

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.

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/Brx2TPm3a?origin=lprLink>

Together, we can strengthen our parish and continue our mission to serve God and our community. Thank you for your generosity!

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



June: Dedicated to the Sacred Heart

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Do not be afraid

But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.

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

Saturday 20th June 6.30pm

Sunday 28th June

Saturday 4th July 6.30pm

Sunday 12th July 9.30am

Children's Liturgy

There will be a Children's Liturgy on Sunday 28th June

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 contributed to the Diocesan Pastoral Strategy. The next steps for reflection at the partnership level, have begun to take place. The parish response to the strategy can be found on the parish website

First reading Jeremiah 20:10-13

‘He has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.’

Jeremiah said: I hear many whispering.

Terror is on every side!

‘Denounce him! Let us denounce him!’ say all my close friends, watching for my fall.

‘Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.’

But the Lord is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.

O Lord of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

Responsorial Psalm 69(68): 8-10,14, 17, 33-35 R14

In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,

that shame has covered my face.

To my own kin I have become an outcast,

a stranger to the children of my mother.

Zeal for your house consumes me,

and taunts against you fall on me.

But I pray to you, O Lord,

at an acceptable time.

In your great mercy, answer me, O God,

with your faithful salvation.

Lord, answer, for your mercy is kind;

in your great compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad,

and God-seeking hearts will revive;

for the Lord attends to the needy,

and does not spurn his own in their chains.

Let the heavens and the earth give him praise,

the seas and everything that moves in them.

Second reading Romans 5: 12-15

‘The free gift is not like the trespass.’

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.

Gospel Acclamation John 15: 26,27

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of truth will bear witness about me, says the Lord, and you also will bear witness.

Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 10: 26-33

‘Do not fear those who kill the body.’

At that time: Jesus instructed his Apostles: ‘Have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father knowing. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.’

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Feast days this week

Monday 22nd June: Sts John Fisher and Thomas More

Tuesday 23rd June: St Etheldreda

Wednesday 24th June: The Nativity of St John the Baptist

Saturday 27th June: St Cyril of Alexandria

Cycle of Prayer**Human Life**

especially on the Day for Life (3rd Sunday in June)

Background

The origins of the Day for Life are found in St John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*. Preparation for the day is shared with the Bishops' Conferences of Ireland and of Scotland — though each marks the day on a different date. Since its inception it has focussed on a wide range of life issues.

Prayer

*O God, our past and future hope,
to you a thousand years are like yesterday,
come and gone.*

*Teach us to see the world through your eyes,
to recognise the faults of the past,
and, however dimly, to see the future with hope.*

*Let us seek out the places of hurt
where we can offer your love and compassion.*

*Find the places of darkness and despair
where your mercy can bring light and comfort.*

*May we be heralds of a new world
where every human life is treated with dignity,
where all can live and have abundant life.*

Day for Life 2017 Roman Missal

A prophetic people

Today's first reading reminds us of the trials of the prophet Jeremiah, and the Gospel speaks of our duty of witnessing to Christ in the world – both reminders that all members of the People of God are potentially prophetic and that all should play some part in handing on the truth about God. In a sense, we are all successors to Jeremiah and to the apostles whose job it was to share Christ's message with the world.

Not all Christians have equal opportunities of being spokespersons for God. Bishops and priests have the official duty of encouraging and teaching the faithful. Their difficult but worthwhile task is to faithfully hand on Christ's teaching, and correct errors that threaten the integrity of the traditional Christian doctrine or ethical standards. Like Jeremiah and other Old Testament prophets, they remind their people of God's revealed will and of the high moral standards God asks of us. And, like the prophets, priests can often expect criticism and opposition, just for doing their job.

Theologians too have an important work to fulfil in the Church, to deeply study the revealed truth, and then blend that traditional teaching with modern knowledge, so as to honestly apply the Christian message to new problems. To help them in this daunting work they have the light of the same Holy Spirit who guided the prophets of old, provided they do their research not as masters but as servants of the word of God. But it is not only priests and theologians who have the prophetic role towards God's people. The Second Vatican Council taught that every Christian should give a living witness to. Christ, at least through living a life of faith and charity and by joining in worship and prayer.

This is not such an easy matter. The spirit of today's society, the example of our contemporaries, and the irreligious mood of much of the media do not always foster God-fearing attitudes or encourage sound moral standards. In most countries today, Christians are not persecuted for showing faith in Christ and his Gospel, but when she or he lives according to this teaching they will be swimming against the tide of a materialistic culture and will not find the going easy. Jesus warns that being a Christian will cost sacrifice and suffering. We are bound to face opposition from a world that does not gladly submit to the word of God, that makes so many demands on human nature. But there is real satisfaction, too, in standing up for the truth of things. In the centre of their souls, prophetic people have the happiness of working with the Lord, who is the ultimate truth on whom we all depend.

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.

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

Delving into the Scriptures – Psalms, part 2

Last week we looked at the book of the Psalms, its structure, and content. It's also worth seeing how the Church has used these texts, because they have played a central role in Church life, especially prayer, since the very beginning.

As with much reflection on the Old Testament, Christians have always looked for the presence of Christ in the Psalms. This is drawn out in a number of places very clearly, Psalm 2:7 includes the line "You are my son, today I have begotten you." This is directly quoted in Hebrews 5 with reference to Christ. Psalm 109 (110) opens "The Lord says to my lord: 'Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool.'" Christ himself quotes this, noting that it refers to the Messiah, he asks the Pharisees "If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word.' (*Matthew 22:45-46*). Similarly Psalm 117 (118) gives us the idea of the rejected stone which becomes the cornerstone, and many others besides.

In terms of how the Church has used the psalms, one of the first points to note is that they are designed to be sung. Various different means of singing them have been used across the centuries, but there is a strong sense that they are at their best when sung, rather than merely recited or read. This leads to an engagement with the texts at a deeper level in the human heart. Because the psalms aren't trying to teach doctrine or history directly, they are texts more suited to ruminating over with an almost endless depth of meditation.

Connected with this sense of reflection rather than just reading, is the point that the clergy (along with religious, and many lay people) come to know the Psalms far more than other books of the Bible – this isn't because we are supposed to study them more, but because they form a central part of the cycle of daily prayers known as the office. Each day there are a number of moments of prayer which are supposed to sanctify the day. The prayers which are to be offered at these points are built around the psalms, which form over half of the length of the prayer services.

Traditionally, the whole of the book would be prayed over the course of a week; this would obviously lead to a great familiarity with the texts as they get memorised by constant use. Some key texts would even be repeated every day and so gain especially familiarity. More recently that weekly cycle was thought to be too burdensome alongside the other demands on clergy time, but even so a four-week cycle was developed to keep that constant refreshing of the psalms.

We also see the psalms used in the Mass. At various points there is a varying text (known as an antiphon) to be read or sung, for example the entrance antiphon at the beginning. These are overwhelmingly taken from the psalms, and seek to draw out an idea related to the Mass being celebrated – for example the recent feast of the Sacred Heart uses Psalm 32 "The designs of his Heart are from age to age..." and *Corpus Christi* speaks of the manna in the wilderness pointing forward to the Eucharist "He fed them with the finest wheat" (Psalm 80).

As you come across the Psalms, whether at Mass or in your own prayer and reflection, seek to have that spirit of reflection, of rumination. Taking a psalm or even a few verses from a psalm and slowly and prayerfully repeating them can take you deeper into prayer. We have been given the Psalms as a great treasury, we would do well to use all of its great depths. – **Fr. Thomas.**

Day for Life. On Sunday 21 June, we mark the Day for Life under the theme "The Wonder of the Child in the Womb." The theme also recognises the loss of children who died before birth and the grief of their parents. The bishops' message and prayers can be found on the Day for Life website: www.dayforlife.org The second collection will go towards the Day for Life Fund, which distributes grants to organisations that promote respect for life from conception until natural death. You can also donate online via the Day for Life website."

Second Collection – there will be second collection for the Day for Life today. Next week (the feast of Ss. Peter & Paul) there will be a second collection of Peter's Pence (which support the work of the papacy and papal charities).

Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead

