

# 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:** 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



## 3rd Sunday of Easter

### Theme: Stay with us

*So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going further, but they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.'*

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

**Saturday 18th April 6.30pm**

**Sunday 26th April 9.30am**

**Saturday 2nd May 6.30pm**

**Sunday 10th May 9.30am**



### Children's Liturgy

There is a Children's Liturgy on Sunday 26th April

### 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.*

### Diocesan Pastoral Strategy

As part of the consultation towards the Diocesan Pastoral Strategy, we at St Osmund's along with each parish of the diocese are being asked to reflect and report back on 'What is going well?' and 'Where are the challenges?' We are asked to consider the five areas set out on the sheets distributed after Mass today. There are some prompts to aid us.

Please take time to reflect and pass on your views – all are important. You may respond by:

- Writing down your comments and placing them in the box at the back of Church. (A sheet at the end of this document is provided for anyone who may find this helpful)
- Placing a Post-It note on the board at the back of Church
- Sending replies by email to: [stosmundsfuture@gmail.com](mailto:stosmundsfuture@gmail.com)

**First reading Acts 2:14,22-23**

**‘It was not possible for him to be held by death.’**

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst — as you yourselves know — this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

‘For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

‘Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you yourselves are seeing and hearing.’

**Responsorial Psalm 16(15):1-2,5,7-11 R1**

**O Lord, you will show me the path of life.**

Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord.’

O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;  
you yourself who secure my lot.

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,  
who even at night directs my heart.  
I keep the Lord before me always;  
with him at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

And so, my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;  
even my flesh shall rest in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
nor let your holy one see corruption.

You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence,  
at your right hand, bliss for ever.

**Second reading 1 Peter 1:17-21**

**‘You were ransomed with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish.’**

Beloved: If you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct

yourself with fear throughout the time of your exile, knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

**Gospel Acclamation cf. Luke 24:32**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us;  
make our hearts burn within us when you speak to us.  
**Alleluia.**

**Gospel Luke 24:13-35**

**He was known to them in the breaking of the bread.**

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples of Jesus were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognising him. And he said to them, ‘What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?’ And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, ‘Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?’ And he said to them, ‘What things?’ And they said to him, ‘Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.’ And he said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?’ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going further, but they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is now far spent.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked

to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?' And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the Eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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### **Feast days this week**

**Monday 20th April:** St Beuno

**Tuesday 21st April:** St Anselm of Canterbury

**Thursday 23rd April:** St George

**Friday 24th April:** St Fidelis of Sigmaringen

**Friday 25th April:** St Mark

## **Cycle of Prayer**

### **New Members of the Church**

#### **Background**

The Easter Season is therefore the time for post-baptismal catechesis or 'mystagogy' with the newly baptised or 'neophytes'.

"This is a time for the community and the neophytes together to grow in deepening their grasp of the paschal mystery and in making it part of their lives through meditation on the Gospel, sharing in the eucharist, and in doing works of charity." RCIA 234

#### **Prayer**

*Father, you give your Church  
constant growth by adding new members  
to your family.*

*Help us put into action in our lives  
the baptism we have received in faith*

**Roman Missal**

## **A Gospel within the Gospel**

*The Emmaus story is like a gospel within the gospel. It is so rich a lesson that it serves as a summary of our own bonding with Jesus Christ. For these disciples on the road to Emmaus, the future looked grim indeed. For the previous few years, life had been exciting and they were captivated by the Gospel message of Jesus. But it emerges that they hadn't grasped some vital parts of what he had said. We can empathize with them, because mostly we too tend to pick and choose the parts of his message that please us, and fail to take seriously other words of the Lord.*

*After his death on the cross, they felt all was lost. But Jesus used the Jewish scriptures to enlighten them. The prophecies declare the divine promises and reveal the saving plan of God. The Scriptures have power like an electric current, and are inspired by the Spirit of God. When he opened the meaning of God's Word to them, they began to understand his cross in a totally new light. They saw it not as a total disaster but as the start of a new age of grace.*

*Once arrived in Emmaus, they recognised him also in the breaking of bread. The prayerful sharing of a meal among friends was a living symbol of friendship and trust. What was special about the way Jesus broke the bread is an intriguing question. Perhaps it was the spirit of self-giving that he invested in the act that showed them who he really was. There was a level of focus, of sharing and of sacredness unique to Jesus, something they had experienced previously, before his passion. His presence touched their deepest hungers, and the bread he broke was not just physical. It was food that they opened their hearts as well as their mouths to receive.*

*The Emmaus story speaks to people of all ages. We can see ourselves in these two weary travellers on their journey, the faith and hope they have lost, the future they have hoped for fallen apart. And yet they met an unknown friend walking the road with them, who gave them a fresh insight, and connected the new world with the world they knew. And, of course, he is present in a particular way in the Eucharist, in the breaking of bread, full of the many meanings that breaking bread had for Jesus himself, during his life and after the resurrection.* [associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://associationofcatholicpriests.ie)

**Delving into the Scripture – Judith**

As a seminarian each morning would, naturally, begin in the chapel; following morning prayers as we left a natural custom had developed of the large majority pausing for a moment in front of the main statue of Our Lady. This is a large statue with an equally large pedestal supporting it – the two are designed together with the lower part including several images from the Old Testament which point forwards to Our Lady. One of these was of Judith, the figure named in the title of one of the books of the Old Testament.

Judith is one of the deuterocanonical books, not recognised by protestants as part of the Scriptures, but accepted by Catholics and the Orthodox. Its text comes to us from the Greek version of the Old Testament, though there is some evidence that there may have been an earlier Hebrew or Aramaic text which is now lost.

The book relates a set of historical events, though it is not history in the modern sense. It is written to include a large amount of symbolism, and potentially mythology. Its purpose is not so much to give information about the past, as to offer an account of God's care and protection of his people.

As we would expect from a book which has a person's name as its title, the central character (apart from God) is Judith. She is a beautiful widow, her beauty is presented as connected with her great trust in God. Both are used as she saves the Kingdom of Judea from invasion.

The book opens with an invasion of the kingdom. Over seven chapters the story relates the power of Nebuchadnezzar's army headed by his general Holofernes; this invading army causes great fear among the people who turn in prayer to God for protection. The action centres on a town referred to as Bethulia, this is probably another name for Shechem, and critically lies on the road towards Jerusalem – if Bethulia is captured, then the route to the capital would lie open making a successful invasion far more likely.

A knowledge of God's protection is his people is present, with one of Holofernes' commanders retelling of how in previous times the God of Israel won victory. Needless to say, this does not go down well with Holofernes who proceeds to lay siege to Bethulia.

Judith is a resident of the city, and faithfully trusts in God. She prays fervently, but also conceives of a plan in which she manages to get into the enemy camp and to meet with Holofernes. She charms him, and then when he has drunk too much in a banquet and has fallen asleep she kills him and takes his head back to Bethulia. Having lost their leader, the invaders scatter; at the same time the defenders rally having had their courage strengthened. Judith is highly praised, but directs all of that praise to God, and ends her life living content and serving God.

Though it relates a somewhat grizzly tale, the heart of the story is of trust in God, and of seeking to work with his plans. There is also a powerful reminder of the dignity of women, not by abandoning their womanhood but embracing it; because of this, the Church has often seen Judith as pointing forwards to Our Lady, who supremely trusted in the workings of God. There is also a call to humility connected with that trust in God, who uses those who humbly trust in him. May we all seek to work with God's plans through our trust in him. – **Fr. Thomas.**

**Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life** The Bishops of England & Wales have announced that during their annual post-Easter meeting they will be spending an hour of prayer together before the Blessed Sacrament for the upholding of the dignity of human life, and they invite the faithful to join with them.

Sunday 19 April, 4.30-5.30pm. To assist with this, there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at Barnard Castle during that time. Whether physically in church, or at home, do please join in prayer with the Bishops and the faithful across the country for this important intention.

**Letter to the parishioners of St Osmund's and St Mary's Gainford from DAR**

It was lovely to see you and some of your group at the Lentan lunch last week.

I deposited the money donated by the 2 churches last week. It was a substantial amount and will go a long way to helping a family settle into a new home. We are extremely grateful. Please can you pass this message on to the good people at St Mary's as well as St Osmunds.

I have attached a poster for our quiz night on 25 April.

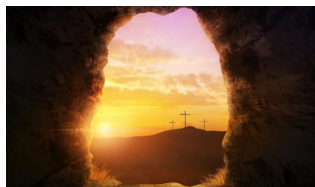
Tickets are selling quickly so if any of you would like to join us please make sure you buy tickets soon.

Many thanks once again.

Fran Wood

Volunteer

DAR



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

