

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: gainford.stosmund@rcdbn.org.uk

Tel: 01833 631457 Mobile: : 07876 308657

Website: www.stosmunds.co.uk

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, Patrick Heffernan, Hilary Fletcher, Mike Griffiths, Luca Gallucci, Pat Aveson 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 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

Jubilee 2025: We celebrate this year of pilgrimage and prayer, celebration and reconciliation, seeking to be Pilgrims of Hope. There's more information about the Jubilee Year on the Diocesan website at <https://www.bit.ly/DHNjubilee2025>.

To aid your journey through this jubilee year, **copies of a companion booklet are available at the back of church.** A donation of £1 is suggested.



21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: *No east or west*

And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.'

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

Sunday 24th August 9.30am

Saturday 30th August 6.30pm

Saturday 6th September 6.30pm

Sunday 14th September 9.30am

Mass today is offered for Thomas Yellowley, recently departed. May he rest in peace

Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy will resume in September

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.*

Foodbank – a reminder that we collect for 'The Well' foodbank on a rolling basis. Sadly many people rely on foodbanks to feed themselves and their families. Donations can be left in porch, either as you come to Mass or at any other time, and will be taken across. Thank you for your support.

Sunday Mass Times

When the times of weekend Masses were changed last year, it was noted that after a time to allow people to get used to the change there would be a consultation to see whether the new system was working or not. Please do take the time to reflect on the new times, and whether they should be retained, slightly tweaked, or significantly changed.

First reading Isaiah 66:18-21

‘They shall bring all your brothers from all the nations.’

Thus says the Lord:

‘For I know their works and their thoughts,
and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues.
And they shall come and shall see my glory,
and I will set a sign among them.

And from them I will send survivors to the nations,
to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal
and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not
heard my fame or seen my glory.

And they shall declare my glory among the nations.
And they shall bring all your brothers from all the
nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in
chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries,
to my holy mountain Jerusalem,’ says the Lord, ‘just as
the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel
to the house of the Lord.

And some of them also I will take for priests and for
Levites,’ says the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 117(116): 1-2. R. Mark 16:15

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

O praise the Lord, all you nations;
acclaim him, all you peoples!

For his mercy has prevailed over us;
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.

Second reading Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13

‘The Lord disciplines the one he loves.’

Brothers and Sisters: Have you forgotten the
exhortation that addresses you as sons? ‘My son, do not
regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary
when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one
he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.’ It is
for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating
you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does
not discipline? For the moment all discipline seems
painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the
peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been
trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your
weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so
that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather
be healed.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel Luke 13:22-30

‘People will come from east and west, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.’

At that time: Jesus went on his way through towns and
villages, teaching and journeying towards Jerusalem. And
someone said to him, ‘Lord, will those who are saved be
few?’ And he said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the
narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and
will not be able. When once the master of the house has
risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside
and to knock at the door, saying, “Lord, open to us”,
then he will answer you, “I do not know where you come
from.” Then you will begin to say, “We ate and drank in
your presence, and you taught in our streets.” But he will
say, “I tell you, I do not know where you come from.
Depart from me, all you workers of evil!” In that place
there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you
see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in
the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And
people will come from east and west, and from north
and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God.
And behold, some are last who will be first, and some
are first who will be last.’

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Feast Days this week

Monday 25th August: St Louis

Tuesday 26th August: St David Lewis(Wales),
Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God (Dominic
Barberi)

Wednesday 27th August: St Monica

Thursday 28th August: St Augustine

Friday 29th August: The Beheading of St John the
Baptist

Saturday 30th August: Sts Margaret Clitherow,
Anne Line and Margaret Ward

The Cycle of Prayer

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews

Prayer

Let us pray also for the Jewish people,
to who the Lord our God spoke first,
that he may grant them to advance in love of his name
and in faithfulness to his covenant.

Almighty ever-living God,
who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his
descendants,

graciously hear the prayers of your Church,
that the people you first made your own
may attain the fullness of redemption.

Roman Missal

By the narrow door

Responding to the beauty of a spring morning, Robert Browning wrote, "The lark's on the wing, the snail's on the thorn; God's in his heaven, all's right with the world." While the thought is beautiful, the poem suggests a misleading concept of God, which maybe most of us entertain from time to time. "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world." How often we imagine God as "away up there, somewhere," while the world goes its separate way, with the events of every day independent of God. If the Gospel shows God in the person of Jesus Christ intervening in human affairs, combatting the evil forces at work in mankind, at the back of our minds we suspect that the battle against evil is not going God's way.

This kind of Deism seldom bothered his chosen people, Israel, in the Old Testament. For them God was not remote, away up there. They felt a divine presence in the events, good or evil, of everyday existence. Everything in history was somehow God's doing. Even when the cream of the nation were exiled to Babylon and their monarchy was utterly destroyed, they continued to search for the hand of God in this tragedy. Out of their shattered hopes there emerged a purer, more spiritual vision of what God meant them to be. Eventually they saw their exile as the means God used to bring salvation to the pagans. They saw their destiny as still being glorious, but now from a more spiritual perspective. As stated in Isaiah, all nations would come to worship the true God in Jerusalem. God would bring good out of the catastrophe they had endured, and this would have an effect as well on nations apart from their own.

Constantly at the back of our minds we carry on, as it were, a conversation with ourselves?" talking to ourselves, processing our hopes and fears, making plans. Relating to God means not leaving him on the fringe of all this consciousness, but making him part of it, discussing it with him, asking his guidance, his assistance, expressing to him our gratitude. All day long he is with you, and you can walk with God, you can talk with God, you can discern his loving purpose for you in every passing moment, you can rest in his presence, even while you go about your business. God, however, will not possess your soul unless you sincerely want him to.

Sometimes we seem to be only half Christians, without a strong spiritual awareness. We remain on a material plane, like the people in the gospel who ate and drank with Jesus and heard him preaching in their streets, but with never a change in their lives. He warns that people will come from the east and west, from the north and south, and take the places in God's kingdom meant for those who were originally called. So we humbly ask God to help us to enter by that narrow door, to the inheritance meant for us from the beginning. May we not be found wanting but rather persevere to the end. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

St Augustine's

A date for your diary – Wednesday 4th September in the Parish Centre at 7pm, Sr Imelda Poole will be speaking about her work with trafficked women in Albania. Sr Imelda is a religious sister of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) and a leading figure in the international movement against human trafficking. After a long career in education and grassroots mission in the UK, she moved to Albania in 2005 to respond to the growing crisis of human trafficking, at the invitation of the Archbishop of Tirana. Sr Imelda spent some time working in Middlesbrough before going to Albania. Her life's mission is rooted in dignity, justice, and systemic change for the most vulnerable.

Alpha Course

Hogarth partnership is pleased to announce that an Alpha course will run in St Augustine's Parish Centre starting on Wednesday 17th September from 7-9pm for 10 weeks.

Alpha is a chance to explore the Christian faith and is open to adults from those taking first steps to those seeking to enhance it. The evenings start with sharing food, a short film and then discussion in small groups.

Please register by sending an email to hogarthalphaonline@gmail.com

We look forward to sharing this experience with you. Hogarth Alpha team.

S. Augustine, Doctor of Grace

I suspect that we will be hearing quite a bit from S. Augustine over the coming years, Pope Leo was a member of the Order of S. Augustine, has included an Augustinian symbol in his coat of arms, and taken a motto (In the One [Christ] we are one) which derives from one of his homilies. This is no complaint, he was one of the great teachers of the Church, and we should look forward to Pope Leo's reflections drawing on his thought. As we celebrate his feast this Thursday, this seemed a good opportunity to reflect on his life.

He was born into a family of Romanised Berbers, much of north Africa had been part of the Roman Empire for some time, and part of the local society had adopted Latin and Roman customs. Christianity had been legalised a few decades before, and his mother (S. Monica, her own feast a day before his on Wednesday) was a Christian while his father a pagan. We know many details of his life from his own autobiography (known as the 'Confessions').

Beginning what was equivalent to an academic career, he studied and then taught, being especially good at rhetoric. At this time he lived a hedonistic lifestyle, including a 15 year affair with a woman who gave birth to his son. At this time he also embraced Manichaeism, a strange religion which proposed a world of struggle between good and evil, with all physical matter being associated with evil. After his conversion to Christianity he would write against Manichaeism, engaging in debates to expose the holes in its system.

Moving to Milan, then the capital of the Western Empire, where he met S. Ambrose who was Bishop of Milan. They were both experts in rhetoric and became friends, even though Augustine still rejected the Faith. At the age of 31 he was converted, having a spiritual experience of a voice telling him 'tolle, lege' (take up and read) taking a Bible and opening it at random he read Romans 13, including the line 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ'. Later he would ascribe his conversion to the prayers of his mother, who followed him from Africa and continually pestered him to live a better life.

Returning to the family's property in Africa, he lived a life of leisure until his son died. Then he sold most of his wealth and gave the proceeds to the poor, living with some friends in a religious community. He was ordained Priest, and a few years later Bishop of Hippo (now known as Annaba, in Algeria). Much of his theology is found in the homilies he gave as Bishop – considerably longer than any modern preaching. His *Confessions* detail the journey he made into the Faith, particularly expressing sorrow for his life before conversion, and remain widely read.

His thought encompasses many areas of theology, in many cases he would write or speak against an error which was being preached. He was among the first to offer a full account of the Trinity, he defended the understanding of the Sacraments as depending on God rather than on the goodness of the celebrating Priest; he also laid the foundation for much thinking on the relationship between the Faith and public life. It is perhaps his account of the human person which has been most influential; he recognised the innate goodness of God's creation, but also the effects of the Fall, passed on through original sin. He saw humanity as incapable of helping itself, thus needing God's grace (hence his nickname of Doctor of Grace) even to begin to approach God.

Immediately recognised as a Saint after his death, his teachings were particularly influential in the Western church. His works continue to inspire many, including Pope Benedict XVI, and now Pope Leo. – Fr. Thomas.

School Governors – please take a moment to look at the poster in the porch regarding schools governors, and consider whether this could be a way in which you would be willing to help in the life and mission of the Church.

Communion from the chalice

At a recent P.P.C. meeting the question of receiving Communion from the chalice as well as the host was raised. This will require an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion to offer the chalice on those days when Fr. Butters is not with us. If you are interested in helping with the Mass in this way, please let Fr. Thomas know.



Please pray for Katey, Philip, and Olwen who were baptised yesterday.
May God continue to strengthen and guide them as they grow in the Faith.



Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week ahead