

# **DECLAN**

## **Bishop of Clifton**

Decree Relegating Most Holy Redeemer, Bishopdown, and the Chapel of the Holy Family, Whaddon, to profane but not sordid use.

The former parish of the Most Holy Redeemer, Bishopdown, Salisbury, was merged (*unio extinctiva*) with the Parishes of St Osmund and, St Gregory and the English Martyrs by means of a decree of the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Two (2022) in order to form one new parish of St Osmund.

As part of the ongoing process of discernment regarding the parish of St Osmund and how best to meet the needs of the people of God, Fr Anthony Paris, being the proper parish priest requested permission from Bishop Declan Lang on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to begin the process of consultation amongst the people of God of the Parish of St Osmund, that they together might consider the closure of the Church of the Most Holy Redeemer and of the Holy Family Whaddon. On the 7<sup>th</sup> February permission for the consultation was granted. As is well documented in the parish records the consultation process was undertaken in an open and transparent manner, having upper most in their minds the good of souls of the entire parish. The consultation was completed by 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. The recommendations were submitted to Bishop Declan Lang in time for these to be brought to the meeting of the Council of Priests on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The Council of Priests, whilst saddened at the proposed closure of The Most Holy Redeemer, noted the exorbitant costs involved in repairing the building and the need for a new pastoral provision for the people of Salisbury. Provision for Mass would be provided at St Gregory and the English Martyrs. In satisfaction of canon 1222 §2 and attentive to canons 127 and 166, the Council of Priests were polled individually, and unanimous support was given to close the aforementioned church. (No similar vote was taken on the Chapel of the Holy Family Whaddon, as this chapel has been out of use for many years).

Therefore, having heard the Council of Priests, the Bishop's Council, the Trustees of the Diocese, the proper parish priest, Fr Anthony Paris, and from the people of the parish, and those concerned with the management and care of Diocesan properties, and after much prayerful reflection, and knowing the care of souls is our foremost consideration, and having weighed all the reasons and causes have decided as follows:

## **Decree**

Now I, Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton, after much personal prayer, reflection and under and in accordance with canon 1222 §2 of the *Codex Iuris Canonici* 1983 HEREBY DECREE as follows:

The Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Bishopdown, and the Chapel of the Holy Family, Whaddon, are hereby reduced to profane but not sordid use according to the prescripts of canon 1222 §2 for the grave causes mentioned above and as set forth the properly appointed consultation.

Furthermore, negotiations that may lead to the sale of the properties may now begin, notwithstanding the proper procedures when it comes to the alienation of property according to the established canonical norms.

Prior to the alienation of the said properties, all sacred objects, relics, sacred furnishings, stained glass windows, bells, confessionals, altars etc... are to be removed for use in other sacred edifices or to be stored in ecclesiastical custody. In case of it being impossible for sacred items to be removed they must be destroyed, and the remains buried in an appropriate diocesan site.

Furthermore, I give leave to those within the diocesan curia charged with the administration of temporal matters to cooperate and assist the parish priest, Fr Anthony Paris, (N.B. It is only for the parish priest after whatever consultation he deems necessary, to oversee the disposal of all ecclesiastical goods pertaining to Most Holy Redeemer, Bishopdown, and the Chapel of the Holy Family, Whaddon ) to dispose of the entire properties, being mindful to observe faithfully, the requirements of canon law when relegating a church building to profane but not sordid use, (i.e. the new building/s should be for purposes not contrary to the teaching, ideals and spiritual values of the Catholic Church), and the pertinent

civil laws in this regard and the established provisions of the *Codex Iuris Canonici* 1983 concerning the alienation of temporal goods.

I further direct and, in accordance with canon 121, decree that the proceeds from the sale of the land on which Most Holy Redeemer, Bishopdown, and the Chapel of the Holy Family, Whaddon is situated, and all ecclesiastical goods obtains and belongs in full to the canonically established parish, namely St Osmund, Salisbury, whilst the wishes of founders and benefactors where canonically established have been duly regarded and taken into consideration.

### **Promulgation, publication and notification**

I direct that this decree be delivered to Fr Anthony Paris as parish priest of St Osmund and that notice of its contents be publicly communicated (read out and made available) at all public Masses on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2023, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. I further direct that the full text of this decree be published on the website of the Diocese of Clifton, (<https://cliftondiocese.com/decrees/>).

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Clifton on the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Three (2023).

The Right Reverend Declan Lang  
Bishop of Clifton

The Reverend Father George Henwood  
Chancellor