# St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

## Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

***Parish Priest: Fr. Thomas Mason e-mail: gainford.stosmund@rcdhn.org.uk***
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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



## 1st Sunday of Advent

**Theme: Wake up**

*Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning — lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.*

**St Osmund's will be open for Parish Mass each Tuesdays at 10.00am.**
**Saturday 28th November 6.30pm**
**Saturday 5th December 6.30pm**
**Sunday 13th December 9.30am**
**Saturday 19th December 6.30pm**

**Kath Mulvaney:** We remember Kath Mulvaney a long time servant and friend of the parish who died recently. May she rest in peace.
Kath's funeral will take place at St Osmund's on Thursday December 3rd at 12:00

## Children's Liturgy

There will be a Children's Liturgy Sunday 13th December



**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.

**World Youth Sunday** – the second collection for world youth Sunday remains open. This supports the Church's work with young people.

## First reading Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64: 1, 3-8

**'O that you would rend the heavens and come down.'**

You, O Lord, are our Father**,** our Redeemer from of old is your name.O Lord, why do you make us wander from your ways and harden our heart, so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage.

O that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.

You came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.

You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways.

Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

## Responsorial Psalm 80(79): 2, 3, 15, 16, 18,19. R4

**Bring us back, O God;**
**let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the son you have claimed for yourself.

May your hand be on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

## Second reading 1 Corrinthians 1: 3-9

**We are waiting for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Gospel Acclamation 85(84):8

**Alleluia, alleluia.**
Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
**Alleluia.**

## Gospel Mark 13: 33-37

**'Stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come.'**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning — lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.'

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**Feast days this week**
**Monday 30th November:** St Andrew
**Thursday 3rd December:** St Francis Xavier
**Friday 4th December:** St John Damascene

## The Cycle of Prayer

**Migrants and Refugees**
especially on 3 December.

**Background**

On December 3rd the Church commemorates St Francis Xavier. This is the day chosen by the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People to mark World Migration Day. Each year there is a message from the Holy Father reflecting on the 'signs of the times'.

Asylum seekers and refugees — I wish to underline how the tendency is to stop at the question of their arrival while disregarding the reasons for which they left their native land. [Benedict XVI - Message for World Migration day 2005]

***Prayer***

*Lord, no one is a stranger to you*
*and no one is ever*
*far from your loving care.*
*In your kindness watch over*
*refugees and exiles,*
*those separated from their loved ones,*
*young people who are lost,*
*and those who have left*
*or run away from home.*
*Bring them back safely*
*to the place where they long to be*
*and help us always*
*to show your kindness*
*to strangers and those in need.*

**Roman Missal: For Refugees and Exiles**

## *Like people at airports*

*There are various themes to explore as Advent begins. Isaiah calls us to confess our sins and hope for better days. Paul's thanksgiving to God is upbeat about the future. Jesus warns us against complacency, for the end is coming sooner than we expect. We might go mainly with the first and third readings, about being prepared for the day of the Lord.*

*Advent invites reassessment of where our ways are leading us. This annual reminder that the world as we know it will one day end, sounds more appropriate in the northern Wintry season, when daylight is short and darkness seems to be winning over the light. But the positive side of this is that a new Spring day is dawning over the horizon, when Christ will come again into our lives with power to save us.*

*Do you ever watch people at airports, waiting for loved ones to arrive from a flight? They often seem excited, eager for the first appearance of the familiar face, ready with the broad smile of greeting to embrace the returning traveller. We too wait for the Lord's coming with eagerness, because we long for his presence. The waiting is important because, during our life's pilgrimage, we are incomplete. As Augustine once said, "You have made us for Yourself, o Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You." At some deep level of our personhood we are in need, a need that only God can fill.*

*This is a time to open our hearts and invite the Lord to bring us to completion. We begin Advent, yearning for his coming. Today's first reading puts this yearning into an image, that "We have all withered like leaves... blown by the wind." The whirling, withered leaves of autumn are a familiar scene these past few weeks. Isaiah proposes the dead leaves as symbols of all that is dried up and withered in our lives. But he also calls us to look for a better day. God is still in charge of creation, and our personal lives are under his loving care. We pray this Advent, "Come, Lord Jesus," and make our own the words of the psalm, "Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has chosen." It is a central plank of our faith that the Lord never abandons His people.*

*Back to the people at airports waiting for loved ones to arrive. It is an alert, active waiting – keeping an eye on the time. In today's gospel Jesus says, "Be on your guard, stay awake." He wants us to focus on our task here and now. We are to grow more mature in our relationship with others and with him, paying attention to prayer, and living with his message in our hearts. That's what waiting for him should be like. And while we wait, we can enjoy his gifts, as promised, for as Paul assures us: "You will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ."* ***associationofcatholicpriests.ie***

## Pope Francis Weekly Audience

As we approach the season of Advent, Pope Leo continues to reflect on the important messages of Vatican II. This week he focuses on "The Council's solemn appeal to convert minds and hearts to Christ, the King of Peace"

*"Christians are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Trusting always in the grace of God, we must not be afraid of working on the front line to build peace and defend human dignity, both through constant prayer, and with consistent social and political choices. We are all invited to participate in these processes, with a common voice. The proclamation of the Gospel is achieved through the formation of consciences, the conversion of hearts and the sacramental life, always taking Christ, who is our peace, as our guiding principle."*

**1st Sunday of Advent** **29thNovember**

**The Light Shines in the Darkness**

With the first Sunday of Advent we start to journey towards another Christmas, each year we do this knowing what we're going to find at the end of it...but at the same time, able to make a fresh journey, because the Lord is always new. At the heart of the Christmas message is that stunning opening of S. John's Gospel which, among many other beautiful elements, tells us that "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." That light is, of course, the light of Christ and we look eagerly towards that coming.

At this time of year light becomes much more noticeable precisely because there is more darkness. The nights are far longer than a few weeks ago, and so we do spend part of our waking hours with darkness around us – in such times the presence of even a small light can be quite striking. I often go through to church to pray Compline at the end of the day, knowing the texts well I don't turn on a light, and simply having the sanctuary lamp – just one small candle – somehow casts a wide light in such darkness.

Advent, the time looking for the coming of Christ, is a time to embrace that light. We are clear that we don't jump straight into Christmas, but have this time to prepare ourselves. More than just the practical preparations of preparing special food, buying presents, and so forth; but more deeply preparing our hearts. It is in those hearts that the light of Christ should be burning, and should be growing especially during this season of Advent. We are not called to sit and watch that light, but rather to become that light.

So much of the liturgy of Advent reminds us of this. It gives us glimpses of the light starting out as a small flicker, but then growing stronger and stronger as we get towards Christ's birth. The Old Testament prophets, who spoke about Christ, were given a foretaste of his light, and by writing about it they allow us to start to recognise the light and to move towards it. Then we are given three great figures: S. Joseph, S. John the Baptist, and of course, Our Lady – each of these worked in their own ways to give us a vision of the light which was coming. S. Joseph through his silent trust in the Lord's plans; S. John who came (as his namesake wrote in the Gospel) 'as a witness, to bear witness about the light'; and Our Lady who literally bore that light inside herself for nine months, and then nurtured Him throughout his childhood.

This is a busy time, there are lots of preparations to make – and they need to be made if there is to be a worthy celebration of the coming feast. But let us all seek to mark Advent as an important step towards Christmas. A time when we can think about the light which shines out, very small at first, but then growing in power and intensity. A light which calls us to come close to it, and even to make it part of us. A light which shines out all the more when there is so much darkness. A light which reflects in the face of every Christian who seeks to present Christ to the world.

We hear, rightly, about making sure that we keep the Christ in Christmas; one of the best ways to do so, is to make sure that we keep that expectation of Christ in Advent. That we reflect on his coming 2000 years ago, that we anticipate his return in glory, and that we welcome him as he comes to us in Mass every week. – **Fr. Thomas.**

**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.

**Foodbank** – a reminder that we collect for 'The Well' foodbank on a rolling basis. Sadly many people rely on foodbanks to feed themselves and their families. Donations can be left in porch, either as you come to Mass or at any other time, and will be taken across. Thank you for your support.

**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.

**World Gifts** as in previous years, there is an opportunity to buy 'world gifts' through CAFOD, rather than give somebody an unneeded and unnecessary present, buy something worthwhile. Catalogues at the back of church.



**Christmas Carol Service** the annual village carol service, organised by Churches Together in Gainford, will be on Sunday 20 December, 6pm, at S. Mary's parish church. All are most welcome.



**Best wishes for a happy and healthy week ahead**