

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

From Father Anthony.

It was cold and dark with a light dusting of snow: outside Christmas lights twinkled with magical effect. The Cathedral spire loomed ominously; bells announced the hour. I opened the church, lit a candle for us all, said a prayer and went back out to enjoy the winter scene. A blackbird sweetened the air with song; early traffic rumbled and an overhead jet gave a long sigh. And out of the darkness a white pigeon descended and landed on the school roof... straight out of the scriptures!

"... he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove". Does this not express a spiritual experience we all need this year? To rise out of the darkness of confusion, distraction, longing disappointment, hate and anger of mind into the clarity, safety and oneness of God. To feel and experience the reality of our baptism now and not just as a recorded event. Our problem, like Adam and Eve, is that we have eaten of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil - the birth of good and bad, right and wrong, up and down and so on. We have substituted *two forces* for the *one and only Force* which is God. Similarly, the prodigal son left the oneness of God for separateness and the appearance of duality in the world... like him we must return from the confusion which duality engenders to the one oneness which is the Father.

Being the one and only force or power, only He can transform us: our part is to allow the conditions where only that power operates in us. Two practical spiritual steps assist His Work. Firstly, seek out and come to interior stillness (*be still and know that I am God*). Whatever you are doing, thinking or feeling come to an awareness of it: be still with it. What you *see* is what God sees. Seeing what God sees, you become One in the seeing; His *involvement* is the transformation. Secondly, find a line of scripture that captivates your heart and '*chew*' over it day by day. It is the word of God, His Presence; let it nourish you. With His Presence in your stillness, you will eventually rise out of the powers of mind into the power of Spirit... and the arms of the Father.

Forthcoming Mass Times Changes were announced before Christmas. These will take effect from 8 February and all feature on our website.



PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

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Wednesday CLOSED

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OUR CHURCHES

St Osmund
95 Exeter Street SP1 2SF
St Gregory & the English Martyrs
St Gregory's Ave SP2 7JP
Chapel of the Good Shepherd
Barford Lane, Downton SP5 3QA
NEW TO THE PARISH?

We wish you a very warm welcome.

Please register online

[Click Here](#)

PASTORAL AREA NEW YEAR RETREAT

THE HOLY TRINITY – LIVING AS GOD’S PEOPLE - 24 & 25 JANUARY

After a wonderful celebration of Christmas in our parish, we now enter a new year of the Lord. Perhaps the most important New Year’s Resolution that we can make is to allow the Lord to work in us this year. To develop within ourselves the conditions that allow God’s grace to transform us, both as individuals and as the Church. It is with this in mind that a locally-based Parish Retreat has been planned – to allow us to begin this work together; for as members of Christ’s body, we draw near to him together, not in isolation. We are delighted that Sisters Carino and Amata, Dominican Sisters of St Joseph have agreed to lead this Retreat in our Parish Centre on 24 & 25th January. They will lead us in a weekend of reflection and formation to help us live out our faith in the Gospel in our daily lives.

The Trinity is the foundation of our faith, professed in the Creed we say together each Sunday. But how can we understand the Trinity in a way that helps us truly “glorify the Lord by our lives”?

There will be four sessions over two days. You are welcome to attend any or all of them, but the programme is designed to offer the greatest benefit if you can join all four. This retreat is open to the whole Pastoral Area and so we advise signing up as soon as possible to secure your place. For more information and to sign up, please click on the [Holy Trinity](#) image in the Top News box or call the parish office.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING – THANK YOU

To everyone in our parish for your tremendous generosity in the form of the Christmas Offering, given at the Masses but also for all the cards, warm greetings and notes of appreciation, gifts, food offerings and all manner of Christmas cheer delivered to the presbytery. An equal debt of gratitude is also owed for all the *time* that you gave to assist with our Christmas preparations – the range of tasks involved are as numerous as they are varied (too many to be listed!) and we simply could not do it all without you (and nor would we want to!) Thank you, sincerely, **thank you**.

MINOR CHRISTMAS MIRACLES THAT YOU MAY HAVE MISSED!

The installation of the re-leathered bellows into St Osmund’s Organ began on the afternoon of 23 December thanks to the dedication of Andrew Cooper and his team. They worked for hours in a freezing cold church to ensure that we could have beautiful music for our Christmas Masses and the work was completed just in time! These repairs were ONLY possible due to the generosity of parishioners. Thank you.

As you may remember – thanks (once again!) to the generosity of parishioners, we were able to place an order for some beautiful new vestments for St Osmund’s Church. We had initially hoped would be with us in time for Advent...they weren’t! So we set our sights on Christmas. By mid-December they were still not with us and it turned out that they had been held up at customs. After much prayer (and persistent communications!) the vestments arrived on Christmas Eve at 11am - just in time for the Festal set to be used on Christmas Day. Praise be!

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today’s Gospel passage speaks of Jesus who, hidden in the crowd, goes into the river Jordan to be baptised by John. As he comes out of the water the heavens are opened, the Spirit of God appears in the form of a dove and a voice resounds from on high “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased”. In this scene God is revealed in his Trinitarian mystery: the Father, principle and source of life and holiness, The Son, who came into the world to free it from sin and death and the Holy Spirit who’s sustains the work of Redemption with his power. (*Pope St John Paul II*)

For more on this feast with a video reflection, click on the image in the [‘Top News’](#) box.

Hope and Friendship Group - Monday 12 January in the Parish Centre at the end of Exeter Street 10.45-12 noon. Formerly the Bereavement Support Group, meet with a little group of people who understand. Details from Deacon John Detain 01722 41 55 88.

Justice & Peace group will be meeting at 7pm on Monday 12 January at the Parish Centre to discuss 'Cities of Sanctuary' and there will also be a film on Blessed Franz Jagerstatter. Intrigued? Come along! All welcome.

SCORE collection. There is a retiring collection for SCORE overseas projects next weekend 17/18 January.

My Generation returns on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall.

Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral (Trinity Chapel) - Friday 16 January. If you would like to join us we meet in the cathedral Refectory 1130-1150 before going into the Cathedral.

Pope Leo Christmas Message and "Urbi et Orbi" Blessing 25 December 2025 -. For the full message & blessing in video and text please click on the [Urbi et Orbi](#) image in the 'Top News' box

Evening of Christmas Carols and Readings Families and parishioners from across the parish gathered at the Parish Centre for a joyful evening of carols and readings as we prepared to welcome the coming of Christ at Christmas. With beautiful music, thoughtful readings, and warm fellowship over mulled wine and festive refreshments, it was a wonderful way to begin the final days of Advent together. Photos and two very short videos of the event can be found by clicking on the image in the ['Top News'](#) box. Huge thanks to everyone who made this event such a success.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith (2025-6) The first session in the New Year is this **Sunday 11 January at St Gregory's** at 9am for a 9.15am start, followed by the 11am Mass

Youth Group – meets each Wednesday (in term time) at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. Do you want to join? This is for anyone in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. All the dates are on our website, just click on [Youth Group](#) on our home page.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Confirmation 2026: The next mandatory session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is next Wednesday 14 January 6.30pm at the Parish Centre the topic for the session '*The Church*'. The Confirmation Retreat to Buckfast Abbey will follow next Friday 16 - Sunday 18 January. To find out more, click on the button '[Confirmation](#)' on our homepage.

Journey in Faith –This Sunday 11 January 10.30am at the Parish Centre. If you are interested in joining do contact Dave Blake at salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com For more, click [here](#) or call the office.

Welcome to Charles Ellis who was received last Sunday into full communion with the whole Church with the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Congratulations and welcome to Natalie McCook who received the sacrament of Baptism at St Gregory on Saturday 20 December . Please keep Natalie and her parents Daria & Natashane and godparents in your prayers.

Congratulations to Helena Butler, who received her First Holy Communion at St Osmund Sunday 28 December.

Baptism Preparation – The next course commences on 1 February 2026 after the 9am Mass at St Osmund, please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 1

Proper of the Feast & Weekday Psalter 1

Saturday 10 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Isabel Sebastian

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Totterdill RIP

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

SUNDAY 11 JANUARY THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

09:00 St Osmund MASS Lyn Futchter RIP

11:00 St Gregory MASS For those who have been bereaved in the last 12 months

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Joshua Sebastian

Monday 12 January

18:00 St Osmund MASS Tony Ryan RIP

Tuesday 13 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intentions

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 14 January

10:00 St Gregory Requiem MASS Monte Little RIP
All Welcome

Thursday 15 January

10:00 St Osmund Requiem MASS Mary Conaway RIP
All Welcome

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 16 January

10:00 St Gregory Rosary

18:00 St Osmund MASS Sophie O'Neill RIP

Saturday 17 January Saint Anthony

10:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS John Wall RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon
and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For Prayer with The Word Of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parish of Immaculate Conception (Clevedon with Yatton).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Patricia Dry, Shane O'Neill, Michael Pearce, Michael Keegan, Fr Vincent Ryan, Monte Little, Mary Conaway, Anne Weston William Coughlan, Ruth Healy, John Tobin, Sue Halliden, Robert Fitz and Shiny Mathew, who died recently, and all those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

We also pray for all those in our parish currently facing ill-health that they will be granted comfort, healing and strength.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm Response

The Lord will bless his people with peace..

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him'.

Alleluia.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS Please request using this online [form](#). For more information contact Deacon John Proctor or Deacon Stephen Godwin.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If you have a child who is coming to Mass regularly, for whom preparation for First Communion may be appropriate, please [register](#) your interest in our Family of Faith programme.

CONFIRMATION 2026 For children who are year 9 or above please visit the Confirmation [page](#) our website.

MARRIAGE Please speak to a priest for guidance at least six months in advance of your hoped-for wedding date.

FUNERALS Do your family know your wishes with regards to your funeral? Registered parishioners can provide these details which are stored confidentially with your parishioner record and can be given to families at the appropriate time.

Contact Désirée: salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY & WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

I well remember being told that three things were necessary for the smooth establishment of weekly Mass: *a person, a time and a place...* “mess with any of these and you will confuse and lose your congregations”, said the wise old priest!

Well, we did mess with it!!! and you have borne the inconvenience and confusion with understanding, grace and encouragement. Just to recap: back in the summer we went down to three priests, then two and for a short while, one. It was impossible to cover all the Masses and as a result the 11am at St Osmund's was cancelled displacing over 150 people. St Gregory's moved from 9am to 11am causing not a little confusion, unrest and overcrowding. At the time we said it was an interim measure – although, if I'm honest, I thought it would be permanent.

However, two things have happened. Firstly, our Mass numbers at St Osmund's, in terms of safety, are dangerously high leading to people being invited to watch Mass on screens in the hall – hardly ideal. Secondly, the Bishop has secured a fourth priest for us - Fr George who will live in Amesbury and serve both Christ the King and St George's, Warminster. This makes it possible to 'mess with the rota again' and return to the previous Sunday Mass timetable here in Salisbury.

I was minded to keep the Mass times as they are because we *could* be back to three priests next summer and may have all the confusion again. However, I have been persuaded that we must reinstate the 11am at St Osmund's and return the 11am at St Gregory's back to 9am; if for no other reason than to cope with the increased numbers at each of our Masses in the interests of safety. I will have to worry about next summer when it comes!

Therefore, it is my intention to implement the Mass timetable as shown below:

Saturday Vigil Mass	St Gregory	Remains at 5pm
Sunday Masses	St Osmund	Remains at 9am
	St Osmund	Reinstate 11am
	St Osmund	Ordinariate Mass – Remains at 12:30pm
	St Osmund	Remains at 6pm
	St Gregory	Returns to 9am from 11am

This will take effect from SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY.

This will have implications for Family of Faith which will now return to the Parish Centre in Exeter Street with families arriving after their respective 9am Mass at St Osmund & St Gregory.

Weekday Schedule Changes

St Osmund	Reinstate the Monday 10am Mass
St Osmund (Ordinariate)	Will move from Monday to Tuesday at 6pm
Benediction	Will begin at 5.30pm on both Tuesdays & Thursdays in St Osmund. On Tuesdays, this will be followed by the Angelus at 6pm, immediately prior to the Ordinariate Mass.

At the end of the day *'the buck stops with me'* and after much consultation I have made this decision for which I take full responsibility. I am sorry for the disruption, but I hope you will understand and support the decision.

God bless, lots of love and I hope you have a happy and holy Christmas.

Anthony B. Paris