

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: 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 König, 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.

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

IT Field Engineer (two posts)

Diocesan Offices, Newcastle – full-time, 9-month fixed term contract. Closing date: 6th May

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

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. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Clare Humble or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on [0191 2433305](tel:01912433305) or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk



6th Sunday of Easter

Theme: Bear fruit by loving

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

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

Saturday 4th May: 6.30pm

Sunday 12th May: 9.30am

Saturday 18th May: 6.30pm

Sunday 26th May: 9.30am

Saturday 1st June: 6.30pm

Children's Liturgy:

There will be a Children's Liturgy will on **Sunday 12th May**

Ascension Day

This Thursday is the Solemnity of the Ascension.

Parish Mass here at 12noon;

additionally a parish Mass at Barnard Castle at 10am, and an Ordinate Mass at Barnard Castle at 7pm.

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

Next week there will be a second collection for World Communications Day.

First reading Acts 10:25-26,34-35,44-48**The pagans have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have**

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Responsorial Psalm 97(98):1-4**The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

Sing a new song to the Lord
for he has worked wonders.
His right hand and his holy arm
have brought salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation;
has shown his justice to the nations.
He has remembered his truth and love
for the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth,
ring out your joy.

Second reading 1 John 4:7-10**Let us love one another, since love comes from God**

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love.

God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Gospel Acclamation Jn14:23**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.' **Alleluia!**

Gospel John 15:9-17**You are my friends if you do what I command you**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

What I command you is to love one another.'

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Feast Days this Week

Monday 6th May: St Dominic Savio

Thursday 9th May: The Ascension of the Lord

Friday 10th May: St John of Avila

The Cycle of Prayer

Human Work: Especially on St Joseph the Worker - 1 May

Background: The commemoration of St Joseph the Worker on 1 May was instituted by Pius XII in 1955. It proposes the example and intercession of Joseph as worker and provider.

Prayer

*God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe,
in every age you call men and women
to develop and use their gifts for the good of others.
With St Joseph as our example and guide,
help us to do the work you have asked
and come to the rewards you have promised.*

Roman Missal (adapted)

Lenten Alms

We received a letter from First Stop Darlington expressing their thanks for the funds which we raised for them during Lent. Much effort went into that, and so thanks are certainly due to everybody who worked hard for the various events and gave of their time and money. We know that it's going to a good cause.

Reflection on the Readings**6th Sunday of Easter****5th May**

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 focus of this Sunday's readings is squarely on God's lavish love for us, and the question we must ask ourselves is how we are being called to respond to that love. The second reading makes clear what love truly is: "not that we have loved God, but that he loved us" and proved it by sending his Beloved Son into the world to give us life by sacrificing his own! Because God IS love and loves all of us completely, we are called to love each other as well. Jesus' love for us is so intimate and profound that he tells the apostles in today's gospel that he loves them in the same way the Father loves him. In the end he gave them only one commandment to obey to remain in his love and experience his joy: "Love one another as I love you." They were commissioned to spread that love to others through the Church after his Ascension. We are his witnesses now. How are we called to be the incarnation of God's love in our own day and situations? The first reading from Acts 10 challenged me to ask myself that question. When Peter sees for himself the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a gathering of Gentile faith seekers, he realises that his fellow Jews were not the only ones called to become members of Christ's family. Who have I seen as "other" that I need to see as someone Jesus died for and loves? Can I see good in someone who doesn't vote the same way I do? Act the way I would like them to? Comes from another country needing my help? How would Jesus respond to these "others"? How should I? **By Marylou Garrett, Notre Dame Associate - notredamesisters.org***

One of the virtues which people (both Catholics and non-Catholics) often identify with the Church is its unity. It is easy for us to think that this means that things are always the same everywhere. There is some truth to this, having attended Mass while on holiday abroad, it has struck me how familiar things are – even though I don't really speak the language, I can recognise the pattern of how Mass is proceeding. But there is also a great diversity within the Church, and there is much which can enrich all of our lives by appreciating this. Today is the International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians, and so this is a good moment to reflect on the beautiful diversity which they represent.

From the early days of the Church, practices began to vary in different places. Major local churches would naturally have an influence over those near to them, and over time this developed into a system of different rites. The Church defines a rite as being 'the liturgical, spiritual, and disciplinary patrimony, culture, and circumstances of history of a distinct people' – what this means is the whole pattern of life of an established group.

As schisms started to take place, they often happened along the same lines as those rites which had emerged. Once communion had been broken, the two separate bodies would naturally develop separately from each other and become more different over time.

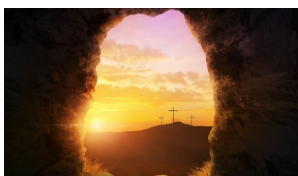
The groups which broke away did so for a mixture of theological, but also political and cultural reasons – there was much misunderstanding on all sides, and mutual condemnations did little to heal the wounds. But there has also been a recognition that division among Christians is against the will of God. Over time this has led some of those who have split away to seek to re-establish communion with the Catholic Church, and specifically with the Pope.

Today there are 23 distinct Eastern Catholic Churches, they are mostly found in their historic homelands, but increasingly migration means that they have a presence world-wide. These look and sound very much like Eastern or Oriental Orthodox Christians, but are just as much part of the Catholic Church as we are. As they sought to restore their relationship of Communion with the Pope (and therefore with all other Catholics) there was no need for them to abandon the ways of worship and of life which they had kept faithfully over many years.

At times, there were pressures for them to adopt more and more of our Latin customs; however, Vatican II formally recognised the equal dignity of each of the rites, and encouraged them to return to their own traditions in their fullness.

Here in England, many places have a significant Syro-Malabar presence. This is an Eastern Catholic Church which developed from the Indians first evangelised by S. Thomas. Mostly centred in South West India, they use a liturgy which derives from Antioch in Syria but which has also developed its own unique elements. Since 2016 they have had their own diocese covering the whole of Great Britain; locally they worship at S. Thomas Aquinas in Darlington. In very recent time the Ukrainian Catholic Church has also gained some attention (for sad, though obvious, reasons); this is part of the Byzantine tradition, and so look and sound like most of Eastern Orthodoxy. Over the years they have suffered significant persecution for their faithfulness to Catholicism.

Today we are encouraged to pray for all Eastern Christians, both Catholic and Orthodox; they are often suffering greatly in their homelands, including some of the very first places to hear the Gospel. We hold them in our prayers and our hearts. **Fr. Thomas**



Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week ahead

