

International Mass Celebrates the Diversity of St Osmund's Parish

St Gregory's Catholic Church, Salisbury – Sunday 13 September 2026

A wonderful celebration of faith, culture and community took place at St Gregory's Catholic Church on Sunday 13 September, when the parish came together for a special **International Mass** celebrating the many different nationalities and cultures that make up St Osmund's Parish.

The church was packed, with more than **20 nationalities and communities represented**. The Mass reflected the truly international character of the parish, with Scripture readings and bidding prayers spoken in a variety of native languages. English translations were projected onto the wall of the sanctuary so that everyone could participate fully.

An **international choir, formed especially for the occasion**, added to the joyful celebration, bringing together parishioners from different backgrounds through music and worship.

Following Mass, parishioners prayed the Rosary together before moving into the church hall for a wonderful shared international meal. People generously brought food representing their different cultures, creating a feast with something for everyone. Among the many dishes were **Scottish soda bread, Indian curries, African chicken and rice**, together with Portuguese, Filipino, Italian, Irish and many other specialities.

The celebrations continued with **Scottish bagpipes, a raffle and an auction of promises**, all adding to the warmth and enjoyment of the occasion.

The generosity of parishioners was particularly evident in support of the **Salisbury Food Bank**. More than **100 kilograms of food** were donated, together with money raised through the raffle and auction.

The nationalities represented included **English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Spanish, Portuguese, Filipino, Slovakian, Polish, Italian, Maltese, Indian, African and Romanian**, together with many others.

The International Mass was a wonderful expression of what it means to be one parish family: people from different countries, cultures and backgrounds, united in faith and in their love of Jesus Christ.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped organise the Mass, took part in the choir, readings and prayers, brought food, donated to the Food Bank, helped with the raffle and auction, or simply came along and shared in the celebration.