

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

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



5th Sunday of Easter

Theme: *The Way, Truth and Life*

Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

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

Saturday 2nd May 6.30pm

Sunday 10th May 9.30am

Saturday 16th May 6.30pm

Sunday 24th May 9.30am



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 next Sunday there will be a second collection for the work of the

Little Sisters of the Poor.

First reading Acts 6:1-7**'They chose seven men full of the Holy Spirit.'**

In those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers and sisters, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.' And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the Apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm 33(32): 1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R22**May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord.**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting from the upright.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

The word of the Lord is upright,
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth.

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their soul from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Second reading 1 Peter 2: 4-9**'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.'**

Beloved: Come to the Lord, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious. You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Sion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So the honour is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone', and 'A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of

him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:6**Alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.**Gospel John 14: 1-12****'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. 'Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.'

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Feast days this week

Monday 4th May: English Martyrs

Wednesday 6th May: St Dominic Savio

Cycle of Prayer**Human Work**

Especially on St Joseph the Worker — 1 May

Background

The commemoration of St Joseph the Worker on 1 May was instituted by Pius XII in 1955. It proposes the example and intercession of Joseph as worker and provider.

Prayer

*God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe,
in every age you call men and women
to develop and use their gifts for the good of others.
With St Joseph as our example and guide,
help us to do the work you have asked
and come to the rewards you have promised.*

Roman Missal (adapted)

Building up the house of God

Acts 6 shows how differences and disputes were resolved in the church's early days. The Hellenist (converts whose language was Greek), complained that their widows were not getting a fair share of the church's social services. The apostles' solution to the problem shows how changes of practice are not only possible but necessary for the health of the church.

The solution shows two important dimensions of church life: prayer and service; and that living our Christian vocation requires a balance between the two. Each of us is personally called to prayer, to a dialogue of worship with God; and we are also called to service. No matter what we do in life, our work affects others in some way. We should be of service to our neighbours; and provided we have an attitude of respect, no task we do is a menial task. Prayer and preaching the word was of primary importance to the apostles; but service to the widows and the needy in the community was also vital, so they appointed seven trusted men to attend to it, and initiated them by an evocative ceremony.

As a result, the disciples in Jerusalem increased in numbers.. We may wonder how this kind of growth in the church could be revived in our day. Is the word of the Lord still spreading or the number of disciples increasing? In St Peter's letter, the church is imagined as a spiritual temple, with ourselves as living stones making up a living house of God. Every time we say the Lord's Prayer we say 'thy kingdom come.' This implies taking some responsibility for spreading the word and doing something to build up the church? We can work for God's kingdom by our daily conduct and attitudes.

The cornerstone of the church is Christ himself, and he offers us encouragement even today. If he is going away, it is to prepare a place for us in his Father's house, which has many rooms. So there is a place for us all in the kingdom. Each person has gifts of nature and grace, each should have a say in church life, as exemplified by the apostles in the first reading.

Many people today regard faith as irrelevant because their notion of God is faulty or distorted. For an authentic picture of what God is like, we should look to Jesus who said "I am in the Father and the Father is in me." He shows what the invisible Father is like: concerned for all, interested in all, respecting everyone, calling sinners back home. This welcoming God is the one that our church worships, and we renew our trust in Him. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

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.

Religious Orders – Canons Regular

Last week we mentioned the story that the Pope wear white simply because S. Pius V continued to wear his Dominican habit after becoming Pope. The reality is almost the opposite, in that Dominicans wear white because S. Dominic who founded them had previously been a canon in an order which wore white and so continued the colour. This gives rise to the question, what is a canon?

First we should draw a distinction between Canons Regular and sæcular canons. Significant churches, especially cathedrals, usually have a group of clergy attached to them – the canons; originally these would have been responsible for the services in the cathedral but now the title is usually given to senior clergy of the diocese to act as a group of advisors to the Bishop. If a priest is referred to as ‘Canon So-and-so’ he will be one of these sæcular canons. By contrast, canons regular are members of a religious community – they live together under religious vows.

When we think about religious communities, one of the distinctions is in the type of charism or life which they seek to lead. A monk or nun has what’s called a ‘contemplative’ vocation – they seek to withdraw from the world to grow closer to God. There are also the ‘active’ vocations, which involve seeking to do some particular good in the world (e.g., teaching orders which run schools). Canons regular speak of having a ‘balanced’ vocation, where they have both contemplative and active elements. They are called to have the time and space to enter more deeply into prayer and reflection; but also have a vocation to provide pastoral care in the community.

The origins of the canons regular is said to be with S. Augustine of Hippo. There would often be a number of clergy serving the same church, and he provided a ‘rule’ or way of life to govern how such groups of clergy could live together. This placed an emphasis on common life – they were not simply to be individuals who shared the work of a particular parish. Because of this rule of S. Augustine they are sometimes called Augustinian Canons.

They flourished across Europe especially around the turn of the last millennium with hundreds of communities seeking to live that double vocation of seeking perfection within the community, and service to the people around them. Each community was independent, which led to significant differences in how they actually lived the life with many houses allowing great laxity to creep in. Reformer arose in the eleventh century seeking to call the canons back to their original purpose and life, this gave rise to a stronger sense of unity between the different canonries and the emergence of an Order of Canons Regular (though each house still very much lived an independent life).

Their influence was significant, the University of Paris grew out of the famous abbey school of S. Victor; here in these lands, there were numerous communities including the shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. The cathedrals at Carlisle and St Andrews were reformed and then run by the canons regular. At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII there were 91 houses of canons regular in England.

Today various communities of canons continue to operate in the Church. They still have the same central mission – seeking perfection in the contemplative life; and also providing pastoral care and liturgical services in a particular church or local area. – **Fr. Thomas.**

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

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.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead

