

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



14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Humility

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

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

Saturday 4th July 6.30pm

Sunday 12th July 9.30am

Saturday 18th July 6.30pm

Sunday 26th July 9.30am

Children's Liturgy

There will be a Children's Liturgy on Sunday 12th July

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 – there will be second collection today for the Peter's Pence (which support the work of the papacy and papal charities)

First reading Zechariah 9:9-10

'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble.'

Thus says the Lord:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall speak peace to the nations;

his rule shall be from sea to sea,

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm 145(144):1-2,8-11,13,14. R cf.1

I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.

I will extol you, my God and king,
and bless your name for ever and ever.

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

All your works shall thank you, O Lord,
and all your faithful ones bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
and declare your mighty deeds.

The Lord is faithful in all his words,
and holy in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

Second reading Romans 8: 9, 11-13

'If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.'

Brothers and Sisters: You are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

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 11: 25-30

'I am gentle and lowly in heart.'

At that time Jesus declared, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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Feast days this week

Monday 6th July: Maria Goretti

Thursday 9th July: St Augustine Zhao Rong and his Companions. Our Lady of Aberdeen (Scotland)

Saturday 11th June: St Benedict

The Cycle of Prayer**Europe****Background**

Pope John Paul II dedicated 6 patron saints to Europe:

- St Cyril and St Methodius (14 February)
- St Catherine of Siena (29 April)
- St Benedict (11 July)
- St Bridget of Sweden
- St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

They reflect the rich spiritual history of the Continent from East to West and across the centuries. In the Cycle of Prayer Europe is remembered in the Summer when a number of the Feasts days occur.

Europe day is marked on 9 May which is the anniversary of the...

Prayer

O God, who gave one origin to all peoples
and willed to gather from them one family for yourself,
fill all hearts, we pray, with the fire of your love
and kindle in them a desire
for the just advancement of their neighbour,
that, through the good things
which you richly bestow upon all,
each human person
may be brought to perfection,
every division may be removed,
and equity and justice may be established in human
society.

Roman Missal

Becoming like children

“Put your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee” was the refrain of a popular Gospel song some years back. Putting your hand in somebody else’s is a gesture of intimacy, which is very characteristic of children with their parents. To a loving father or mother a child will give its hand unquestioningly, with complete trust. Holding his or her father’s hand there is nowhere the child will not venture. It is not only willing to be led, but positively wants to be brought somewhere. Somewhere in the growing up process we outgrow our dependency on our parents, and having lost the need for their guidance, even God can become remote for us. Only those who are children at heart can fully understand what Jesus tells us about God — that God reveals Himself to “mere children.”

Growing up means ceasing to be dependent. We exchange a child’s dependence on people for an adult’s dependence on things, like money, alcohol, success and influence. But these props are notoriously fickle and the adult world is often plagued by stress and anxiety. Our props may provide temporary relief but can still leave us — as Jesus puts it — “labouring and burdened;” labouring under illusions of grandeur and burdened with unrealistic targets. The heaviest load we have to carry is that of our own unfulfilled ambitions, the burden of our bruised egos. Only a return to humility can restore our lost innocence and our lost paradise., that honest humility that accepts our creature-status, our status as children before God. To enjoy the peace of Christ we must “put our hand in the hand of the man from Galilee’, who guides us along life’s journey and helps us to find the way home.

‘Come to me’, he says, ‘all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest.’ In spite of all our problems, we trust him when he says, my yoke is easy and my burden light. 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

This Saturday sees the feast of S. Benedict, a great Saint and one we reflected on a couple of years ago, but as so often with these great Saints it isn't just their own life but the continuation of what they founded which is why they are remembered. Seen this way, S. Benedict isn't just a man from a few hundred years ago, but is a living presence in the Church today through the thousands of sons and daughters who seek to live that he organised.

The idea of monasticism doesn't begin with S. Benedict, what he contributed was a rule of life which became a defining feature of those monasteries which adopted it, which rapidly became the large majority in the West. The idea of a monk or nun is, in one sense, quite simple – they seek to leave the world behind in order to focus more clearly on God. This simple idea rapidly becomes more complex as the realities of life join in (e.g., sourcing appropriate food, having access to the Sacraments) and when groups seek to live in community together even more so. The Rule of S. Benedict establishes a basic framework for how the community can live together, especially can pray together, but also how the practicalities of life can be arranged.

One of the key aspects of the Benedictine life has been the balance between prayer and work (*ora et labora* in Latin). Monks and nun spend part of each day joining together for prayer, especially singing the daily office and Mass; but then also have particular work. The original plan was for a monastery to be self-sufficient as far as possible, and so that work would often include working in the fields, as well as keeping the monastery organised. The need for educated monks rapidly meant that teaching younger members was a work, this started to include others who were not pursuing a monastic vocation – running schools has been a major benedictine work.

The original vows in the Rule are stability, conversion of life, and obedience to the superior. Stability reflects the idea of a distinct community, monks and nuns do not usually move from community to community, but seek to grow together as a family. Conversion of life includes the whole of the life of the community, and so includes the idea of personal poverty and chastity; but also presents as these as a life-time journey of growing virtue. The vow of obedience reflects the importance of structure within the community, the Abbot or Abbess is the key figure – not supposed to be remote, but having a fatherly/motherly care for the whole of the family.

Even though many monasteries had already been founded, Benedictines came to dominate monastic life in the West, many of those already in existence adopted the Rule and joined the benedictine family. This included England as much as elsewhere, Westminster Abbey being the most famous historically Benedictine church in the country; as well as many individuals including S. Augustine of Canterbury, S. Bede, and S. Cuthbert. For many years English Benedictines continued through living on the continent, but were able to return as conditions improved. Today several communities exist here, both of monks and nuns.

Each Abbey is autonomous, but there is now a Benedictine Confederation which seeks to foster cooperation and good relations between these communities. Across the world there are around 6500 Benedictine monks and nuns, still seeking to live that life which S. Benedict outlined; as well as many others who while not living in a community still seek to be inspired by it as they serve God throughout their lives. – Fr. Thomas.

Next week is Sea Sunday, and there will be a collection for the work of *Stella Maris* (the Church's work with seafarers).

Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead

