

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: gainford.stosmund@rcdhn.org.uk**Tel: 01833 631457** **Mobile: : 07876 308657****Website: 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 Matthias 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

**17th Sunday of Ordinary Time****Theme: Discernment**

Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind that I may discern between good and evil

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

Sunday 26th July 9.30am

Saturday 1st August 6.30pm

Sunday 9th August 9.30am

Saturday 15th August 6.30pm

Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy will have a few weeks of during the summer break

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

Second Collection – next week there will be a second collection for sick and retired clergy.

First reading 1 Kings 3:5-12

‘You have asked for yourself understanding.’

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you.’ And Solomon said, ‘O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, ‘Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.’

Responsorial Psalm 119(118):57,72,76,77, 127-130 R97

O Lord, how I love your law!

You, O Lord, are my portion;
I have promised to obey your words.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than large quantities of silver and gold.

Let your merciful love console me
by your promise to your servant.
Show me compassion, that I may live,
for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold,
why I rule my life by your precepts,
and hate false ways.

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

Second reading Romans 8:28-30

‘He predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.’

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Gospel Acclamation Cf. Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

‘He sells all that he has and buys that field.’

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all these things?’ They said to him, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

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Feast days this week

Wednesday 29th July: Sts Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Thursday 30th July: St Peter Chrysologus

Friday 31st July: St Ignatius Loyola

Saturday 1st August: St Alphonsus Mary de’Liguori

Those of us reared in the country are familiar with how fiercely an old farmer can cling on to his land. Even a miserable patch of grassy bog feels like an insurance against abandonment. But hanging on is not the answer. It only sows bitterness and frustration in sons whose best years are squandered in waiting. Sons who in turn never learn themselves from the mistakes of their fathers. Love alone can guarantee security and care in one's declining years. Possessions provide only the illusion of security.

Elderly farmers are not the only ones who hold on to things for security. Others have their own holdings from which only death can separate them. It may be property and wealth, status and prestige or power and influence. It may even be an awful lot less, trivial comforts and an easy life. It may be a sixteen-hour day or the thankless responsibility of high office. Or a reputation we can no longer live up to. There is nothing more pathetic than an ageing beauty queen who refuses to accept the ravages of time.

"Ask what you would like me to give you," God said to Solomon. "Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil," he replied. It is the kind of gift we all need. Possessions come in many forms. It is not so much these possessions that we should rid ourselves of, as the demon of possession itself that should be exorcised. Poverty has become a dirty word in the world we live in. We should not let an Ethiopian famine or a Rwanda disaster make us forget that poverty is also a Christian virtue. It is no accident that Christ began his Sermon on the Mount with "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Or that the only condition for his followers is that "they leave all things." Or that the rich young man should have failed all because he failed this one test, "for he had great possessions." Or that the pearl in today's parable could only be bought by "selling everything he owns."

The trouble with most people is that they want it both ways. All this and the good life too. But they can't have it both ways.

There is a pearl for everyone. And there is a price for everyone to pay. A price tailored to each individual circumstances. Detachment is that price. To be able to walk away from what we cherish most without so much as looking back with regret. Our tragedy is not that we cannot find the pearl but that we are unwilling to pay the price. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

The Cycle of Prayer

A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews

Prayer

*Let us pray also for the Jewish people,
to who the Lord our God spoke first,
that he may grant them to advance in love of his name
and in faithfulness to his covenant.*

*Almighty ever-living God,
who bestowed your promises on Abraham and his descendants,
graciously hear the prayers of your Church,
that the people you first made your own
may attain the fullness of redemption.*

Delving into the Scriptures – 2 Corinthians

It was a little while ago that we looked into 1 Corinthians, S. Paul had heard of some concerning activities in the local church at Corinth and wrote to correct these. A rather sharp letter at times, to address serious issues, but also providing significant teaching. 2 Corinthians comes somewhat later with other events having taken place between the two letters.

Following 1 Corinthians, S. Paul was actually able to make a personal visit to Corinth; however, this was not a pleasant visit, and it appears that a number of attacks were made on his authority over the community (probably by visitors) – he refers to this as a ‘painful visit’. After this visit he seems to have written what has been called the ‘letter of tears’ (cf. 2 Corinthians 2:4), the text of which has not come down to us.

This background helps us to see why 2 Corinthians was written as it was. After the typical opening, which notably includes reference to S. Paul being chosen by Christ himself as an apostle, S. Paul provides a defence of his actions and expresses the love for the Corinthians which motivates his writings. It also closes with a strong assertion of his position as an apostle, which no doubt arose from the attacks he had received when visiting.

Between these two sections, he gives instructions on collections to be taken for the poor among the members of the church in Jerusalem. That he takes the time to write this shows the importance of charity within the Church. Corinth was a comparatively affluent city, whereas the Christians of Jerusalem were both poorer and suffering persecutions – as we live in a comparatively affluent part of our world, this section contains much for our reflection and action today.

The large part of the letter is taken up defending S. Paul’s position. It is easy to imagine that the early Church, being so much closer to Christ, was a time of unity and peace; however, it is clear that there were significant divisions. In particular the background seems to be the ongoing debate over the ‘Judaizers’, these saw the Faith as developing from the Old Testament, and held that all Christians should still be bound by the Law given to Moses. As S. Paul’s mission was principally to the gentile world, he became a particular *bête noire*. As he responds to the attacks which were made on him, S. Paul’s personality comes to the fore more than elsewhere – this is a personal letter written to people who actually knew him. As he defends his position, he also seeks to reassure the Corinthians of his deep love for them; he writes not to cause them more pain (compared to the letter written between 1 and 2 Corinthians).

He provides an account of the work of an apostle; this is presented as a continuation of the work of Christ. The apostles are spoken of as God’s co-workers (6:1) and ambassadors (5:20). This locating of all of the work of the apostles in God continues to be relevant to us today, as all that we seek to do in the Church is through Him. This reaches a climax when he summarises all Christian ministry: “the love of Christ controls* us” (5:14 – *control could also be translated as ‘urges on’).

It is worth noting that there is that missing letter. Sending letters to local churches was a significant part of S. Paul’s ministry, as he couldn’t be everywhere at once. Only a few of these have been recognised as having that inspiration which marks them out for the Bible; the others have inevitably been lost to the sands of time. Regardless, we see in what remains the great passion of S. Paul, to bring everybody deeper into that love of Christ which controls him.

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.

C.C.T.V. Following the break-in last year, we have reviewed security arrangements, and for your information, there are now C.C.T.V. cameras at a few external locations on site.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead

