

St Osmund's Catholic Church, Gainford

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Parish Priest: Father Ian Grieves Tel: 01325 730191

Website: www.stosmunds.co.uk e-mail: enquiries@stosmunds.co.uk

Hogarth Partnership

St Anne, St Augustine, St Mary, St Osmund, St Teresa, St Thomas Aquinas, SS William & St Francis De Sale

Please remember in your prayers

The sick of the parish: Christopher Smith, Irene Mulholland, Elizabeth Leeman, Cath Simpson, Patrick Doherty, Julie Hall, Joan Towers, Toni Neville and Fr. Wilfred Elkin.

All healthcare professionals and key workers who are putting themselves at risk as they attend to the needs of other people.

All who are being impacted by the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.

Children's Liturgy

A Children's liturgy from Cafod for this Sunday can be found on our website.

www.stosmunds.co.uk

Cafod do a live Children's Liturgy at 10.00am on Sundays. Register at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>.

You might also like to try the following site for a Children's Liturgy. It is hosted by a Primary School teacher from the Dunkeld diocese in Scotland. [Click here](#)

Please keep sending in pictures and letters from the Children's Liturgy to Fr. Grieves or e-mail: enquiries@stosmunds.co.uk

Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust - Family Spiritual Resources

This is an excellent site that links many of the Secondary and Primary Schools in our area. It includes resources such as Daily Prayer and activities for pupils.

<https://liturgy.bishophogarthcet.org.uk>

A Family Act of Spiritual Communion can be found on our website

www.stosmunds.co.uk

The 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Theme: The prodigal sower

O God, you show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour.



Reopening of Churches - Next Steps

The diocese continues with the lengthy process of risk assessing every church prior to giving the go-ahead to open for private prayer. This is a precondition of a return to celebrating Mass.

Fr. Gordon announced last week at the 9.15am online Mass that the diocesan risk assessment for St. Augustine's had taken place. He is awaiting further details of when the church could be opened for private prayer. When this happens the capacity of the church will be limited to 28 people.

Three churches in the diocese are now open for the celebration of Mass: St. Mary's Cathedral Newcastle, St. Charles' Gosforth and St. Paul's Alnwick. In each case the capacity of each church is substantially reduced and Covid safe measures include, the compulsory wearing of face masks in the Cathedral and St. Charles' and a strict 2 metre social distancing in St. Paul's.

Commenting on the safety measure that will apply in every Catholic Church in England and Wales, Cardinal Vincent Nichols said: *"It is important that we continue to abide by the guidance, given by the Government, on appropriate social distancing and the other measures to avoid all unnecessary risk."* and that congregations *"understand the part they are to play in protecting each other from any remaining risk of infection."*

Food Banks

The Well: 46 East Green, West Auckland. DL14 9HJ. Opening times: Tuesday and Friday 9.00 -12.00 noon

Kings Food Bank: King's Church, Prospect Place, Whesoe Rd., Darlington. DL3 0QT Opening times: Mon, Wed, Fri, 1pm -3pm

St. Columba's: St Columba's Church, Clifton Ave., Darlington DL1 5EE. Opening time: Fri 1pm -3pm.

If you happen to be passing, items may be left at the Foodbanks during their opening times or placed in St. Osmund's Church porch. **Please do not make any unnecessary journeys.**

Stay Safe

Offertory

If you wish to make your donations directly to St.

Osmund's. Bank account details

are: **HSBC St. Osmund's**

Account No. 41164015

Sort Code 40-34-18

This is the only account for donations to St. Osmund's.



Thank you to all who, in the absence of our usual weekly Offertory collections, have used the parish bank details in this Bulletin to continue their contributions.

It is much appreciated.

Thanks also to those who have continued with their regular standing orders. These are simple and secure ways of making an offering to the parish. If you wish to save your offerings until we return to church, this is also ok.

Remember: there is no need to drop your offerings off at Church.

Vacancy: The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle has the following vacancy: Department for Education, Administrator (maternity cover) For further information and details of how to apply please visit our website www.rcdhn.org.uk or contact us on 0191 243 3301

At St. Osmund's

Along with many other parishes we are awaiting notification of the diocesan risk assessment before we will be given the go-ahead to open for private prayer. In the meantime, the Parish Council has been working on an Action Plan with the intention of being able to move quickly following once diocesan approval has been given.



We will require volunteers to act as stewards to help people understand the 'new normal' and the church will require additional cleaning before and after prayer or worship. Thank you to those who have already volunteered. Additional volunteers will be welcomed and may be necessary to meet the requirements for opening safely.

And that's where you come in! If you are able and willing to act as a volunteer please send an expression of interest to our e-mail address enquiries@stosmunds.co.uk and you will be sent additional details.

Thank you



The Vatican Publishing House has released a free eBook, "Life After the Pandemic", a collection of interventions by Pope Francis, with a preface by Cardinal Michael Czerny, to reflect on the vision of the world that is emerging after the pandemic and to which we are called to accompany.

'Now, while we are looking forward to a slow and arduous recovery from the pandemic, there is a danger that we will forget those who are left behind. The risk is that we may then be struck by an even worse virus, that of selfish indifference. A virus spread by the thought that life is better if it is better for me, and that everything will be fine if it is fine for me. It begins there and ends up selecting one person over another, discarding the poor, and sacrificing those left behind on the altar of progress. The present pandemic, however, reminds us that there are no differences or borders between those who suffer. We are all frail, all equal, all precious.'

You can read the full e-book by going to our website: www.stosmunds.co.uk or download from the diocesan website www.rcdhn.org.uk [Click here](#)

Live streamed services this week include:

Hogarth Partnership: from St. Augustines at 9.15 am; on their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/staugustineschurchdarlington

Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle: Daily mass and other services throughout the diocese: www.rcdhn.org.uk

Walsingham live: www.walsingham.org.uk

Vatican <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIsefy19g9A5SGWA4FvGIA>

Other Churches throughout the UK and Ireland:

www.churchservices.tv/whats-on-now

NORTHERN CROSS is a not-for-profit organisation and a charitable trust. We rely entirely on revenue from newspaper sales, annual subscriptions and advertising to continue publishing. We now face significant financial difficulties - like many businesses - as we are unable to sell the print edition in churches at this time. We encourage you to help us by taking out an annual online subscription, at £20, or an annual print subscription - where the Northern Cross is delivered direct to your door, at £36 (this includes post and packing).

You can pay by bank transfer online, making a payment to:

Northern Cross. Account number: 81602292. Sort code: 40-43-11.

When asked for a reference, please use your name - to allow us to verify your payment, then email editor.norcross@btconnect.com. To pay by cheque, please make cheques payable to 'Northern Cross' and post them to Subscriptions Dept, Northern Cross, c/o WM Fortune & Son, Collingwood House, Church Square, Hartlepool, TS24 7EN.

Readings for: The 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time - 12th July

In the Catholic tradition, a Homily, interprets the readings, shining a light on the present and asking each one of us what we must change in our lives, from today. The challenge is not so much about recounting the history or retelling the story, but living the gospel.

First reading Isaiah 55:10-11

The word that goes out from my mouth does not return to me empty

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 64(65):10-14

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

You care for the earth, give it water,
you fill it with riches.
Your river in heaven brims over
to provide its grain.

And thus you provide for the earth;
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your goodness.
Abundance flows in your steps,
in the pastures of the wilderness it flows.

The hills are girded with joy,
the meadows covered with flocks,
the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Second reading Romans 8:18-23

The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons

I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation Jn6:68

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
whoever finds this seed will remain for ever.

or

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message
of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 13:1-23

A sower went out to sow

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables. He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked, 'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because' he replied, 'the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are revealed to you, but they are not revealed to them. For anyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. The reason I talk to them in parables is that they look without seeing and listen without hearing or understanding. So in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled:

You will listen and listen again, but not understand, see and see again, but not perceive. For the heart of this nation has grown coarse, their ears are dull of hearing, and they have shut their eyes, for fear they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see, your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly, many prophets and holy men longed to see what you see, and never saw it; to hear what you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom without understanding, the evil one comes and carries off what was sown in his heart: this is the man who received the seed on the edge of the path. The one who received it on patches of rock is the man who hears the word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he has no root in him, he does not last; let some trial come, or some persecution on account of the word, and he falls away at once. The one who received the seed in thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this world and the lure of riches choke the word and so he produces nothing. And the one who received the seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word and understands it; he is the one who yields a harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now sixty, now thirty.'

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Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things and I passionately desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my soul. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never let me be separated from You. Amen.

Reflection on the Readings

What a beautiful image St. Paul paints for us today: all creation is groaning as it eagerly awaits the fullness of redemption when everyone and everything will be freed from its slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

The presence of the Spirit within us gives us hope as we join our 'groaning' to the 'groaning' of all creation.

Isaiah reminded us: just as the rain and snow effectively water the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, so too will the word of God do his will, achieving the end for which He sent it.

Jesus also compares God's word to seed sown by the Divine Sower. The seed always bears some kind of fruit, serving some purpose, but in good soil it bears fruit abundantly.

The seed sown is much like the rain that falls - the extent of its ability to make fertile and fruitful depends on the ground that receives it. Even the short-lived wild flowers that bloom after a desert storm serve a purpose.

Jesus wants more for us.

He adds a warning to the parable: "Listen anyone who has ears." That means that we must spend some time in prayer with his words in order for them to be most fruitful in our life. They are able to touch that place of groaning, of eager waiting, in each of us. They speak to that hope we all have as a gift of the Spirit in us.

*May each of us be "good soil" today - soil which accepts the seed and the rain that God is sending us in His word. In our prayerful listening, may we have the courage to remove stumbling-stones and thorns that may be present in the soil of our heart. May we allow that seed to be watered well and become an abundant yield as we await with a sure hope the redemption of our bodies. **Salesian reflection – oblates.ie***

No Internet - No Problem

Mass by Phone Service

During these times when our churches are closed and masses are being streamed online, the Diocese of Middlesbrough have set up a system to allow people who do not have internet access to listen to Mass over the telephone. 12.00 noon. If you would like to access, the telephone number to call is **01642 130120**.

Counselling and Listening Services

As part of the pastoral care of parishioners and others during this COVID-19 lockdown, a number of qualified counsellors and listeners have generously made themselves available to anyone who may be troubled by the negative effects of the situation. These counsellors and listeners can be contacted through the St Mary's Cathedral Listening Service on 0191 232 6953 and the Northumberland Listening Service on 07732 980740.

Keep in Contact

It is important to keep in touch in these unusual times. Keeping in contact with other parishioners through a telephone call, e-mail, text or social media is a simple way to show that we care. Receiving a call, message or seeing a friendly face on our phone, tablet or computer can be a real tonic. Visit the Parish website for more news and information. www.stosmunds.co.uk

Don't forget: If you have any prayer intentions, news, information, questions, or if you have a special birthday or celebration and would like a mention please get in touch. It is important to have the persons authority to do this. Please send a message to: enquiries@st.osmunds.co.uk In particular, let us know if you are aware of anyone who may be feeling isolated or could benefit from some help, by contacting the above e-mail address, or Fr. Grieves on 01325 730191

The Vicariate for Faith & Mission

are able to provide copies of lockdown prayer resources to those without internet access and contact for those who are thinking about becoming a Catholic. Please contact the Vicariate by ringing **07375 934713**, You can get in touch via e-mail at

adminfaith.mission@diocesehn.org.uk

Don't forget: We will need to have a group of volunteers approved by the diocese to enable us to reopen St Osmund's



**Best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy week.
Until next time**