

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 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



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

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

Saturday 15th August 6.30pm

Sunday 23rd August 9.30am

Saturday 29th August 6.30 pm

Saturday 5th September 6.30pm

Church Restoration – as the next step in ensuring that our beautiful church is well maintained for future generations, there are some repairs to the plastering needed. This will involve the church being out of action for a few weeks while there is scaffolding inside; as such Mass will be celebrated in the parish rooms - this will begin with Mass this weekend (Sunday 9 August).

Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy will have a few weeks off 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.

First reading Revelation 11:19. 12: 1-6, 10

‘A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet.’

God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple.

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.’

Responsorial Psalm 45(44): 10-12, 16. R10

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father’s house.

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him.

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

‘Christ the first fruits, then those who belong to Christ.’

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For ‘God has put all things in subjection under his feet.’

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.

Alleluia.

Gospel Luke 1: 39-56

‘He who is mighty has done great things for me; he has exalted those of humble estate.’

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.’

And Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.’

And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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Feast days this week

Wednesday 12th August: St John Eudes

Thursday 20th August: St Bernard

Friday 21st August: St Pius X

Saturday 22nd August: Our Lady, Mother and Queen

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.*

Roman Missal

The fairest of creatures

Every individual of the human race, male and female, is made in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:26). We can celebrate Our Lady's Assumption in light of this basic principle from the creation story. Mostly we are tempted to reverse this process and try to shape God in our own image and likeness. Naturally we have a limited concept of our Creator. How we cling to the notion of a docile God, who will grant our wishes if only we ask him in the right way; or an indulgent God who will turn a blind eye on the double standards in our lives; or a vengeful God, whom we obey only out of fear. To test the quality of our faith we might wonder, Do my ideas resemble Mary's vision of God, especially as in today's gospel when she says, "My soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour."

Mary combines sincere worship of God with deep joy in his presence, in the spirit of the advice given to the early Christians, "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17). In her Magnificat, Mary is enraptured by God, she does not ask anything for herself, she is not worried about the future; she thinks only of the goodness of God up to the present moment, and of the gratitude she owes to God. In her we have the supreme example of someone totally captivated by the love of God. In this sense, she is the fairest of all God's creatures.

First of all the saints, she is the handmaid, the willing and joyful servant of the Lord. She lived solely for God and therefore God, who cannot be outdone in generosity, gave her the fullness of grace. Now just as Jesus did not abandon us when he ascended to heaven, so Mary has not been separated from the Christian community by her Assumption, but remains for each of us a sign of hope. We are called, like her, to share in the fullness of Christ's glory. She is the model and guarantee of all that the believer hopes to become in heaven. We pray today that we too may be found worthy to come to that place in heaven which God has prepared for those who love him. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary **The Heavens Declare the Glory of God (Ps. 18)**

16th August

I'm sure that many of you took the time to see the partial eclipse last Wednesday, and whilst it wasn't a theological event *per se*, it can spark some interesting reflections. We were all taught the basic mechanics of the solar system in school, but it is easy to forget the magnitude of what this all means. In the case of the eclipse it means that the sun (which is about 865,000 across and is 93 million miles away) was blocked out by the moon (about 2000 miles across and 240,000 miles away). These are all sizes which are impossible for us to comprehend, but yet these immense objects lines up perfectly.

If we take matters further, this gathering around our sun is itself rather small within a galaxy of over 100 billion stars...and then at least 2 trillion galaxies (to type the numbers out that's 2,000,000,000,000) in the universe. All of this incomprehensible size has to give us a sense of wonder – if we look at the night sky, we are able to see a small fraction of those as their light finally makes its way to earth millions upon millions of miles away. But yet, each of these stars was brought about precisely because God created the universe in the way that he did; each one of those 2 trillion galaxies is known by him.

Coming back to our solar system, that sun is shining down on us as it has been for about 4 ½ billion years (and is expected to continue for the next 5 billion years). If it suddenly disappeared we would all die out very rapidly as the world became simultaneously dark and colder than we can imagine. Our earth moves around it, turning every 24 hours, according to this incredible force called gravity. We usually notice it when we drop something, but it's the same force which makes that dropped object fall to the ground which keeps the earth and the sun together – giving us heat and light. Again, we can wonder at the precision, we are close enough to be given warmth and light by the sun; but not so close that we get burnt up.

Going back to the eclipse, here in England we didn't get the drama of the complete eclipse where the whole of the sun is blocked out. From video footage, we can readily see why many former civilisations with less knowledge of the workings of the universe took it as a great portent. We did get a somewhat eerie feel as the strength of the sun lessened over time – it was up there, but somehow seemed less powerful. There was still plenty of light, one could sit and read a book for example, but it was also clearly different from normal.

The mechanics of how all of this happened are fascinating, the different objects being pulled around (over all of those thousands of thousands of miles) and casting a shadow. But they can also remind us that behind all of this was the mind of God. When he created the universe he laid down things like the law of gravity...and did so knowing that it would produce a solar system with the earth in it; knowing that it would produce wonders like eclipses.

When we look at our natural world, we can and should see the hand of God. Whether at the scale of trillions of galaxies; or in the movement of the sun, the moon, and the earth; or in the tiniest details here on earth, or in our own lives. God holds all of these in his mind and in his care. We do well to wonder, as the psalm says “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” –

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.

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 we will have the annual collection for the Holy Places. This supports the Church's work in the Holy Land, caring for some of the most profound sites in Christendom. It will remain open on the weekend of 29/30 August.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead

