

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, 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 or at safeguarding@diocesehn.org.uk



25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: Generous to a fault

"You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you."

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

Saturday 19th September 6.30pm

Sunday 27th September 9.30am

Saturday 3rd October 6.30pm

Sunday 11th October 9.30am

Church Restoration – work continues on the restoration of the décor of the church with impressive progress already made; however, Mass remains in the parish room this weekend.

Children's Liturgy

Whilst the parish room is being used for Mass, the Children's Liturgy will be taking a break. Future dates to be confirmed

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.

Second Collection – today is *Evangelii Gaudium* Sunday (also known as Home Mission Sunday), there is a second collection for the work of home missions.

First reading Isaiah 55:6-9**‘My thoughts are not your thoughts.’**

Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man
his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may
have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will
abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your
ways my ways, declares the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my
ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your
thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm 145(144): 2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R18**The Lord is close to all who call him.**

I will bless you day after day,
and praise your name for ever and ever.
The Lord is great and highly to be praised;
his greatness cannot be measured.

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.

The Lord is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The Lord is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth.

Second reading Philippians 1:20-24, 27**‘For to me to live is Christ.’**

Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my
body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is
Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that
means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I
cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My
desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far
better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on
your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the
gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia. Open our hearts, O Lord, that we
may pay attention to the words of your Son.
Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16**‘Do you begrudge my generosity?’**

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, ‘The
kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went
out early in the morning to hire labourers for his
vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a
denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going
out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in
the market-place, and to them he said, “You go into the
vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.” So
they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the

ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh
hour he went out and found others standing. And he
said to them, “Why do you stand here idle all day?” They
said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to
them, “You go into the vineyard too.”

‘And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said
to his steward, “Call the labourers and pay them their
wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.” And
when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of
them received a denarius. Now when those hired first
came, they thought they would receive more, but each
of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it
they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, “These
last worked only one hour, and you have made them
equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and
the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them,
“Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree
with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and
go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you.
Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what
belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?” So
the last will be first, and the first last.’

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Feast days this week

Monday 21st September: St Matthew

**Wednesday 23rd September: St Pius of
Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)**

**Thursday 24th September: Our Lady of
Walsingham**

**Saturday 26th September: Sts Cosmos and
Damian**

The Cycle of Prayer**The Spread of the Gospel**

especially on *Evangelii Gaudium* Day: 3rd Sunday in
September & World Mission Day: the penultimate
Sunday in October

Background

Home Mission day is on the 3rd Sunday in September.
There may be a collection to support the work of the
Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and
Discipleship.

World Mission Day is on the penultimate Sunday in
October. A Mass 'for the Spread of the Gospel' may be
celebrated on this Sunday. Each year the Holy Father
writes a message for World Mission day. In England and
Wales material is produced for parishes by the Pontifical
Mission Societies. There may be a collection for their
work on this day.

Prayer

*O God, whose will it is that all should be saved
and come to the knowledge of the truth,
look upon your abundant harvest
and be pleased to send workers to gather it,
that the Gospel may be preached to all creation
and that your people, gathered by the word of life
and sustained by the power of the Sacraments,
may advance in the path of salvation and love.*

Roman Missal

The core of the Gospel parable is also in the Isaiah passage: "My thoughts are not your thoughts." Try as we may, it is impossible to justify the payment of the workers in the vineyard in ordinary social terms. It could hardly be said to be fair. Yes, the owner is generous to the last comers, but why is he not generous to the others as well? It is simply that there is no reckoning up deserts when man meets God.

In Our Lord's time Judaism had reached a legalistic state, and the mentality was prevalent that salvation could and must be earned. There were many commands which must be fulfilled, and people were divided into two classes, the righteous who were on the road to salvation by fulfilling the commands, and the unrighteous, outcasts despised by those who kept the law. It was this slot-machine conception of God that Jesus opposed by his emphasis on love, for in love there is no calculation of duties, rights and obligations; there is only an open-handed giving without counting the cost, and a grateful receiving. We can never say that we have earned our salvation, or anything from God, but can only stand suppliant before him. The latest workers in the vineyard have not earned what the owner gives them, and the mistake of their envious colleagues is to think that they can deserve well of the owner.

Devout Christians may find it hard to stomach that someone who repents on his deathbed is admitted to the kingdom no less than those who have struggled and suffered all their lives for what is right. But this would presuppose a commercial attitude of reward and punishments from God, and it neglects the nature of love. The relationship of the believer to God must be personal love, and as such it is its own reward, for it brings its own happiness also in this life. The greater the struggle, the more a Christian turns to God and finds comfort in the security of his love. Also, fidelity through a long life does bring some advantage over a skimpy final conversion, for it may well be that the relationship of love has so deepened over the years that the Christian, faithfully following Christ, has more capacity for the full enjoyment of God's company than one who comes to know God only at the last moment. Here it is not a matter of God giving a greater reward, but of the person being more capable of receiving it.

Of this deep and rewarding relationship with God and with Christ Paul shows himself in the second reading to be a shining example. Writing as he does under persecution he is yet filled with the joy of Christ. His life is already united with Christ's life, and he longs for the fulfilment of final union.

The parable of the vineyard-workers is no blueprint for labour relations, but it illustrates very well Jesus' teaching about grace and mercy. There are consequences to be drawn, and, in The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis wrote: "The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel." (§114) associationofcatholicpriests.ie

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. The month of September is SVP awareness month. The St Vincent De Paul Society (or as it is known – the SVP) is an international Catholic voluntary organisation dedicated to tackling poverty by providing practical assistance to those in need – irrespective of faith, age or gender in other words Turning concern into action. The Society is a lay organisation initially formed in Paris in 1833 by Frederic Ozanam and active in England & Wales since 1844. It was inspired by St Vincent De Paul a 17th century priest in Paris, famed for his works with the poor. Over the month of September, we will highlight our work and the initiatives we have started. We are also holding an open meeting on 19th October in the St Augustine's Parish Centre, and all are welcome. We will remind you of this date nearer the time.

Blessed Fulton Sheen

So often the Saints seem like superheroes from another age, but in each age God raises up new Saints to work as the times need. This Thursday, Archbishop Fulton Sheen is to be beatified, the step before being canonised as a Saint; a man widely recognised and admired, and unquestionably one quick to embrace the new media which were emerging to spread the Gospel.

Born in Illinois in 1895, he was baptised Peter John; however, he came to use his mother's maiden name of Fulton. His academic abilities were quickly recognised and immediately after he was ordained to the priesthood he was sent to Europe for further studies. He also taught for a time in Hertfordshire at S. Edmund's College, which combined a seminary with a boys' school; at the same time working closely with S. Patrick's Soho (still a centre of evangelistic work). He returned home to the U.S. in 1928, and quickly began the media ministry which would make him famous.

In 1930 he began a weekly radio broadcast, *The Catholic Hour*, which regularly gained a few million listeners. The gentle tone of his voice was widely acknowledged, but this didn't mean that his message was toned-down, he referred to Hitler as an example of the anti-Christ, for example. In 1940 there was one of the first television broadcasts of Mass, and Sheen was the natural choice for a commentator; in at the beginning he recognised the potential for television to be used as a tool of the Faith.

He was appointed as an auxiliary Bishop for New York, and ordained in 1951; however, this was not at the expense of his media work. In 1952 he started a weekly show 'Life is worth living' in which he would reflect on current moral issues; when the show became surprisingly popular, the host of the main competition broadcast at the same time on a different channel joked "If I'm going to be eased off the top by anyone, it's better that I lose to the One for whom Bishop Sheen is speaking."

Even those with apparently successful ministries in the Church do not find life easy, and there were clear tensions with the Archbishop of New York; it seems likely that the Archbishop pushed for Sheen to be appointed Bishop of Rochester so that he would be at a distance, and unable to continue to run his main evangelistic work 'the Society for the Propagation of the Faith'. Whatever the truth of the tension or quarrels, in his autobiography, Sheen took the time to praise Cardinal Spellman and never hinted at problems.

At the age of 74 he resigned as Bishop of Rochester; however, this was no retirement. He was given a personal title of Archbishop in recognition of his work, but he continued to speak and writing extensively. A mere two months before his death, Pope John Paul II happened to be visiting New York, and at S. Patrick's Cathedral embraced Sheen saying :you have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are a loyal son of the Church."

Sheen's style was to speak clearly and straightforwardly and often with humour, but never at the expense of the truth he was preaching. At a time when there was still a large amount of suspicion of Catholicism in the U.S., he was a popular figure on all sides, winning people over with charm and openness, without sacrificing any truth. But all of this flowed from a profound personal faith; he remarked several times that the key to all of his work was that he began every day with an hour's silent prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament. May we take his example, to draw on the ancient truth of the Faith and proclaim it to the whole world. – **Fr. Thomas.**

Home Missions Mission Sunday. Today is Home Mission Sunday, and there will be a second collection for this work. Abbot Hugh Allen, Director of Mission at the Conference of Bishops writes:

"On Sunday 20th September, we will celebrate Home Mission Sunday, a day for us as the Catholic community in England and Wales to celebrate our faith in these lands, and our shared commitment to communicate the beauty and the joy of knowing Jesus Christ. Celebrating the Holy Father's first encyclical, the theme for this year is "*Magnifica Humanitas*" as the heart of mission. We can celebrate together the call the Holy Father has placed before us to live out our authentic humanity which finds its fullness in Christ. More details about this can be found on the Bishops' Conference website - Home Mission Sunday - Catholic Bishops' Conference

"The Second Collection on this weekend is to support the work carried out by the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. Through the Mission Directorate, we support our Church in a wide field of service and mission here in England and Wales.

"Please hold this important work in your prayers and give as generously as you can. Thank you."

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Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead

