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/Brx9TPnn3a?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

Christ the King

Theme: Bandaging the wounded

I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak,

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

Sunday 22nd November 9.30am
Saturday 28th November 6.30pm
Saturday 5th December 6.30pm
Sunday 13th December 9.30am

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 22nd 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 Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17

'As for you, my flock, I judge between sheep and sheep.'
Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord God: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats.

Responsorial Psalm 23(22): 1-3, 5, 6 R1

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul.
He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending.

Second reading 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28

'Christ delivers the kingdom to God the Father, that God may be all in all.'
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. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation Mark 11: 9,10

Alleluia, alleluia.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!
Alleluia.

Gospel Matthew 25: 31-46

'He will sit on his glorious throne and he will separate people one from another.'
At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me."
'Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, saying, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?" Then he will answer them, saying, "Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

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Feast days this week
Monday 23rd November: St Columbanus
Tuesday 24th November: St Andrew Dung-Lac and his Companions
Wednesday 25th November: St Catherine of Alexandria
Saturday 21st November: Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

More Than They Knew

You might have had the experience of doing something for somebody and only subsequently discovering that it meant far more to that person than you realised at the time you did it? We are not always aware of the good we might be doing. We don't always appreciate how significant our actions are for others or how much our presence means to them. In some ways that can be a good thing, because it can prevent us from becoming too proud, or taking ourselves too seriously. In other ways it may not be a good thing because we can fail to value something in ourselves that others value much. We may be tempted to give up doing something that people really value because we are unaware of how significant it is. We may think we are doing nothing particularly worthwhile, when we fact we may be doing something of real value.

The thought came to me from the two groups of people in this gospel parable. The first group were amazed to discover that what they had done in life was far more significant than they had realised. Only at the end of their lives did they realise that their ordinary simple acts of kindness and consideration were in fact serving the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. To their amazement, they discovered that there was a much deeper dimension to what they were doing than they had ever suspected. In attending to the ordinary, they were, in reality engaging with the eternal. "When did we see you?... " they asked the Son of Man. His reply was, "In so far as you did this to one of the least, you did it to me." What they did in a matter-of-fact way turned out to have eternal significance. In dealing with their broken and troublesome and unfortunate neighbours, they were, in reality, dealing with the Lord of the Universe. What they had been doing was far more significant than they could ever have dreamt, and ha consequences far beyond what they realised at the time.

It can be difficult for us to realise that in our ordinary dealings with each other we are in a real sense dealing with the Lord, and that is especially true when we are confronted with others in all their brokenness and need. It is in the ordinary, every day affairs of life that we are responding to the Lord. The care that someone gives to a sick relative is care given to the Lord, whether that is realised or not. The welcome we give to a stranger who feels vulnerable in a foreign environment is a welcome given to the Lord. The way we relate to prisoners or ex-prisoners reveals how we relate to the Lord.

In the parable, Jesus doesn't say "I was imprisoned for no good reason and you visited me," or he doesn't say, "I was imprisoned because of my witness to the gospel and you visited me." No, it is much simpler than that, "I was in prison," full stop. No attempt is made to distinguish one prisoner from another or one crime from another. How we treat our prisoners, regardless of what they have done, is a commentary on how we treat the Lord himself. This gospel reading gives no encouragement to the attitude of lock them up and throw away the key. How we try to integrate ex-prisoners into our community, our society, is also making a statement about how we are receiving the Lord's coming to us. As a society how many resources are we putting into the important work of helping ex-prisoners to find a meaningful role in our society, so that they can build a new life for themselves that is crime-free?

associationofcatholicpriests.ie

The Cycle of Prayer

Young People
especially on Christ the King: 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Background
The Church in England and Wales has marked the contribution of young people on Christ the King for many years. Universally it is marked on Palm Sunday. In many parishes it is an opportunity to focus on the role of young people in the Sunday liturgy and in the life of the parish. Over the last few years material prepared to assist the day has used the *live*simply campaign. There may be a collection for diocesan and national youth services on this day.

Prayer

O God, who gave one origin to all peoples
and willed to gather from them
one family for yourself,
fill all hearts of all young people, we pray,
with the fire of your love
and kindle in them a desire
for the just advancement of their neighbour,
that, through the good things
which you richly bestow upon all,
each human person may be brought to perfection,
every division may be removed,
and equity and justice may be established in human society.

Roman Missal (adapted)

S. Andrew Dung Lac and his Companions

When we look through the cycle of Saints in the church's calendar, we sometimes come across this way of titling them. In some cases it's because a group was closely associated with a leader; but it's also used because there are cases where there are simply too many people to name individually. This latter case is what we celebrate on Tuesday, the various martyrs in Vietnam; S. Andrew Dung Lac is chosen to personalise them. Most of these 'companions' never met S. Andrew Dung Lac here on earth, but now they all enjoy each others company in heaven.

The current celebration was gathered together by S. John Paul II when he canonised 117 martyrs from Vietnam in 1988. The feast is deliberately ambiguous and it also marks those martyrs who have not been identified and formally recognised by the Church.

The early martyrdoms began in the eighteenth century when European missionaries arrived in Vietnam. These were mostly from the Dominican and Jesuit orders with six from that time being canonised. There was a period of relative toleration and calm during which significant missionary work was done; however, in 1820 a new Emperor (Minh Mang) came to the throne and was opposed to outside influence in the country. This foreign influence included both French involvement (where many of the missionaries originated) as well as Christianity itself which he saw as foreign in a Confucian country. Foreign missionaries were banned, but by this time there was a significant local Catholic population. At first the persecution was at the level of harassment, for example, there were laws requiring people to treat on a wooden cross as an act of disrespect.

The level of persecution rose with executions (including in particularly barbaric fashion) being meted out; this was often preceded by torture to try and get people to recant the Faith. The punishments were often collective, an official would arrive in a village and search for evidence of Christianity; if found the whole village could be punished for sheltering the offending Christians. This was also a source of money for corrupt officials who would know that particular villages were mostly Christian, and accept bribes to look the other way.

Andrew Dung Lac, who was chosen to personalise this whole group, was born in 1795. His family moved to Hanoi when he was young, and he encountered a Christian catechist choosing the new Christian name of 'Andrew' when he was baptised. Ordained a priest in 1823 he won many converts through his preaching and humility of life. He was arrested in 1835, but ransomed by members of the faithful, moving away to seek to evade capture. This succeeded for a few years; however, he was arrested along with Fr. Peter Thi (whom he was visiting for Confession), despite being ransomed again he was seized again before being beheaded on 21 December 1839.

Minh Mang died in 1841 and the persecution gradually wound down. It had been one of the most brutal attempts to extinguish Christianity in particular place. Over the various different persecutions in Vietnam, it has been estimated that at least 130,000 were killed. Several of these were missionaries (the Paris Foreign Missions Society being particularly active), but far more were Vietnamese who had come to the Faith and treasured it and sought to hand it on to others. As mentioned above, 117 have been individually identified and canonised as martyrs, but they are joined by that larger group whose faithfulness was known to God and so now reign with him in heaven. Today, even with a government which is officially atheist, around 7% of the population is Catholic, all of whom can look to the lives and witness of these martyrs who laid foundations of the Faith in their land. – **Fr. Thomas.**

Blessing of the Graves – immediately following Mass this morning there will be the annual blessing of the graves. Following a short service blessing all of the graves in the churchyard, there will be the chance for individual blessings. If you stand by the graves of a loved one, then Fr. Thomas will come round in turn.

World Youth Sunday – Today, the Feast of Christ the King, is World Youth Sunday. There will be a second collection for the Church's work with youth. The collection will remain open next week



Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead