

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, Kate Konig, Patrick Heffernan, Hilary Fletcher, Mike Griffiths, Luca Gallucci, Pat Aveson and

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.



All Saints

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes,

November: Month of the Holy Souls

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

Saturday 1st November 6.30pm

Sunday 9th November 9.30am

Saturday 15th November 6.30pm

Sunday 23rd November 9.30am

Children's Liturgy

The next Children's Liturgy will be on Sunday 9th November

Colleen Dunbar RIP

Colleen's funeral will take place here at St Osmund's on Thursday 13 November, at 1pm. Requiem Mass in church followed by burial in the churchyard.
All are most welcome to come and give thanks for her life, as well as to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

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.*

All Souls Day - Monday 3rd November

Fr Butters will celebrate a Parish Mass on the Feast of All Souls here in St Osmund's at 10 am

First reading Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

‘Behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.’

I, John, saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, ‘Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of the sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel. After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’

Responsorial Psalm 24(23):1-6 Rcf. 6

Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

The Lord’s is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second reading 1 John 3:1-3

‘We shall see God as he is.’

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 11:28

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit.’

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.’

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Feast Days this week

Monday 3rd November: All Souls

Tuesday 4th November: St Charles Borromeo

Thursday 6th November: All Saints of Ireland (Ireland), St Illtyd (Wales)

Friday 7th November: St Willibrord

Saturday 8th November: Blessed John Duns (Scotland), All Saints of Wales (Wales)

The Cycle of Prayer**Justice and Peace in the World****Prayer**

O God, who show a father’s care for all,
grant, in your mercy,
that the members of the human race,
to whom you have given a single origin,
may form in peace a single family
and always be united by a fraternal spirit.

Roman Missal

St Augustine’s - 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.

Who is a saint?

Many of us have weird notions of what a saint looks like. Years ago, at the funeral of Princess Diana, Diana's brother cautioned against making her into a kind of a saint. Addressing his dead sister he announced: 'indeed to sanctify your memory would be to miss out on the very core of your being, your wonderfully mischievous sense of humour with the laugh that bent you double, your joy for life transmitted wherever you took your smile.'

But is it really true that the saints never broke the rules (St Augustine?), never experienced the dark night of the soul (The Little Flower?), never had a sense of humour? ('God save us from sullen Saints' — St Teresa of Avila), never broke into a great smile? The answer is, 'of course it is not true.' The saints were fully human. They struggled with temptation; they savoured life's joy. On All Saint's day I think of all the good people who have crossed my path and enriched my life — parents, class mates, parishioners here in the parish. They were not perfect, but they were in their own way great human beings.

The priest once asked the class: what do you have to do to become a saint? One hand shot up: 'You have to die, Father' said the little boy. In a sense of course he was right. But I think that I know many living saints who are truly living with the spirit of Christ and are on the way to eternal union with him.

Sanctity is a divine gift in which we share. It is much too big for us to experience alone. As we share in the experience of sin and death, so too can we share in holiness and life. Each person is already implanted with the Spirit and the grace of God. The main thing that can prevent us from living by the power of God's grace is not being aware that we have it. We are called children of God, not just in the after-life, but now, at this very moment and all through our lives. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

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.

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.

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.

Make Your Giving Go Further with Gift Aid!

Did you know that if you're a UK taxpayer, your donations to the parish can go even further at no extra cost to you? With Gift Aid, the government adds 25% to your gift, helping us support our church, ministries, and community projects even more!

Sign up today by contacting your local parish Gift Aid Organiser or visit <https://forms.office.com/e/BrxQTPnn3a?origin=lprLink>

Together, we can strengthen our parish and continue our mission to serve God and our community. Thank you for your generosity!

S. Willibrord, Apostle of the Netherlands

The story of Christianity in these lands has many interesting elements, one of which is the way that the Anglo-Saxons on being converted almost immediately responded by trying to convert their kinfolk across the sea. One major figure in this movement was S. Willibrord, whom we celebrate this week. The area which we know as England had been significantly Christianised during the time of the Roman Empire; however the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons pushed it to the margins, and largely turned the country back to paganism. At the end of the sixth century this changed with S. Gregory's mission from Rome arriving in the south and Irish missionaries from Iona carrying out a pincer movement turning these Anglo-Saxons into Christians.

These newly converted often embraced the faith with great fervour, including a man from Northumbria called Wilgils who withdrew from the world to become a hermit – before doing so he entrusted his son to Ripon Abbey where he would grow up under the influence of S. Wilfrid. This boy, Willibrord, entered the Benedictines and spent a period of time studying in County Carlow, a centre of Christian learning at the time.

His learning and piety meant that he was requested to lead an evangelistic mission to the Frisians (who lived in modern day Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg, and had been among the tribes who crossed into Britain as part of the Anglo-Saxon invasion). Before undertaking the mission, he travelled to Rome to receive the blessing of Pope Sergius I – there he was consecrated as Bishop of the Frisians and given a clear papal mandate for his work.

He established his cathedral and base of operations at Utrecht, which became the principal diocese of the low countries. His mission had begun with the support of the local rulers; however the lands were reconquered by a pagan king who burned churches and killed many of his missionaries, whilst Willibrord (along with many others) had to flee. Fortunately this did not last long, and three years later the mission was able to return after Charles Martel gained influence in the area.

Despite being a missionary, Willibrord never lost his benedictine spirit and founded the Abbey of Echternach (in modern day Luxembourg) – even though this was not his cathedral or even main city, this became the place he was most attached to. On his death in 739 (aged an impressive 81) he was buried at Echternach.

Details of his life were recorded however most of the texts have been lost. He was immediately venerated as a Saint, which shows the impact which he made during his mission. Many miracles were attributed to him, especially based around a series of wells along his missionary journeys.

The Abbey at Echternach, where he was buried, became the main focus of devotion to him and this includes a ritual procession each year known as the 'hopping procession'. In this pilgrims process about a mile to the abbey church, but rather than walking a slow hopping dance is used, accompanied by bands playing a centuries-old tune. The origin is unclear; however, it was referenced in the fifteenth century as a long-standing custom. On arrival at the abbey, the procession passes the tomb of S. Willibrord before prayers and Benediction.

It is striking that one of the first actions of our newly converted Anglo-Saxon ancestors undertook was to try and convert others to the Faith – this can inspire us to have the same desire to spread the message of Christ. May S. Willibrord's intercession assist us (whether or not we hop as we do so). We also pray for Cardinal Eijk, his successor as Archbishop of Utrecht, and for the whole of the Church in the low countries. – **Fr. Thomas.**

Second Collection – the collection for the Clergy Training Fund takes place today. Under the agreement between the Diocese and the Ordinariate this goes to the Ordinariate (which paid for Fr. Thomas' training).

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: Available to view on the noticeboard in the Parish Centre

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

