

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/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

October: Month of the Holy Rosary**30th Sunday of Ordinary Time**
Theme: Loving neighbour is like loving God

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

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

Sunday 25th October 9.30am

Saturday 31st October 6.30pm

Sunday 8th November 9.30am

Saturday 14th November 6.30pm

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 25th October



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.

World Mission Sunday – there will be a collection for the work of *Missio* supporting missions across the world.

First reading Exodus 22:21-27

‘If you mistreat any widow or fatherless child, my wrath will burn against you.’

Thus says the Lord: ‘You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. You shall not mistreat any widow or fatherless child. If you do mistreat them, and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry, and my wrath will burn, and I will kill you with the sword, and your wives shall become widows and your children fatherless. If you lend money to any of my people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a money-lender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him. If ever you take your neighbour’s cloak in pledge, you shall return it to him before the sun goes down, for that is his only covering, and it is his cloak for his body; in what else shall he sleep? And if he cries to me, I will hear, for I am compassionate.’

Responsorial Psalm 18(17): 2-4, 47,51 R2

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength;

O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.
I cry out, ‘O praised be the Lord!’
and see, I am saved from my foes.

The Lord lives, and blest be my Rock!
May the God of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord gives great victories to his king,
and shows merciful love for his anointed.

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10

‘You turned away from idols to serve God and to wait for his Son.’

Brothers and Sisters: You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Gospel Acclamation John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia.

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.

Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 22: 34-40

‘You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.’

At that time: When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And he said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.’

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Feast days this week

Monday 26th October: Sts Chad and Cedd

Wednesday 28th October: Sts Simon and Jude

Saturday 31st October: Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

The heart of the matter

Life is becoming increasingly complex. We value people who have the gift of getting beyond the multiple dimensions of an issue so as to zoom in on the heart of the matter. Such people prevent us from missing the wood for the trees. They are good at separating out what really matters from the things that are less important. They encourage us to invest our energies in what is really worthwhile, rather than allowing them to be dissipated by what is not significant.

Jesus was a person who knew how to go to the heart of the matter. On one occasion someone asked him to intervene in a family dispute about inheritance. In his reply, he ignored the concrete issue and, instead, he called on the person who approached him to “Be on your guard against all kinds of greed” (Lk 12:13-15). He saw that the real issue was not the details of the particular case but the greed which underlay the dispute.

This capacity of Jesus to get to the heart of the matter is clear from his response to the question put to him by one of the Pharisees in today’s gospel reading, “Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?” In the time of Jesus there were known to be 613 commandments in the Jewish Law. The potential here to miss the wood for the trees was enormous. Preoccupation with the detail of regulations could result in people ignoring what really matters, like straining out a gnat but swallowing a camel (Mt 23:24). Jesus answered the Pharisee’s question by going straight to the heart of the Jewish law. He was asked if there is one “greatest” commandment, but in reply he named the second greatest commandment as well. For the first commandment, loving the Lord your God with all our heart and soul, is inseparable from the conjoined commandment, of loving my neighbour as myself. For Jesus, what God wants from us above all else is love. There is no genuine love of God unless it finds expression in love of our neighbour. Love of neighbour, in turn, presupposes a healthy self-love, recognising and appreciating myself as fundamentally good, because I am created in the image and likeness of God.

The human side of holiness

Genuine human concern that touches lives is an effective sacrament of the transcendent love of God. The homilist might look at the mystery of the Christian God from the point of view of God’s transcendence and immanence. The love of God is actually enfleshed in the nitty-gritty of human interpersonal relationships. The authenticity of our religion is guaranteed by the value of our love for real people. One could use the image of the flower that is rooted in the soil; it grows slowly by transforming the elements of the soil in to its own living cells and eventually reaches up to the beauty of the sky with its own form, colour and scent. The one sap enlivens the root, the stalk, the flower and produces the perfume.

A truly Christian life is rooted in the earth and yet reaches up to the mystery of God through living in love. Another possible development might stem from Paul’s notion of the Thessalonians’ reputation spreading through the surrounding area. People were drawn to the Christian faith by the way these people were leading their lives. The word of the good news diffused itself quietly through people admiring the way the Christians lived. People can be quick to condemn those who have offbeat values or live a different lifestyle. We can fail to appreciate the faltering efforts others make to cope with the struggles of frail human nature. If we could plumb the depths of meaning in our own personal life histories we might be able to forge more effective link with others. The gift of our humanity, savoured and appreciated, can become mirror and window to the mystery of God for ourselves. It can be more a more effective means of evangelisation than all the hype of religious words that often only confirm the “converted” in their convictions. associationofcatholicpriests.ie

Ss. Chad & Cedd, brother missionaries

We rightly hold our northern Saints in great esteem, Ss. Cuthbert, Aidan, Bede and so forth; however, as well as those who spread and developed the Faith here in the north, the Church rapidly raised up those who went out to the rest of the country. On Monday we celebrate two of these: Ss. Chad and Cedd. It is fitting that they're celebrated together as they were not merely brothers in Christ, but actual brothers – indeed they had two further brothers who also became Priests (Cynbil and Caelin). We don't know much about their family origins, except to note that their names are Celtic in origin rather than Anglo-Saxon. Both studied under S. Aidan at Lindisfarne, and they went to found a monastery at Lastingham, near Pickering.

From there Cedd was sent on a mission to convert the Mercians (modern-day midlands), but this mission was not particularly successful; he returned to Northumbria, but was quickly sent on a new mission – to Essex. The Kingdom of the East Saxons had swayed between Christianity and paganism since the arrival of S. Augustine. Having made some notable progress, Cedd was appointed Bishop there – sometimes he was titled 'Bishop of the East Saxons' and sometimes 'Bishop of London'. At the same time, he retained close ties with Lastingham, often returning to give spiritual guidance to the monks, as well as retreats for himself.

Among his work in Essex was the foundation of a monastery at Bradwell-on-Sea. The church there was built reusing bricks from a near-by Roman fort. It remains in use today as the Chapel of S. Peter-on-the-Wall, one of the oldest churches in use today. Working in various parts of the country involved learning several different languages (this was before Old English became universal), and so while present at the famous Synod of Whitby he acted as translator between the various groups – this also speaks to the trust which all sides placed in him.

In the meantime, his brother Chad had been travelling and studying; Chad was invited to become Bishop of the Northumbrians. The Archbishop of Canterbury had just died, and therefore he was ordained bishop by three others in Wessex; however, all three had canonical irregularities. Because of this, a few years later a new Archbishop (sent to resolve various problems in the English Church, S. Theodore) instructed him to step-down in favour of S. Wilfrid. Chad's humility in accepting this judgment with grace impressed Theodore who then appointed him as Bishop of the Mercians.

Chad, therefore, went to the same territory which his brother had attempted to convert earlier. He made his base at Lichfield, including a group of monks who travelled south with him from Lastingham. He was only able to serve there for a couple of years before dying of plague; however, in this time Mercia had swung decisively to Christianity. His church at Lichfield became a shrine, and later Lichfield cathedral. At the Reformation a number of his relics were smuggled out of the shrine before its destruction and held secretly by a family who remained Catholic. As Catholicism re-emerged in the nineteenth century, these were presented to the local Bishop and were eventually enshrined in S. Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham (where they remain).

These two brothers recognised what they had received, but rather than merely keep it for themselves, they rapidly moved to spread the faith to others. May we all be inspired by their example, use our talents (e.g., S. Cedd's translation skills) as well as the virtues we receive from God (e.g., S. Chad's humility) to pass on the great gift of Faith which we have received. – **Fr. Thomas.**

Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead

