

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: gainford.stosmund@rcdhn.org.uk

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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

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



4th Sunday of Easter

Theme: *Healed by His wounds*

By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd

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

Sunday 26th April 9.30am

Saturday 2nd May 6.30pm

Sunday 10th May 9.30am

Saturday 16th May 6.30pm



Children's Liturgy

There will be a Children's Liturgy this 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

Thank you to everybody who attended the recent meeting or provided comments, these are being used to produce the parish return to the Diocese. The next step is for reflection at the partnership level, more information will be available shortly.

First reading Acts 2:14a, 36-41

‘God has made him both Lord and Christ.’

On the day of Pentecost Peter, standing with the Eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ So those who received his word were baptised, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Responsorial Psalm 23(22): 1- 6. R1

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of
death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

Second reading 1 Peter 2: 20-25

‘You have returned to the Shepherd of your souls.’

Beloved: If when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

St. Osmund’s Parish Gainford

Gospel Acclamation John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord. I know my sheep and my own know me.

Alleluia.

Gospel John 10: 1-10

‘I am the door of the sheep.’

At that time: Jesus said, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.’ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.’

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Feast days this week

Tuesday 28th April: St Peter Chanel

Wednesday 29th April: St Catherine of Siena

Thursday 30th April: St Pius V

Friday 1st May: St Joseph the Worker

Cycle of Prayer**Vocations**

Especially on World Day of Prayer for Vocations — 4th Sunday of Easter

Background

The World Day of Prayer for Vocations is held each year on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. In the Gospel of John read on this Sunday, in each of the three years, Jesus speaks of himself as the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd who has come so that people may have life to the full, the one who lays down his life for his sheep, the one who knows his sheep — they recognise his voice.

Prayer

*Father, in your plan for our salvation
you provide shepherds for your people.*

*Fill your Church with the spirit of courage and love.
Raise up worthy ministers of your altars and ardent but gentle
servants of the gospel.*

Roman Missal

Jesus often illustrated his teaching by referring to shepherds and sheep. He sees himself as the Good Shepherd foretold by the prophets. Today's gospel considers the relationship between the Good Shepherd and the sheep. The imagery is old. The message is topical. It is relevant to us. By faith we accept Jesus, Our relationship is a deeply personal one. The bond of love uniting us is based on the love that unites the Father and Jesus. Our new existence is founded on God's unbreakable love and faithfulness.

In order to enter eternal life we must listen to Jesus and obey him. The alternative opening prayer puts this in practical terms. We have to tune our minds to the sound of his voice. Self-centredness can make us deaf to the voice of Jesus. Easy options can draw us into easier paths than the one he has traced. Pressure to abandon Christian principles is inevitable. But God is faithful and will not let us be tempted beyond our strength. No one can drag us away from him, The Father has entrusted us to his Son. The same God who kept faith with Jesus by raising him from the dead will also raise us by his power.

Paul and Barnabas 'spoke out boldly', and made an impact. A courageous proclamation of the gospel to our contemporaries can be as fruitful now as it was in apostolic times. All the baptised, particularly those who are confirmed, are bound to spread the faith. Laity as well as priests and religious are in the service of the Risen Lord. Our faith urges us to take personal part in the work of evangelisation. Are we doing so? How many evils persist in our society just because good people say nothing and do nothing? A breviary hymn of Eastertide (no.25) spells out what is expected of us by the Risen Lord: Now he bids us tell abroad/How the lost may be restored/How the penitent forgiven/ How we too may enter heaven.

"Good Shepherd Sunday" is a good occasion for us to think and pray about how the catholic church will fare for priests in the future. Right now it appears that the average age of ordained priests is about sixty five, a statistic that demands significant change in how to recruit priests for the future, and what is to be expected of them.

Padraig McCarthy made this point thus, "there is no such thing as a priestless parish. There may not be an ordained priest there, but the parish is a priestly people. How will this priesthood of the baptised take flesh in the coming decades? What factors which had value in the past are now hindering the mission of the church? What new model of ministerial priesthood is needed?" associationofcatholicpriests.ie

Good Shepherd Sunday

Pope Leo XIV, in his message for Sunday, designated the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, said,

"I invite everyone – in families, parishes and religious communities, as well as bishops, priests, deacons, catechists, educators and all the faithful – to commit themselves more fully to creating conditions that allow this gift to be embraced, nourished, protected and accompanied, so that it may bear abundant fruit.

"Only when our surroundings are illumined by living faith, sustained by constant prayer and enriched by fraternal accompaniment can God's call blossom and mature, becoming a path of happiness and salvation for individuals and for the world. By embarking on the path that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, shows us, we come to know more deeply both ourselves and the God who calls us."

Pope S. Pius V, not why the Pope wears white.

This Thursday the Church celebrates one of her great reformers, a man who sought to implement the work of the Council of Trent, and so launch the counter-reformation which helped the Church to regain stability and a renewed mission in the light of the reformation.

Born Antonio Ghislieri, becoming Michele when he joined the Dominicans. He rapidly gained a reputation for devotion and a severe practice of the monastic life. This was a time when there was some moral laxity within the Order, and his attempts to tighten discipline were not always well received. Having been made Bishop by Pope Paul IV, he worked for the inquisition; though it should be noted he was not some religious zealot and even received a papal reprimand for his defence of an Archbishop of Toledo accused of heresy.

He continued to rise through the hierarchy, being made Cardinal in 1557. His reputation as a reformer continued, as well as a willingness to speak out regardless of personal consequences; he became marginalised within the Roman Curia when he opposed the appointment of a thirteen year-old as Cardinal.

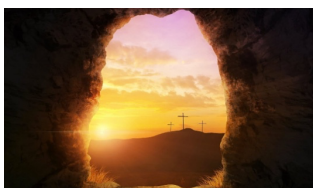
His fearless support of church reform, as well as his evident personal piety created momentum in the conclave of 1565-1566. S. Charles Borromeo (another significant reforming Cardinal) seems to have led support for Ghislieri, and when he was elected (becoming Pope Pius V) wrote of the 'high esteem for him on account of his singular holiness and zeal'.

There had been many promoting reform within the Church for some time; however with Pius as Pope their efforts were greatly strengthened. His first area of focus was the papal court, where he reduced the cost as he removed various unnecessary hangers-on and luxuries which had grown up over the years. He also worked to enforce residency among the clergy; previously a widespread practice was that men would be appointed to church posts (especially more senior ones) and collect the payments for them without actually living in their parishes or dioceses and ministering to the people. Ensuring that people received the spiritual care which was their due, was complemented by an increase in material care for the poor; within Rome (under his direct control) there were organised efforts to provide cheap grain and distribute alms to the poor, as well as improving the water supply to fight against typhoid.

As he promoted the implementation of the decisions of the Council of Trent, he provided a standardised Missal (i.e., form for the celebration of Mass). There had been various experimental changes and oddities growing up, and he ordered that unless there was a clear well-established local use this standard form should be used.

In England he became infamous as he clashed with Queen Elizabeth I, in response to her return of the Church of England to Protestantism and persecution of Catholics. With the papal bull *Regnans in Excelsis* he excommunicated Elizabeth and released English Catholics from obedience to her. This would prove controversial, and helped the portrayal of Catholics as disloyal.

There is a widespread myth that he introduced the practice of Popes wearing white. According to the story, he continued to wear his white Dominican habit after becoming Pope; while he was often still seen in Dominican habit, it is worth noting that Popes are recorded as wearing white 300 years earlier. Finally, whilst looking into his life, I discovered something new – there is a pudding eaten in Nicaragua called 'Pio Quinto' named after him, made from cake soaked in rum and topped with custard and cinnamon; though the connexion with S. Pius is unclear, it sounds worth looking into the pudding itself. – Fr. Thomas.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi

Led by Bishop Stephen
22nd – 29th October 2027
£1725 per person



Places are limited to 50 pilgrims and places are allocated on a first come first served basis with payment of the deposit securing your place.

The itinerary and booking details can be found on the diocesan website (www.diocesehn.org.uk) or alternatively via the parish office.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead

