

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 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk

**21st Sunday of Ordinary Time****Theme: Built on Rock**

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church

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

Sunday 23rd August 9.30am

Saturday 29th August 6.30 pm

Saturday 5th September 6.30pm

Sunday 13th September 9.30am

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.

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 Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

‘I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David.’

Thus says the Lord God of hosts, ‘Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: “I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father’s house.” ’

Responsorial Psalm 138(137): 1-3, 8 R8

**O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple.

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

Second reading Romans 11:33-36

‘From him and through him and to him are all things.’

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! ‘For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?’ ‘Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?’ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia.

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

‘You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.’

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others

Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.’ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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Feast days this week

Monday 24th August: St Bartholomew

Tuesday 25th August: St Louis

Wednesday 26th August: Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, St David Lewis (Wales)

Thursday 27th August: St Monica

Friday 28th August: St Augustine

Saturday 29th August: The Beheading of St John the Baptist

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

Above the sanctuary of Saint Peter's basilica in Rome, written in huge lettering of gold mosaic, is this promise of Jesus to his chief apostle: "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church. I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven." These words are held by Catholics as the basis for the papacy, applying to the bishop of Rome as the successor to Peter, to be the chief spokesman for the church's living faith, and wielder of the spiritual power of the keys.

We must not be too simplistic in how we apply those words to the original Peter and even more so to his successors. Non-catholic Christians, our brethren in the Protestant churches, do not accept that there could be any succession, in the full sense, to the position held by Saint Peter. They find any claims to juridical and absolute authority for the papacy, under titles like "apostolic jurisdiction" or "the power of the keys" to be out of harmony with the Gospel message. They interpret differently what today's Gospel means for leadership in the Church. We need not insist that the Roman way is the only way of taking Christ's words. Still, this Gospel deserves close attention for what it says about faith, enlightenment and leadership, and guidance for our own lives.

Each must make a personal answer to Our Lord's question: "Who do you say that I am?" although Peter's credo is a solid basis from which to begin. Notice the beautiful phrase: "Son of the Living God," expressing more richly what "Christ" means. Peter's worshipful faith comes to him as gift from above, not from any mere logic or ingenuity. Why was the blessing given to him in particular? Perhaps because his humble and contrite spirit made him best prepared to receive it? Or because God chooses whom He wills, irrespective of their merits? It is to this Peter that Jesus entrusts whatever is meant by the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Upon his solid, dedicated faith the Church will always rely, for unity and encouragement. Keys are mainly for opening; many doors lock by themselves. We could reflect further on Peter's task, as seen in other Gospel passages (Mat. 14:28ff; 17:24ff; Lk. 22:32; Jn. 21:15-17), and in the Acts (1:15ff; 2:14ff; 3:12ff).

While he is appointed to "feed the lambs and sheep" of Christ, to "confirm his brethren," and welcome the first pagan convert into the Church, Peter is no plaster saint. Weakness of faith (when he began to sink), rash self-confidence and eventual denial are also portrayed by him. But these serve only to underline the grandeur of his conversion, when with a new clarity of self-knowledge he turns and says to Jesus: "You know that I love you." The task is not one of stern domination, or merely of the efficient organisation of Christ's Church. Pastor and penitent at once, convert and the support for other converted sinners, he leads the faithful by witness and example. This pastoral understanding of authority finds a lovely echo in the first epistle of Peter. Elders or leaders are asked to "tend the flock of God, not as domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock" (5:13.) Just so, Peter tended the early church by sharing his deep faith in Christ the Risen Lord. So, he kept them united in a community of mutual love, and in faithful obedience to the Gospel. Such an ideal situation of harmony in the Church is briefly sketched for us in the Acts (2:42ff; 4:32f.)

What of today's Church, spread in all continents, united under the leadership of pope Leo? How can this work of teaching, encouraging and uniting so many millions of baptised believers be carried on? Jesus remains at the centre, as the Christ, Son of the Living God, and he continues to be the Church's true Rock. We today, just as much as in the time of St Peter, need the ministry of faithful apostles, entrusted by Christ to build up his people, witness to the faith, and provide leadership in Christian love. Pope, bishops, priests and other ministries exist in order to serve. But in some sense, we get the service that we deserve. It is for us to make known to our pastors both our appreciation and our loyal criticisms; especially to pray for them, for their courage and perseverance. Today we particularly remember the present successor of Peter, our Pope; that God may establish him in faith and wisdom; that being strong in himself, he may confirm the brethren; and that as Chief Shepherd he may help us on our way to the Kingdom. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

S. Bartholomew the Apostle

We all know well that Our Lord chose twelve of his closest followers, and these are variously referred to as the Apostles, the Disciples, or even simply as 'the Twelve'. Given that this inner circle was so small, we would expect to be given a fair amount of information about them, but the reality is that beyond the inner-inner circle of Ss. Peter, James, and John as well as S. Paul when he comes along later, little is recorded in Holy Scripture about these men – yet we know that they were so fundamental that in Revelation their names are the foundations of the new Jerusalem (21:14).

Among these we find S. Bartholomew, whose feast falls on Monday. He is named in the lists of Apostles given by Matthew, Mark, and Luke, as well as in the opening of Acts; but beyond that Bartholomew isn't mentioned elsewhere. Many suggest that this is the same person as Nathaniel mentioned in John, this would. John doesn't list the names of the Twelve (though he refers to them as a group a couple of times). The difference in name is explained by suggesting that Nathaniel is the first name, and Bartholomew the patronymic (i.e., a surname formed from his father – Bar-Tolmai, son of Tolmai). In John chapter 1, Nathaniel is known to Philip who introduces him to Christ, Christ greets him saying 'Behold, an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile!' After a short exchange, Nathaniel refers to Christ as 'the Son of God...the King of Israel' (1:45-51). He is also referred to at the end of the Gospel where he is described as one of the disciples present when the Risen Christ appears (21:1-10).

As an Apostle he would have been around Christ throughout his ministry, and like the others he spread the message of Christ following his Ascension. As with several other histories of the Apostles, most comes to us from tradition and isn't recorded in Scripture. S. Bartholomew went to the East, with accounts detailing at least one visit to India (around Bombay); also work modern day Iraq and Iran.

His strongest connexion though is with Armenia. There is a consistent tradition that the Faith was brought to Armenia by S. Bartholomew, working with S. Jude (Thaddeus); he is listed as the second Catholicos (Patriarch) of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The tradition claims that he managed to convert a local ruler (Polymius), but fearing a Roman reaction to this (Armenia was a client kingdom under Rome at the time), Bartholomew was martyred to try and stop the spread of the Faith. Certainly there is an ancient and deep veneration of S. Bartholomew in Armenia, and there is nothing implausible about that being the location of his apostolic work.

It is traditionally held that he was martyred by being flayed alive. This has led to some of his patronages, including leather workers; but has also inspired several artistic depictions of such a graphic scene. There is a particularly striking statue of his in Milan Cathedral; there he stands with his skin almost casually thrown over his shoulders.

These various references to 'tradition' remind us that even the greatest of Saints have often worked in relative obscurity; they worked to spread the message of Christ and to lay foundations which each generation can build upon. They were not written about in the manner of kings or great leaders, but the faithful communities which they established treasured the memory of their work. We seek to be a new generation doing the same, knowing that we stand on their foundations. – 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

