

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

HOLY REDEEMER + ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

Part of the Clifton Diocese: Registered Charity 1170168 Company No 10462074



ADVENT WEEK 3 (A) GAUDETE SUNDAY

From Father Anthony

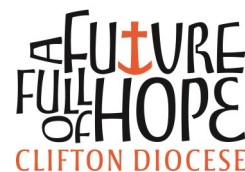
It was crisp and clear with large patches of blue sky. The tide had retreated leaving a wide curve of golden sand. Waves raced, chased and dissipated with long sighs. A ship slipped over the horizon. Seagulls chattered. Huddled and muffled people sat at tables on the promenade with steaming mugs. A dog watched another as it happily chased its tail round and round. I couldn't help laughing to myself and thinking, *'sums up my life; always in a spin and going nowhere... imprisoned by the spin'*.

'When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ...' The word for *prison* is *desmótérion* (δεσμωτήριον) which derives from *desmos*. Spiritually it conveys the sense of *an internal shackle, impediment or disability*. Last week we spoke about solitude as the place where, in our hearts, we learn to exchange our wishes for what God wishes for us. It is a place of prayer: our inner chamber. It is also the place where we encounter the noise of habitual thoughts, desires, wishes and wants. Our attachment to and dependency on these keeps us spinning round and round; our prison, our impediment, our disability... what we are shackled to. Awareness of this is our escape from it. Awareness is where everything is seen from and therefore not a part of it. We see *what we are not*. It is here that we encounter the indescribable presence of Christ; indescribable because *He is the Awareness* from which it is all seen. It is an awakening and it can leave us confused and wondering.

John asking, *'are you the one who is to come'*, might convey the mood of confusion and wondering. The answer will be found in our experience of life lived in Awareness. The blind regain sight; *we see the world as it is, not as we are*. The lame walk; *the world cannot overpower us anymore*. Lepers are cleansed; *we cease to miss the mark (sin): we are set free from compulsions and habits*. The deaf hear; *we hear what is said and not what we want to hear*. We experience a new way of being in the world (*the dead are raised*). From being beggars in spirit (*the poor*) we live in and by the Good News of Spirit. Far from taking offence at Christ we welcome Him as our Life. It is Advent: His arrival as our life.

Please Remember

Advent Penitential Service next Tuesday 13 December 7pm at St Gregory



PASTORAL TEAM

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Tony outreach@salisburycatholics.org

OUR CHURCHES

St Osmund
95 Exeter Street SP1 2SF

St Gregory & the English Martyrs
St Gregory's Ave SP2 7JP

Most Holy Redeemer
Fotherby Crescent SP1 3EG

Chapel of the Good Shepherd
Barford Lane, Downton SP5 3QA

Chapel of the Holy Family
Southampton Rd, Whaddon SP5 3EB

NEW TO THE PARISH?
We wish you a very warm welcome.
Please register online at:
<https://salisburycatholics.org>
click "Registration/update"

GAUDETE SUNDAY - 11 DECEMBER

On this, the third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday, we sense a definite mood change. The austerity of what can be a sombre though hope-filled penitential season is replaced by a shift of emphasis. We see a burst of colour appearing at the Mass today as rose-coloured vestments and advent candle replace the violet and we are urged at the Introit to: 'Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice' or *Gaudete in Domino semper*, hence Gaudete Sunday. For more, click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

THE 'O' ANTIPHONS refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the Octave before Christmas which begins on the 17 December until 23 December the next evening of the 24th is Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening will be for the Christmas Vigil. For the antiphons and a reflection on each click on the button 'The 'O' Antiphons' on our home page or [click here](#).

SCORE: The collection on the 17 & 18 December is for 'Home Projects' , money raised will go to the 'SCORE Hardship Fund'. This fund is for individuals/families in need of our support this winter. Application forms will be available in all our churches this weekend and also on our website, just click on 'Parish Life' on the main menu and then select 'SCORE' or just [click here](#).

Christmas Mass Times - The card that is being delivered to our parishioners and via 'Adopt a Street' with all the Christmas Mass Times is now available to view on our website. Just click on the 'Christmas 2022' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Christmas Storytime - for primary school-aged children with author and international speaker and missionary, Meg Hunter-Kilmer. This event is free and will be held on **Monday 19 December** between 3pm - 4.30pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. No need to book, just come along and make this part of your Christmas.

Family Christmas Lunch - a free, no strings attached, community Christmas Lunch for parishioners - individuals and families - who may be struggling or alone at Christmas. **Christmas Day at 1.30pm in St Elizabeth Hall.** Transport can be available if required, please contact the parish office to register, offer a contribution or recommend to us a parishioner or family for whom this would be suitable.

Flowers for our Churches this Christmas. Donations towards the cost of the flowers in our churches this Christmas would be most welcome. If you are able, please place a contribution in an envelope marked 'flowers' in the normal offertory on a Sunday Mass or direct to the Parish Office.

Church Cleaning for Christmas will take place in St Osmund's from 12 noon on Saturday 17 December. Please do come and help Henrietta and Raiiti , many hands etc., men don't be shy. Everything provided.

DOWNTON: The Village Carol Service will be held at St Laurence's Church this Sunday 11 December at 6pm and our very own Fr Joseph will be preaching. All are welcome.

Vacancy: St Elizabeth Hall Facilities Manager (Maternity Cover) – we are recruiting for someone to provide maternity cover for this part time role dealing with hirings for St Elizabeth Hall. For more details, please email Melanie at: finance.elizabethhouse@cliftodiocese.com.

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 21 December at 2pm in St Gregory's Hall for Christmas Bingo. The next meeting in the new year will be on 18 January. For information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

After next week the Art Group which meets on Mondays will start again Monday 9 January and the **Bible Book Club** which meets on Tuesdays will start again Tuesday 10 January both in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. For further details contact John and Elizabeth on 01725 510310

SHARING OUR FAITH

Nicodemus Group - The Group will recommence in the New Year on the 11 January, in St Elizabeth Hall, 131 Exeter Street 7– 8.30pm. The new programme will be published in the near future. For more information, please click on '[Becoming Catholic](#)' on our website main menu.

Journey in Faith Our ongoing programme for adults interested in Christianity who are not confirmed Catholics. The last meeting for this year is on Sunday 18 December at 3pm in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund and will be with Fr Jonathan. For more information please visit '[Becoming Catholic](#)' on our website main menu or [click here](#)

Advent Carols & Benediction by Candlelight - Wednesday 21 December 7pm at St Osmund's Church. Do come along Fr Joseph assures us that it is going to be truly amazing. The service will be followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Rooms. Fr Joseph is still recruiting singers (more male voices in particular) to join him with just one rehearsal remaining 14 December 7pm - 8pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. If you are interested in joining please email office@salisbury Catholics.org or call 01722 562703.

SPUC National Prayer Campaign: 10 Million Prayers for 10 Million Lost Lives: Since the Abortion Act of 1967, 10 million babies have lost their lives to abortion in this country. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) have launched a National Prayer Campaign, with the aim of reaching 10 million prayers being pledged, one for each life lost. For more and how to join please visit our 'Blog' on our website or [click here](#).

Ignatian Listening - The Jesuits in Britain spirituality team have upcoming events, which may be of interest. They include an online 'Ignatian Listening' weekend on 17-18 December and their online School of Prayer series: Tuesday 13 December and Thursday 19 January 2023 which introduces various types of prayer suitable for Catholics wishing to deepen their prayer life. For more on all of this and how to book please click on the image in the Top News box or [click here](#) .

Congratulations and welcome to Edward Horne who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Saturday 3 December in St Osmund's. Please keep Edward and his parents Abigail & Colin in your prayers at this special time.

First Holy Communion Programme 2022/2023 Details are on our website, please click on 'Sacraments' on our main menu and then on 'Holy Communion' or [click here](#). The next session will be tomorrow Saturday 3 December at 2pm in St Gregory's Church for both parents and children. It is very important that all sessions are attended. For further information please contact Father Anthony or Deacon John Detain.

Applications please for Confirmation in 2023. For young people in school Year 9 or above please apply NOW as we will soon be finalising the programmes. To apply please click on the 'Registration/Update' button on our home page or [click here](#).

An Evening of Recollection for Men in Advent This will be an opportunity for all our men to attend a mini-retreat on Wednesday 14 December starting at 7.30pm at St Gregory's Church with coffee and tea in the hall beforehand from 7pm. The evening will be led by a priest from Opus Dei and will include Benediction and the opportunity for Confession. For all the details please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#). Any questions please do contact Andrew Tucker by email: tuckerandrew1893@gmail.com or phone: 07941 993561.

Sunday Homily from Bishop Robert Barron 3rd Sunday of Advent, he reflects that as Abraham and Moses spent time in the desert before they bloomed so also we may also have our own desert times before The Holy Spirit intervenes. To listen and watch, click on the 'Sunday Homily' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-1 Advent Week 3 and Psalter 3

Saturday 10 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - the Jacob Family

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS David Kirijja Katende

SUNDAY 11 December GAUDETE SUNDAY

09:00 St Gregory MASS Bell Family RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS Terrence Fogerty RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

12:15 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

16:30 St Gregory Syro Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Blessed Virgin Mary & St Jude

Monday 12 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Terry Martin RIP

Tuesday 13 December Saint Lucy

10:00 St Osmund MASS John Thornhill

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

19:00 St Gregory Advent Penitential Service

Wednesday 14 December Saint John of the Cross

10:00 Holy Redeemer MASS Alan Dobson RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate Mass

Thursday 15 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Isabel Moniz

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

18:30 Downton MASS

Friday 16 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS John Brook RIP

12:00 St Gregory Requiem Yolanda Graziano RIP

19:00 St Osmund MASS Madline & Jenny Sabio RIP

Saturday 17 December O Sapientia

10:00 St Osmund MASS Hermione Galibardy RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS Deceased members of the Moran & Hughes families

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory Fridays After the 10:00 Mass

St Osmund Saturdays After the 10:00 Mass

Holy Redeemer Saturdays 17:30 until Mass

And by appointment with our priests.

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parishes of: Holy Family (Swindon) and St Joseph (Wroughton).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Yolanda Graziano, Linda Agnew, Frances Dismore, Derek Pheby, John Say and Derek Boston who died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-6,10

Ps 145

Come, Lord, and save us.

James 5:7-10

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Matthew 11:2-11

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS For baptisms please register your application [click here](#). For more information contact Deacon John Proctor or Deacon Stephen Godwin.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If you have a child who will be in Year 3 or above from September 2023, please use our online form to apply to join our next preparation programme. [Click here.](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child in Year 9 or above, please use our online form to apply to join our next preparation programme. [Click here](#)

MARRIAGES Please speak to the priest for guidance.

FUNERALS Do your family know your wishes with regards to your funeral. Registered parishioners can provide these details which are scanned and stored confidentially with your parishioner record and can be given to families at the appropriate time. Contact Caroline for more details: caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL

CHRISTMAS STORYTIME

WITH

MEG HUNTER KILMER

AUTHOR, INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER
BLOGGER & MISSIONARY



Free event for Primary
school aged Children

Monday 19th December
3p.m. - 4.30p.m.
St Osmunds Parish rooms
Exeter St, Salisbury