

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, 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](tel:01912433305) 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.



18th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Rich before God

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

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

Saturday 2nd August 6.30pm

Sunday 10th August 9.30am

Saturday 16th August 6.30pm

Sunday 24th August 9.30am

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 Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23**‘What has a man from all his toil?’**

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. Sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he toils beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

Responsorial Psalm 90(89):3-6, 12-14, 17. R1**O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.**

You turn man back to dust,
and say, ‘Return, O children of Adam.’
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.

You sweep them away like a dream,
like grass which is fresh in the morning.
In the morning it sprouts and is fresh;
by evening it withers and fades.

Then teach us to number our days,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Turn back, O Lord! How long?
Show pity to your servants.

At dawn, fill us with your merciful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands.

Second reading Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11**‘Seek the things that are above, where Christ is.’**

Brothers and Sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 5:3**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Alleluia.

St. Osmund's Parish Gainford

Gospel Luke 12:13-21**‘The things you have prepared, whose will they be?’**

At that time: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of one’s possessions.’ And he told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, “What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?” And he said, “I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ ” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So is the one who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich towards God.’

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Feast Days this week

Monday 4th August: St John Mary Vianney

Tuesday 5th August: Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major

Wednesday 6th August: The Transfiguration of the Lord

Thursday 7th August: St Pope Sixtus II and his Companions

Friday 8th August: St Dominic

Saturday 9th August: St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

The Cycle of Prayer - Europe Background

Pope John Paul II dedicated 6 patron saints to Europe:

- St Cyril and St Methodius (14 February)
- St Catherine of Siena (29 April)
- St Benedict (11 July)
- St Bridget of Sweden
- St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

They reflect the rich spiritual history of the Continent from East to West and across the centuries. In the Cycle of Prayer Europe is remembered in the Summer when a number of the Feasts days occur.

Europe day is marked on 9 May

Prayer

O God, who gave one origin to all peoples
and willed to gather from them one family for yourself,
fill all hearts, we pray, with the fire of your love
and kindle in them a desire
for the just advancement of their neighbour,
that, through the good things
which you richly bestow upon all,
each human person
may be brought to perfection,
every division may be removed,
and equity and justice may be established in human
society. **Roman Missal**

If I were a rich Man

"I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after the wind."

Thus begins the Book of Ecclesiastes (1:14) in the Old Testament. It is a fascinating book that is often ignored and rarely read. It is written by the preacher, Qobeleth, a wise old man who has lived life to the full, experienced all there was to experience, and has concluded that, in the end, all of it is useless; all of it is 'vanity and a striving after the wind.'

It is written by a man who has become cynical about the world and concluded that work, pleasure, family, indeed everything we have is useless.

But why, I hear you ask, would anyone put a book like this into the Bible? After all the Bible is 'Good News' for all peoples. Where is the Good News in saying that everything we do in this life is worthless, like chasing after the wind?

The answer is that all is not what it seems. Yes, he concludes that everything we do, everything we strive for, everything we achieve is mere vanity and nothing more than chasing after the wind.....but he then adds; this is all true if we don't have a relationship with God. Suddenly what seemed cynical pessimism becomes something wonderful.

Qobeleth was, in fact, a wise man and a believer in the one true God who saw and experienced life with all its vanities and concluded that when we take delight in the blessings that God has given us, everything takes on new meaning. Everything, he concludes, including enjoyment, happiness and pleasure are from God, and "...there is nothing better for a man than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?"(Ecclesiastes 2:24).

Qobeleth views the world with what I would call a 'healthy cynicism'. He looks at us scurrying around our world, busily making profits, being popular, getting promotions, having bigger and better cars and homes, searching for enjoyment and happiness in possessions, power, wealth, alcohol, drugs, sex, ... and he smiles and says, "all of this is nothing but vanity and leads to nothing except cold, dark, death, ... unless we have a relationship with God and come to realise – to know – that everything is from God and everything – work, family, pleasure, happiness, our planet – is God's gift to us."

What has this to do with this week's Gospel? Everything! The Book of Ecclesiastes and the wise old cynic, Qobeleth, hold the key, I think, to understanding this week's Gospel.

Jesus is angered by the man in the crowd asking him to intervene in an inheritance dispute. This type of question is, for Jesus, a distraction from his message about the Kingdom of God. He seems to resent the interruption, instantly dismissing both the question and the man who asked it. - "You fool!"

Jesus seems to be saying, almost sadly, that the man has done nothing wrong, but something has been missing all along; something that would give meaning to his work, planning, and enjoyment. Everything the man has done in this parable has been for himself.

Never once in the parable does the man refer to anybody other than himself. Everything is "I".

'What shall I do?; I have no place to store my crops.'; 'This is what I'll do; I will tear down my barns; I will store my surplus grain; I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of....; Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

Never does he mention or give any credit to his employees who worked for him. He never mentions his family, or includes them in his good fortune. It is not so much that he is selfish, rather that his focus is so much on what he has achieved that he is not even aware of others. He is making progress but he is missing all of the wonder and beauty that is around him. If we live only for ourselves and building our own empires, then inevitably we lose them in death.

What the man in this parable was missing all along was the ability to see and enjoy all of his work and success as a blessing from God. If he had seen all he achieved as being part of God's wonderful creation then his work and effort, his success, even his enjoyment of that success would have been a sharing in God's own delight in creation. His work and success would have had an eternal value.

What if I were part of that crowd listening to Jesus? Would Jesus turn to me and say "You fool!...look at all you are missing. Life is not about making more and more profits. It is not about building bigger and bigger houses and golf courses and hotels. There is no true happiness in that, only greed and chasing after the wind. True happiness is in opening your eyes and enjoying, delighting in, the simple blessings that God has given us. Do that and your enjoyment of your work and achievements will be God's enjoyment of his wonder-filled creation.

All around our world we see the results of greed, selfishness, power, ambition, domination and there is no happiness in any of them. There is no happiness in Gaza or in Israel, in Ukraine, or Syria or the Sudan or Myanmar or Ethiopia or ... the list is endless.

In our own lives, there is no real happiness in refusing to say sorry, holding grudges, jealousy, lording it over others, boasting of our achievements, hoarding more and more possessions and trophies and things that glitter in the glare of camera flashes. Isn't it time we heard Qobeleth and Jesus and Saint Augustine pointing us to where we will find true happiness?

"There is nothing better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labour. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God"

Fr. Brian Maher OMI oblates.ie

S. Jean-Marie Vianney, the Curé d'Ars

There are several Saints whose connexion with a particular place is reflected in their usual name – we usually speak of S. Francis of Assisi or S. Teresa of Avila, for example – however, on Monday the Church celebrates a man who was so connected that often his name is dropped and only the place remains: the Curé d'Ars. This title translated from French as 'the parish priest of Ars', and using it for S. Jean-Marie shows how closely his sanctity and his life were connected to his position there.

Born into a devout family in 1786, near to Lyons, the normal progress of his life was interrupted by the French Revolution. His family continued to practice the Faith as much as possible, often travelling to distant farms to attend Mass. The young Jean-Marie noted the heroism of Priests who were living in secret so that they could continue to provide the Sacraments during the persecution.

Once internal peace was re-established he began to pursue his own vocation. As his education had been interrupted by the Revolution he was regarded as a very slow student, and was about to be dismissed from seminary. It was only with the intervention of his parish priest, who successfully argued that his piety was enough to compensate for his lack of learning. In August 1815 he was ordained priest.

After a few years as an assistant priest, he was sent to Ars, a small town with around 230 inhabitants. He quickly realised that, like much of France at the time, the effects of the Revolution were still present. The time without any spiritual leadership had resulted in ignorance and indifference to religion. He began to rebuild the parish, in particular through his own prayer life and the confessional – initially few would come to confession, but over time numbers rose. His reputation as a confessor spread widely, and people travelled significant distances – by 1855 20,000 pilgrims per year were coming to Ars for confession and spiritual advice. During the winter months he was in the confessional for around 12 hours per day, during the summer up to 16.

His preaching was often vehement, especially in his condemnation of the widespread blasphemies. He also promoted adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, through it deepening the faith of many parishioners – in one famous case, he saw an old peasant farmer simply looking at the tabernacle, asking what he was doing, the farmer replied 'I look at him, and he looks at me.'

His personal life was one of great asceticism, living on a diet of a single potato each day (often long past its best). He nonetheless always insisted on the very best for the church and especially things for the celebration of Mass – nothing could be too good for God. He attempted to leave Ars several times, each time to become a monk; however, his vocation was clearly in that place and so he always returned, remaining there until his death. His faithfulness to the parish and its people were rewarded by their growing faithfulness. His sanctity was rapidly acknowledged by the Church, and he was canonised in 1925.

The nineteenth century was a time of significant religious revival in France, several great Saints were raised up to rebuild the Church there following the destruction of the Revolution. Among those Saints, S. Jean-Marie Vianney continues to inspire, to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed him the patron Saint of parish priests, may his prayers support all parish priests. – **Fr. Thomas.**

Prayer for Pope Leo XIV

Lord of life, love and hope, we thank you for the election of our new Pope.

Watch over, protect and bless Pope Leo XIV

We pray that, led by the Holy Spirit, his faithful witness will be a beacon of hope in our fragile and often divided world.

May the joy of the Gospel inspire him with compassionate understanding so that, together, we can be peacemakers and life-givers.

May Pope Leo be a good and courageous shepherd, concerned for "the least, the last and the lost" of "every tribe and tongue and people and nation". Guide him to be a leader after your own heart, which is more loving than we can possibly imagine.

We ask you, Lord, to surround Pope Leo with people of pastoral wisdom as he adjusts to his new role. Fill him with confidence in the power of prayer. Help us to help him.

Amen.

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.

Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week ahead

