

# 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 Sales

#### 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:** 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](tel:01912433305) or at [safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk)

**Copies of the Northern Catholic Calendar, and the Diocesan Ordo** (list of feasts for each day of the year) have arrived and are available at the back of church – suggested donation £3



#### 1st Sunday of Lent

#### Theme: The second Adam

For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

**Sunday 22nd February 9.30am**

**Saturday 28th February 6.30pm**

**Saturday 7th March 6.30pm**

**Sunday 15th March 9.30am**

#### Children's Liturgy

There is a Children's Liturgy on Sunday 22nd February

#### 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.

#### First Sacraments

Congratulations to Katey and Rosalea who celebrated their First Sacrament of Reconciliation last Saturday alongside Margaret, Raphael and Gabriella

#### Darlington Assistance for Refugees - Talk

There will be a talk from Darlington Assistance for Refugees in the Parish Centre on

**Tuesday 24th February at 7pm**

This along with Churches Together in Gainford was our Advent Charity. There will be a short talk with tea, coffee and perhaps even some biscuits! Please come along if you can make it to show support for this good work.

#### Churches Together AGM-

will follow the talk from DAR. People are welcome to stay or leave for this short meeting

## First reading Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

## The creation and sin of our first parents.

The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die." ' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin cloths.

## Responsorial Psalm 50(51): 3-6, 12-14,17 Rcf. 3a

## Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me completely from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions, truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me.

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

## Second reading Romans 5:12-19

## 'Where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.'

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not

counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

## Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:4b

## Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ.**

## Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus fasts for forty days and is tempted.

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." '

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone." ' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve." ' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

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## Feast Days this week

**Monday 23rd February: St Polycarp**

**Friday 27th February: St Gregory of Narek**

Since he was alone in the desert, only Jesus himself knew what he felt. The implication of the temptation story is that he had to struggle within himself to find the best way to live his life for God. We ordinary mortals will hardly imagine ourselves turning stones into bread; but in the first temptation Jesus seems to toy with the possibility of providing a limitless supply of bread for people, like the daily dole-out of food by which Roman emperors kept popular with their followers. But Jesus saw how a focus on food and drink can lead to forgetting spiritual values. "Man does not live on bread alone."

Jesus sensed that his ultimate service to mankind, the effective one that would endure, would be through suffering and the Cross, after which would come the crown. Without his crucifixion and resurrection his message would be forgotten. In every event of life, God is saying something to us too. The story of the Temptations warns us not to let selfishness govern our lives. We need to be guided by the Holy Spirit, who continues to prompt our conscience throughout our days. Imitate Our Lord by taking up life's challenges, not with an air of gloomy resignation, but cheerfully accepting of what providence may bring. Let Jesus be a major influence in our lives, reflect upon his words and actions with reverence and affection, so as to bring about an inner purification of our minds and wills.

The second temptation was to seek fame and celebrity, and indeed, throughout the next few years the people kept asking him for further miracles. What if he were to throw himself from off the pinnacle of the Temple and be unscathed. But this would be just showmanship. He answered, "You must not put the Lord your God to the test!" as a warning not to be rash and superficial. Finally, in the scene on the mountain-top, seeing all the kingdoms of the world, suggests a temptation to become a political messiah, ruling all nations and having power to impose his will on people, like it or not. He dismisses this notion too, since we will enter into a true union with God only if we are drawn to it in spirit. [associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://associationofcatholicpriests.ie)

### **The Cycle of Prayer**

**The Needy and Hungry of the World**  
especially on Lenten Fast Day—1st Friday in Lent  
**Background**

The agency for Overseas development, Cafod, encourages the Church in England and Wales to use the 1st Friday of Lent as an opportunity to remember the needy and hungry of the world. The day is an opportunity the three Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving which derive from the proclamation of the Word on Ash Wednesday.

The proceeds from the practice of fasting on the Friday are usually collected at Mass on the 1st Sunday of Lent.

#### **Prayer**

*All powerful Father,  
God of goodness,  
you provide for all your creation.*

*Give us an effective love for our brothers and sisters  
who suffer from lack of food.*

*Help us do all we can to relieve their hunger,  
that they may serve you with carefree hearts.*

Roman Missal

**Disabled parking spaces.** A gentle reminder that the space at the top of the drive is reserved for those less able to walk.

#### **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!

**Happy 400<sup>th</sup> Birthday to S. Peter's Rome**

During the week an announcement was made that S. Peter's Basilica was launching a number of initiative to help celebrate its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year. Without doubt it is one of the most famous churches in the world, and barely a visitor to Rome – whether tourist or pilgrim – would imagine not visiting. I'm sure that many of you will have been there, I well remember being able to celebrate Mass there when visiting Rome a few months after my ordination.

Its fame has a number of causes, which reflect the long history of the papacy to which it is intimately linked. That said, it should be noted that it is not the cathedral of Rome; the Pope has his throne (cathedra) as Bishop of Rome in S. John Lateran. S. Peter's begins its life as a shrine built over the tomb of S. Peter – naturally this leads to a close connexion with the Papacy. The first church was built immediately after the conversion of Constantine; the site was known to the local Christians who had kept a place of pilgrimage and devotion throughout the years of persecution. The opportunity to pay respects at the tomb of S. Peter made it a major pilgrim site, and consequently very wealthy; as it was outside the ancient walls of the city, this wealth made it a target for raiders.

By the end of the middle ages, these raids as well as a general deterioration with age caused Pope Nicholas V to plan some renovations. At first these were planned to repair and improve the earlier building, but soon the plan was to replace the old church with an entirely new building. The project took many years to complete, Nicholas' plans began in the mid fifteenth century, but the new church wasn't consecrated until 1626.

The main architectural work was done by Donato Bramante, Michelangelo, and Carlo Maderno, and stands out as one of the great pinnacles of the Renaissance. Inside, the focus is clearly on the main altar; the famous canopy rising over it draws attention from throughout the building. Naturally the altar is the focus in any Catholic Church, but in this case, this also draws attention to the shrine underneath the altar, where the tomb of S. Peter can be found. Even outside the church this is the focus thanks to the 139 feet diameter dome which towers over the city.

Its façade is similarly famous, being used as the place to proclaim the election of each new Pope to the crowds gathered in the square below as well as to viewers across the world in more recent times. The square itself has colonnades which were designed to represent the arms of mother Church reaching out to embrace her children. Until the twentieth century, the square was enclosed on all sides; but the Italian government cleared a wide road (*Via della Conciliazione*) leading up to the square to celebrate the agreement in which the Church recognised the Italian state, which in turn recognised the independence of the Vatican.

Whilst it is unquestionably one of the greatest artistic triumphs in the world, it has to be remembered that this is a working church; each day Mass is offered, and numerous prayers are offered up within its walls – the beauty of the building is fitting, but only ever points towards the deeper beauty of the prayers and sacraments celebrated within it.

When S. Peter was crucified in Rome, he could have had no idea that the very place in which he died would become such a focus, still less a place of such grandeur. But even when generations of Roman Christians prayed there secretly in fear of persecution, they were laying the foundations on which later Christians built. – Fr. Thomas.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day – 27 February 2026**

This Lent, CAFOD's Family Fast Day on Friday 27 February invites us to respond through prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the needs of families facing floods and drought in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. Through support for CAFOD's Lent Appeal, we can help families grow food and care for their communities in the face of the devastating impacts of climate change. Gift-aid envelopes are available at the back of church. Further information is available at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

**Pastoral Strategy:**

In Bishop Stephen's Pastoral Letter read at all this weekend's Masses, we heard about God's calling for our Diocese. The hopes and challenges we all face in the coming years. All parishes are asked to reflect and discern on their mission as we continue our journey to live as a flourishing Diocese alive in the Holy Spirit.

More information is available via [www.diocesehn.org.uk](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk) including details for an online session taking place on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm.

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

