not with literal food, but still with something which would give them strength to continue his work.

The place of the Torah is also significant. For the ancient Hebrews this was God's guidance to them; a sign of God's closeness to them; of God's care for them. All of these are reflected in the coming of the Holy Spirit. We are told that the Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth (*John 16:13*), if we let God be our guide he will continue to do so – not merely with words, but by reaching into our hearts and transforming them. Given that the Holy Spirit is God himself, having the Holy Spirit in our lives is more than just close; we are told we become the temple (the dwelling place) of the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 6:19*).

The Jewish people rejoiced each year at Shavuot; as we enter into the celebration of Pentecost, we have great cause for rejoicing too. Pentecost was a particular moment of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, but it wasn't the end – the Holy Spirit continues to be poured out upon us, and that is truly a reason for rejoicing. Fr. Thomas.

**The Cycle of Prayer**

**The Church**

Especially on Pentecost

**Background**

Throughout the Season of Easter the first reading at Mass is taken from the Acts of the Apostles. Luke tells the story of the early Church from the Ascension and Pentecost to the early missions of the apostles.

"When the work which the Father gave the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost in order that he might continually sanctify the Church." Then "the Church was openly displayed to the crowds and the spread of the Gospel among the nations, through preaching, was begun." As the "convocation" of all men for salvation, the Church in her very nature is missionary, sent by Christ to all the nations to make disciples of them." Catechism 767  
"Those who with God's help have welcomed Christ's call and freely responded to it are urged on by love of Christ

to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world. This treasure, received from the apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors. All Christ's faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer." Catechism 3

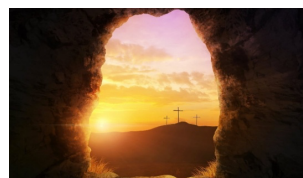
**Prayer**

*God our Father, in all the churches scattered throughout the world you show forth the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.*

*Through the gospel and the eucharist bring your people together in the Holy Spirit and guide us in love.*

*Make us a sign of your love for all people, and help us show forth the living presence of Christ in the world.*

**Roman Missal**



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

