

# St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason** e-mail: [gainford.stosmund@rcdhn.org.uk](mailto:gainford.stosmund@rcdhn.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:** 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



## 6th Sunday of Easter

**Theme: I will not leave you**

*'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever,*

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

**Sunday 10th May 9.30am**

**Saturday 16th May 6.30pm**

**Sunday 24th May 9.30am**

**Saturday 30th May 6.30pm**



**Ascension Day** – this Thursday (14 May) is the Solemnity of the Ascension, a holy day of obligation. There will be a parish Mass at St. Osmund's at 10am.

### Children's Liturgy

There will be a Children's Liturgy on Sunday 10th May

### 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.*

**Bishop's Visitation** Bishop Stephen will be visiting Gainford and Barnard Castle for the weekend of 30/31 May. Since arriving in the Diocese he has been working his way round the various parishes so that he gets a chance to see each church and meet each community. He will celebrate both parish Masses over that weekend.

**Second collection:** There will be a second collection today for the work of the **Little Sisters of the Poor.**

**First reading Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17**

**'They laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.'**

In those days: Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Now when the Apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm 66(65): 1-7, 16, 20. R1**

**Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.**

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;

O sing to the glory of his name.

O render him glorious praise.

Say to God, 'How wondrous your deeds!'

'Before you all the earth shall bow down,  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!'

Come and see the works of God:

his wondrous deeds among the children of Adam.

He turned the sea into dry land;

they passed through the river on foot.

Let our joy, then, be in him;

he rules for ever by his might.

Come and hear, all who fear God;

I will tell what he did for my soul.

Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,

nor withhold from me his merciful love.

**Second reading 1 Peter 3: 15-18**

**'Being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.'**

Beloved: In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

**Gospel Acclamation John 14:23**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

**Alleluia.**

St. Osmund's Parish Gainford

**Gospel John 14: 15-21**

**'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper.'**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

'I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.'

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

**Feast days this week**

**Tuesday 12th May: St Pancras**

**Wednesday 13th May: Our Lady of Fatima**

**Thursday 14th May: The Ascension of the Lord**

**Friday 15th May: Bl Maria Vergine di Fatima**

**Cycle of Prayer****New Members of the Church****Background**

The Easter Vigil is the usual time to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) with Adults. 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

In many communities and dioceses the Easter Season is a privileged time to celebrate the Sacraments of First Communion and Baptism.

**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**

*Very soon we will be celebrating two important feasts in the Easter calendar; The Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost. Our readings today draw our attention to this and begin to point us that direction.*

*Initially after the resurrection, the friends and followers of Jesus went into hiding for fear of their lives. They had seen their close friend and Master betrayed, denied, condemned and crucified. They had lost all heart. But eventually they began to find the courage and strength to believe in Jesus and in themselves. Jesus had appeared to them several times to strengthen and encourage them. So they began to go into the streets and villages and proclaim the good news of the resurrection. They began to preach, heal and teach.*

*They did not do any of this by themselves. They were filled with the Spirit of the risen Jesus. When the crowds ask by what power they heal and preach, Peter replies it is faith in the name of Jesus the sick are made better. In the first reading this Sunday from the Acts of the Apostles many people are healed and cured. The followers of Jesus lay their hands on the people and they receive the Holy Spirit.*

*When we were baptised, we too had hands laid on us. We were given a name, we were anointed and we were filled with the gift of the exact same Holy Spirit. This simple but profound ritual was repeated when we celebrated our Confirmation. We were sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*Just as the first followers of Jesus proclaimed and announced the good news of his resurrection, we in our time and in our way are called to do the same. Today, we are the people who are called to be witnesses and messengers of the resurrection. We do this in our homes, our communities and in our workplaces; wherever and however we can. In his letter, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis said to each of us, 'because of their baptism, all members of the people of God have become missionary disciples....every Christian is challenged here and now, to be actively engaged in proclaiming the good news'.*

*As we prepare to shortly celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, may we recall and remember our own baptism and confirmation. May the Lord help us to realise that we are called not only to believe in his resurrection, but we also to live and proclaim this good news through the quality of our daily lives with each other.*

**Michael Moore OMI**

### **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](http://www.diocesehn.org.uk)) or alternatively via the parish office.

**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.

### **SVP Camp – Holy Island**

Calling all young adults 18+. Do you have a week to spare to spend on Lindisfarne this Summer helping out at the Holy Island SVP Camp? Volunteers are needed to work alongside the children who stay in the SVP purpose-built centre on the island. Weeks, 3, 5 and 6 of the Summer have 60 children ready to have a great time rock pooling, walking, arts and crafting and enjoying outdoor activities but we need more helpers to ensure they have the best time!

- Week 3 Sat 1st August - 8th August
- Week 5 Sat 15th August - 22nd August
- Week 6 Sat 22nd - 29th August

If you are interested have a look at the website <https://svp.org.uk/microsite/ozanam-camp> or email Barbara Taws [barbarat@svp.org.uk](mailto:barbarat@svp.org.uk)

I hope that you won't begrudge a somewhat more personal column this week. Last Wednesday I had the chance to concelebrate at the funeral Mass for one of the staff members under whom I studied at seminary. Many years ago, a young historian decided that she would specialise in church history for her doctoral studies. Through the quiet providence of God, this turned in a decades long career of devoted work for the Church, especially forming young men for the priesthood.

Judith Champ, then Dr. Champ, began teaching church history at Oscott College (the seminary in Birmingham) back in the 1980s. As a young academic, this would have been seen by many as a stepping stone in an academic career; however, for Judith it rapidly turned into a personal vocation. She became a permanent fixture in the seminary, and then in 1998 became the first woman and indeed the first non-Priest to join the formation staff.

In her teaching she would cover the whole of church history from the very earliest days right up until 20<sup>th</sup> century. While many academics become very narrowly focused, she had to be ready to walk from a class on the ending of persecution, into one on the Reformation, and then into another on the role of the Church during the First World War (on which she wrote a book: *A Seminary Goes to War: St Mary's College, Oscott and the First World War*). But it wasn't so much the breadth of her teaching, rather it was the way that it was rooted in the life of the Church; in particular she was teaching future priests their own history so that they could help in the present.

A man's time in seminary isn't properly referred to as study or as training, but as formation. This term is designed to encompass all elements, such as gaining pastoral experience, academic study, but also the subtle development of the mind and soul to make him ready for the life and work of a priest. The Church saw in Judith not just an academic who could teach well, but also somebody whose faithfulness could provide a broader vision to help with this formation.

This role could never be like any other job, certainly far removed from the standard academic job she imagined taking back at the beginning of her career. She would join the community for meals and prayer as much as for classes – giving her the chance to get to know the men she was forming, and then to seek to guide those who needed it.

This work fed into her own continuing academic work, I mentioned earlier that she wrote about the life of the seminary during the Great War; she also became the unofficial historian of the seminary itself. Her continued reflections on the priesthood were therefore rooted in an intimate knowledge of its history, especially in this country; as well as the lived reality of those she was preparing for ordination; and many friendships formed in seminary which continued long after.

Her work truly became her whole life, and this devotion was recognised when the Catholic University of Leuven (which accredits the academic work at Oscott) awarded her a personal title of Professor in 2017; as also by the Church when she was made a Dame of the Pontifical Order of S. Sylvester. The final recognition was that on Wednesday, Cardinal Nichols (with whom she worked closely when he was Archbishop of Birmingham) joined with the eight other Bishops, an Abbot, about 100 Priests, and a great many family and friends to pray for her and give thanks to God for her life well lived. May she rest in peace. – **Fr. Thomas.**

**Canon Eileen Harrop** As many of you will already know, Eileen is leaving her post as Vicar of Gainford at the end of the month. Throughout her time in Gainford she has been a strong supporter of Churches Together in Gainford, and a very good friend of S. Osmund's. We send best wishes to her and Brian for their futures; if members of the congregation would like to contribute to a leaving gift from S. Osmund, there is an envelope in the sacristy.

Eileen's final service will be at S. Mary's, Gainford, 4pm on 31 May – all are invited.

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

