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, 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/Brx2TPnn3a?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

November: Month of the Holy Souls

All Saints Day

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

St Osmund's will be open for Parish Mass each Tuesdays at 10.00am.
Saturday 31st October 6.30pm
Sunday 8th November 9.30am
Saturday 14th November 6.30pm
Sunday22nd November 6.30pm

All Souls' Day Monday is All Souls' Day, there will be a Requiem Mass for all of the faithful departed at **12noon.**

Church Restoration – a great pleasure to be back in church for Mass, and especially to see the excellent work on the ceiling and walls. Thank you to everybody who worked hard cleaning the church; but especially to Rachael for tirelessly running the whole project.

Children's Liturgy

There will be a Children's Liturgy Sunday 8th November

First Holy Communion – forms are available for First Holy Communion. If you know of any children in Year 4 who would be interested, please do pass forms on.

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.

Mass Times Survey – a reminder that forms are available at the back of church outlining two proposals for Mass times. If you have not already taken a form, please do so, and reflect on which you feel would suit you and the wider parish best.

First reading Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14

'Behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.'

I, John, saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.' And I heard the number of the sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel. After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?' I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' And he said to me, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

Responsorial Psalm 24(23):1-6 R cf 6

Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the Lord shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second reading 1 John 3: 1-3

'We shall see God as he is.'

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 11:28

Alleluia, alleluia.
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest.
Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 5: 1-12

'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

Copyright: The readings are from the Jerusalem Bible published by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd 2019

Feast days this week
Monday 2nd November: All Souls
Tuesday 3rd November: St Martin de Porres
Wednesday 4th November: St Charles Borromeo
Friday 6th October: St Illtyd (Wales)
Saturday 7th November: St Willibrord

The Cycle of Prayer

The Spread of the Gospel
especially on World Mission Day: the penultimate Sunday in October

Background
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

All Saints Day **1st November**

Who are all this glorious band?

A veil of mystery hides what lies in store for human beings beyond this mortal life here and now. Saint Paul recognises this fact when he says that "No eye has seen, no ear has heard nor has it entered the human heart to imagine what God has prepared for those who love him." [1 Cor 2:9]. Still, the holy Scriptures provide a wealth of hopeful images to give a foretaste of what lies in store beyond this world, for those who love God. Those in heaven are no plaster saints, no gloomy killjoys, but a glorious band of decent people who lived with such love, they went went straight back to the God they loved so well. They went "marching in" — happy to be meeting face to face with the One who always held them in the palm of his hand. Heroes and ordinary people. Some who have inspired the church for centuries, and other unsung heroes, living a quiet life of kindness and duty, pure of heart and gentle of spirit.

"A great multitude that no one could count" — because God is rich in mercy, and in the Father's House there are many mansions. There's place there for all of us, and the surest way is to cling to "the Way, the Truth and the Life." Jesus has told how to be good people. He shows us how to be the best people we can be, and the qualities he wants to see in us, his followers. A quick focus on those qualities shows us that they are the very opposite of common and accepted standards and values: –

The world says, Blessed are the rich, because they can have anything they want. But Jesus says, Blessed are the poor in spirit. By poor in spirit he means those who put their trust in God rather than money; and those who admit that it is not their income, possessions or bank account that makes them rich in the eyes of God, but what kind of people they are.

The world says, Blessed are those who live it up, and never stop having fun. But Jesus says, Blessed are those who mourn. He means those who let themselves feel the misfortune, pain and sorrow of others, and who respond to them with understanding, sympathy, kindness, compassion, and practical assistance.

The world says, Blessed are the assertive and aggressive that talk tough and act tough. But Jesus says, Blessed are the gentle. Gentleness is not weakness, but a form of strength. St Francis de Sales used to say that you can catch more flies with a spoon full of sugar than a barrel full of vinegar. In Jesus book there's just no place for bullies and bullying.

The world says, Blessed are those who hunger for power, status, and fame. But Jesus says, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right. The only power and status we really need is to keep living in God's way and to keep doing the right thing. More satisfaction and contentment will be found in living with a good conscience than in hanging out with the movers and shakers and wannabes of this world.

The world says, Blessed are those who show no mercy and who take no prisoners. But Jesus says, Blessed are the merciful. Happy are those who make allowances for the faults and sins of others, and whose greatness lies in their ability to forgive. They will receive mercy and forgiveness from God for their own sins.

The world says, Happy are those with clean fingernails, sparkling eyes, gleaming teeth, and unblemished skin. But Jesus says, blessed are those with clean hearts. It's from the heart that all our thoughts, words, and actions flow. If the heart is clean, then everything that flows from it will be clean, as clean as water flowing from an unpolluted spring.

The world says, Blessed are those who get even and exact revenge. But Jesus says, Blessed are the peacemakers. Happy are those who spread understanding among people, those who welcome strangers, and those who work for a more just and equal society. They are truly the children of God.

The world says, Blessed are those who lie and cheat and get away with it. But Jesus says, Blessed are those who make a stand for what is right and true. They may suffer for their stand, but the wounds they bear will be marks of honour and integrity. Jesus practised what he preached. In his own person he was the beatitudes. Living them day after day made him the thoroughly good person he was. It's the same for us too.

Today's feast is not about the canonised saints but about all the good and holy people who have ever lived. None of us, I feel sure, is expecting to be a canonised saint. We don't fantasise that one day some pope will declare what saints we were. We don't expect that our picture is going to be revered on the walls of churches. Not for a moment do we imagine anyone saying prayers to us or preserving pieces of us as relics. But in its document on the Church, the Second Vatican Council wrote a chapter called The Universal Call to Holiness. So our Feast today is reminding us of our deep-down calling to become better people than we currently are! It is reminding us that Jesus Christ can and will empower us to practise what he preached and to live what we believe! Surely, then, we won t ever want to stop receiving him as our Bread of Life in Holy Communion! ***associationofcatholicpriests.ie***

All Saints Day 1st November

Month of the Holy Souls - Purgatory

We can't be entirely sure how far back the practice of praying for the departed goes, but it was certainly an accepted reality before the time of Christ. In 2 Maccabees we hear of sacrifices being offer for dead soldiers – they had fallen in battle after carrying a forbidden idol rather than trust entirely in God, prayers were offered that their sin be done away, looking forward to the resurrection (*2 Maccabees 12*). From this we can reasonably assume that Christians have always included the departed in their prayers. Over time, the Church more fully fleshed out the teaching on purgatory and what our prayers do, as we enter into the month of the Holy Souls, it's a good time to pause and reflect on this.

We are told clearly in Scripture that following this life, we have an eternal destiny and that this is either in heaven or hell; but while this final destination is fixed at the moment of our death, in many cases the path to heaven hasn't been completed and so needs to be finished (see Catechism 1022). This 'finishing off' is what happens in purgatory. This is a key point to note, there is a notion one sometimes finds in the popular imagination is that purgatory for those who are not bad enough for hell, but not good enough for heaven. The Church is clear that purgatory is a final purification to be ready for heaven. As the Catechism puts it: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (1030).

There are some who die completely prepared for heaven, these are the Saints whom we celebrate today. Some of the Saints have been identified and are venerated by name, but a great many are currently unknown to us on earth. Our aim in life should be to be among them, close to God, and fully prepared and purified by him here so that as soon as we die, we are ready to see him face-to-face (see 1 John 3:2).

But that doesn't mean that if we still have various minor faults we are going to be barred from heaven – that would be far from a message of good news. As we start to embrace God and his goodness we begin a process of sanctification, in which his grace works in us, and we co-operate with it through our good works. That process of sanctification can continue after death, if needed.

In a few points Scripture talks about a purifying or refining fire (e.g., 1 Corinthians 3:15, 1 Peter 1:5), the Church understands this to apply to the purifying of our souls. The image chosen by S. Peter is of gold, when it is first mined this often has various other impurities mixed in with it; but when passed through a furnace those other parts can be burnt off, leaving the pure gold behind. So too, when we sin, we add various other elements to our souls which need to be drawn out and cleansed.

The precise mechanics of purgatory are never really outlined in Scripture, and so the Church does not engage in speculation in her formal teachings. However the central point remains, that purgatory is directed towards heaven – everybody in purgatory will gain the joys of heaven. The other important point is that those in purgatory are still our brothers and sisters in Christ; we are bound together with them in the love of God. Our prayers assist them to speed through that process of purification, of preparation for heaven. During this month we intensify our prayers for them, especially for those we knew on earth. May the Lord speedily complete their purification, and grant to them eternal rest and peace with him in heaven. – **Fr. Thomas.**

Second Collection – Clergy Training Next week there will be the annual second collection for clergy training. According to the agreement between the Diocese and the Ordinariate, this goes to the Ordinariate which paid for Fr. Thomas' training

Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead