

# 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)

Tel: 01833 631457 Mobile: : 07876 308657

Website: [www.stosmunds.co.uk](http://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, Kate Konig, Patrick Heffernan, Hilary Fletcher, Mike Griffiths, Luca Gallucci, Pat Aveson and Matthis Klein

### 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](mailto: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.



### 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Theme: The blind will see**

*'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.'*

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

**Sunday 14th December 9.30am**

**Saturday 20th December 6.30pm**

**Sunday 28th December 9.30am**

**Saturday 3rd January 6.30pm**

**Children's Liturgy -Today Sunday 14th December**

### Christmas Mass Times

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** – 6pm Carols, followed by 6.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December** – 9.30am Parish Mass

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December** – 10am, Parish Mass for S. Stephen's Day

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January** – 10am, Parish Mass for Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Day)

*Flyers with the times of Christmas Masses are available at the back of church.*



### Peace for the people of Ukraine

*We continue to pray earnestly for peace in Ukraine, joining our prayers 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.*

### Cake Sale Today

In aid of our Churches Together Christmas Appeal for Darlington Assistance for Refugees.

Today is our best opportunity to support this charity, as it is our only Sunday Parish Mass in Advent.

**Please come along: Bring, Buy Eat, Enjoy**



**First reading Isaiah 35:1-6,10****‘God himself will come and save you.’**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not!’

Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Responsorial Psalm 146(145) 6-10. R Matt. 5:3****Come, Lord, and save us.**

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord who sets prisoners free.

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,  
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

**Second reading James 5:7-10****‘Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.’**

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation Isaiah 61:1(Luke 4:8)****Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

**Alleluia.****Gospel Matthew 11:2-11****‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’**

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

‘What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

‘Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

Copyright: The readings are from the Jerusalem Bible published by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd 2019

## The Cycle of Prayer

### Openness to the Word of God

**Prayer**

*All-wise God,  
as you have granted us  
to drink with delight  
from the Word  
that leads us to know you,  
in your goodness grant us also  
to come at length to you,  
source of all wisdom,  
and stand for ever before your face.*

*based on a prayer of the Venerable Bede*

**Weekly Reflection and Daily Readings for Advent**

**2025.** Advent is a time of preparation and to reflect, and hold onto, the messages of hope, peace, joy and love which God promised to us in the birth of Christ Jesus.

Members of our Diocesan Writing Team offer this Advent resource to help guide a daily space for reading of the Scripture, reflection and prayer. In it you will find a reflection based on the theme of each week of Advent and an easy-to-follow reference to the readings for each day. The reflections will be available to view and download on the homepage of the Diocesan website from Friday 28 November [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

### ***Joy in the Lord***

*“Be strong and do not fear! Here is your God.”*

*Today is called Rejoicing Sunday. Today the candle on the Advent Wreath is pink, not purple as on the other three Sundays of Advent. It is meant to express our joy at the nearness of Christ’s birthday.*

*Some people seem to be happy by nature; others mournful by nature. Here is the story of a priest who always preached mournful sermons. He was asked by his parish priest to preach about St. Joseph instead, as he was a cheerful man. The following Sunday the priest spoke about Joseph who happened to be a carpenter and as a result spent a lot of his time making coffins and here we go again with sad, sad tales.*

*Here are three impressions about happiness. First, that happiness is right here and now.. We convince ourselves that life will be better when we get married, have a baby, then another. Then we are frustrated that the kids are not old enough and we will be more content when they are. After that we*

**Gaudete Sunday**

**14th December**

*are frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage. We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our spouse gets his or her act together. The truth is there is no better time to be happy than right now.*

*Second, ‘If you are happy, let your face know.’ Maybe we could begin to be more joyful by taking a peek in the mirror and asking ourselves: does my face look like the face of someone who has heard the good news of the Gospel, namely that I am loved unconditionally by God?*

*Third, joy will come to us if we set about actively trying to create it for others. If I go about my life demanding that others carry me rather than seeking to carry them; feeding off others rather than feeding them; demanding that others meet my needs rather than trying to meet theirs, joy will never find me no matter how hard I party or try to crank up good cheer.*

**associationofcatholicpriests.ie**

### **Neurodiversity and our Faith Research**

We have been asked to share the following. The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you are an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, they would like to hear from you. Your experiences will help them to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs.

To find out more and to complete the short surveys, please visit: [www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys)

### **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!

### **Communion from the chalice**

. If you are interested in helping with the Mass in this way, please let Fr. Thomas know.

**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.

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

### **Cafod World Gifts**

Cafod have sent copies of this year’s brochure for ‘World Gifts’, copies are available at the back of church if you would like to buy some of these alternative gifts.

**Delving into the Scriptures - Ruth**

At this time of year, we often encounter the long genealogy at the beginning of S. Matthew's Gospel. This provides a line of descent from Abraham to Joseph, and therefore in legal (though obviously not biological) terms to Christ. The style strikes us as somewhat odd, but was quite a common way of introducing a highly significant character, showing his descent and therefore his claim to greatness – in this case, his being one of Abraham's sons, as well as his link to King David. For the most part the genealogy simply provides a list of fathers and sons with a mere five women being mentioned, and indeed each of these is somewhat out of the ordinary. One of these four women actually has an entire book of Scripture named after her and telling her story – Ruth, the wife of Boas, the mother of Obed, the grandmother of King David.

The book of Ruth is rather short and sits between Judges and Samuel, this fits with its chronological place in the history of Israel. In the Hebrew tradition it is placed separately as one of the 'writings'; this suggests that it was not written down at the same time as the main history books (Genesis-Judges), and many consider that it probably received its current form during the time of the exile to Babylon.

Strikingly for a book of the Old Testament it is all about a gentile, Ruth is not a Hebrew but becomes a central part of that nation's history. There are many moments when Israelites are warned against marrying non-Israelite women for fear that their wives will draw them away from the true God, but here Ruth is portrayed as a heroine and indeed a great matriarch of the royal line. It is also a major step towards the universal call of the New Testament, this is present in the Old but rather hidden and often ignored.

The book opens with a family leaving Israel, Elimelech along with his wife Naomi, and his sons Mahlon and Chilion escaped a famine by moving to Moab (the southern part of modern-day Jordan). Elimelech dies, and his sons both marry local women; then the two brothers both die leaving Naomi isolated; a widow without children, living in a foreign land. She proposes to return home to Israel where she might be able to eek out an existence on the charity of others.

Her two daughters-in-law both seek to return with Naomi; however, she attempts to dissuade them, telling them to remain and marry again. One of them finally agrees to stay in Moab, but Ruth refuses and shows complete loyalty to Naomi. She says she will always remain with Naomi 'your God will be my God. Where you die I will be buried.'

Naomi is greeted by those who knew her, but expresses her the sorrow at her fate. The two of them still need food, and as it is the time of the harvest Ruth goes to glean in the fields. The practice was that in harvesting the destitute were allowed to follow the harvesters and gather what they missed. Providence guides her to a field owned by Boaz who notices her, and recognising the devotion she has for Naomi gives her an additional share. On hearing this Naomi tells Ruth that he is a close relative, and tells her to go to him that night. Boaz receives her, and after a few legal technicalities are sorted out, marries her.

The story shows how God's people were not merely marked by blood descent, but Ruth's free acceptance of his covenant allowed her to become a part – and indeed through David, a highly honoured part – of the nation. It also speaks of the providence of God overseeing those who are faithful, even through times which appear hopeless.

– Fr. Thomas.

**Walk with Me Advent Booklets**

A Journey of Prayer for the Advent Jubilee 2025 are available at the back of church **Price £1**

Advent Calendars for our young people will also be available **Free**. Please pick one up

**Churches Together Carol Service**

Churches Together in Gainford will hold their annual family carol service on **Sunday 21 December, 6pm at S. Mary's Church**. All most welcome

**Don't Forget!****Cake Sale in the Parish Centre: Today after Mass**

A flier will be available at church with more information about **DAR**

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me".*

Matthew 25:40

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

