

SALISBURY CATHOLIC CHURCHES

HOLY REDEEMER + ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



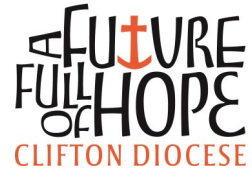
ADVENT WEEK 3 (B) GAUDETE SUNDAY

From Father Anthony...

Thick fog hung in the air. It veiled everything... even the Great Spire. Engines muffled past; Cathedral bells intensified the silence. I picked up the milk and went around the back. The side of the church loomed but quickly dissolved into spirals of dirty cotton wool. The garden had vanished. It felt miserable, empty! Then, two blackbirds bounced out of the fog, clucking away. Life emerged out of the foggy wilderness. I felt a wave of happiness as they demanded food.

The Gospel continues with John in the wilderness - *it must be important*. This week we are given a subtle indication of the quality needed to make a fruitful encounter with interior wilderness. The clue is in the name John. It means; *Yah (God) is gracious, merciful, compassionate*. John is the quality of humble yet deep acceptance that our Creator loves us and finds us lovable. In the security of this love we experience natural rejoicing; original love is awakened in us; we love as God loves. It is not manufactured or dependent on an emotional cause; it is experienced as *always has been, is and will be*. It is a place 'in the soul that has never been wounded' (Meister Eckhart). We experience an echo of our original state with God. It leaves us happy (*graced*), in prayer *with* God and always thankful. This is the state St Paul talks about when he says, 'always be happy, pray constantly and always give thanks.' He is referring to a state of being that is *rediscovered* within... John. This is the best state to be in when encountering internal wilderness. Rather than stumbling about, dispirited by the fog of our sin... we burn it away with love. Knowing we are loved unconditionally gives us sufficient confidence to look *at* and *into* our sin - *where we miss the mark* – without flinching or cowering away. Seeing sin for what it is (*error*) we can let it go; we change our mind (*repent*).

Confident in love and rising above sin we sense who we truly are (*I AM*) and let go of who we thought we were. *I AM* is a voice (*feeling*) rising (*crying*) out of the wilderness of *error*. As we leave *what we are not (unfit to undo his sandals)*, what we are emerges. The Light, Christ, rises in us. He walks, as *us*, along the path of our life.



PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest

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Parish Office

Open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

01722 562703

office@salisburycatholics.org

Caroline Williams

caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com

Tony Peters-Ennis

outreach@salisburycatholics.org

MASS BOOKING

booking@salisburycatholics.org

(email is preferable if possible)

01722 562703 9am-5pm Mon-Fri

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.

Pop into the Newman Room and say hello! Please register online at:

<https://salisburycatholics.org>

click "Registration/update"

REGISTERED PARISHIONERS

TO DATE : 2695



GAUDETE SUNDAY - 13 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 go to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/blog/gaudete-sunday>

SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, PRIEST - 14 DECEMBER

In his life and writings, John of the Cross has a crucial word for us today. We tend to be rich, soft, comfortable. We shrink even from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. We run from the cross. John's message - like the gospel - is loud and clear: Don't - if you really want to live! For the life story of St John click on his image in the 'Top News' box or go directly to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/blog/saint-john-cross>

THE 'O' ANTIPHONS

Beginning on the 17 December and for seven days following, a special antiphon is read before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer. These special antiphons express humanity's desire and longing for God, a longing which has existed throughout the history of God's people from the beginning of time through Abraham, Moses and David. A history which was fulfilled on the night when Emmanuel (God with us) was born. Each prayer begins with one of seven Old Testament titles for the Messiah now attributed to Jesus. These are a wonderful prayer resource to help us in our Advent preparations. You will find them by clicking on the button 'The 'O' Antiphons on our home page or go directly to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/o-antiphons>

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH Pope Francis has designated this year the "Year of St Joseph". In a new Apostolic Letter entitled *Patris corde* ("With a Father's Heart"), Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. For more, and the full Apostolic letter, please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or go directly to <https://salisburycatholics.org/st-joseph>

YVONNE FOX RIP A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for Yvonne on Monday 14 December 12:00 at St Osmund. There are still spaces remaining. If you would like to attend, please book via email booking@salisburycatholics.org and we will confirm on Monday morning or call 01722 562703 before 11am on Monday.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES...instead of Christmas Cards to fellow parishioners. We would like to encourage you, in these COVID times, rather than spending money on Christmas Cards and postage, why not give a donation to our parishes instead and write your message/s to fellow parishioner/s on our new parishioner **Christmas Card message board**. It is very simple to use and there are some brief instructions above the board on how to use it. You can find it by clicking on the 'Christmas Message' button on our homepage or go to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/noticeboard> Please do NOT leave Christmas cards for fellow parishioners in the church porches or send them to the parish office. Many thanks.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN OF OUR CHURCHES! We are really missing seeing you all at church and children's liturgy and in our children's choir each week. We would like to encourage you to enter our Christmas competition with prizes given to two lucky winners. If you are 7yrs or under we would like you to send us a photo of you in a nativity outfit. If you are 7 and over please write us a poem or a prayer. We would love to then share these with parishioners via the parish website where parents are happy with that. Please could parents confirm or withhold their consent for this when entries are submitted. All entries to be sent to svarney1@me.com by 20 December.

BELL TOWER We have some impressive photographs of the bell in the tower at St Osmund provided by Mike Presley. See our Blog or go directly to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/blog/bell-tower-0>

THE ALABARE COMMUNITY are appealing for food donations this Christmas to support their Care Centre projects for vulnerable people. Donations may be dropped off at John & Lee Proctor's house in Tollgate Road - 01722 501586 or John & Catherine Detain, Roman Road - 01722 415588. Please phone first, thank you.

BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS

Please send an email to: booking@salisburycatholics.org or call 01722 562703 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Please use this email exclusively for Mass booking. The Mass schedule for the coming week is on the final page of this newsletter as normal or can be found by clicking on the 'Mass Times' button on our homepage.

ATTENDING MASS DURING THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

We strongly encourage all parishioners who wish to attend in person to book a place at a Christmas Mass as soon as possible, as the Masses are filling up fast! Please see the page below for all the details.

We are also now taking bookings for the Vigil Mass on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th (Feast of Holy Family). Please do book soon as no one will be in the office to take bookings between Christmas and that weekend.

READING MARK IN ADVENT is an 18-part podcast series where we upload a chapter of Mark's Gospel each weekday of the season. With a global pandemic sweeping the world and lockdowns and restrictions placed on our everyday living we need to remember that the Word of God is never locked down and isolated. Please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or the '**St Mark's Gospel**' button on our homepage to listen to each chapter.

DIVINITAS: THE ART OF FAITH. We have added a new series to our website, an introduction to the Catholic Creed using video commentary and art. It is a succinct ten part overview for anyone interested in learning what Catholics really believe. Fr Marcus Holden and Art Historian Teresa Lane probe the Mysteries of Faith. This week we introduce Part 1: The Creation of Adam by Michelangelo and the School of Athens by Raphael provide the artistic backdrop for a discussion about God, the human person and the meaning of life. Please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or go to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/divinitas>

ADVENT We will be providing weekly Advent video reflections on the Sunday Gospel and the life that God can call individuals to. For Advent Week 2: Hannah Vaughan-Spruce. Hannah reflects on the second week of Advent and her own state of life, living as a consecrated virgin. "I knew from the age of 17 that Jesus was calling me to belong to Him in a special way." This can be found by clicking on the 'Advent' button on our homepage or by going directly to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/advent-20>

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS There is another excellent reflection on video by Fr Jim Golka on this weekend's Gospel (3rd Sunday in Advent) on our website. The reflection is just 3 minutes.

Also on this page is the fourth in a series of monthly reflections by Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB in which he responds to some of the questions that many people have about the Bible. In this fourth video reflection by Fr Henry, he reflects on the 'Infancy Narratives'. For all of this click on 'The God Who Speaks' button on our homepage or go directly to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/god-who-speaks>

CHILDREN'S LITURGY We have a children's liturgy of the word for last weekend: 2nd Sunday in Advent. Click on 'Church TV' then select 'Children's Liturgy' or go directly to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/childrens-liturgy>

SUNDAY HOMILY We have the latest podcast from Bishop Robert Barron for this coming Sunday (13 December, Third (Gaudete) Sunday in Advent) on our website. Click on the 'Sunday Homily' button on our homepage or go directly to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/sunday-homily>

MUSIC IN ISOLATION For the third week of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) we have added 'Hark! A herald voice is calling' by the Kings College Choir, Cambridge Please click on the 'Music in Isolation' button on our homepage or go to <https://salisburycatholics.org/music-isolation>

SCRIPTURE IN SONG This feature associates an element of scripture with song each month. For Advent we have 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'. Just click on the button 'Scripture in Song' on our homepage or go directly to: <https://salisburycatholics.org/scripture-song>

BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS IN PERSON

Please note that we have a new email address for taking Mass bookings.

Please ring or email to book to attend Mass on this email address and telephone number only:

booking@salisburycatholics.org

01722 562703 (Monday - Friday 9am-5pm)

We now have a dedicated email address for Mass booking ONLY. This enables us to accept help from volunteers and to keep all Mass booking emails separate from other parish matters. When booking to attend Mass, please limit the subject matter of your email to Mass booking only - as these emails may be opened, read and responded to by volunteers assisting in the office. For all other parish, pastoral or confidential matters, please continue to use the existing email addresses as shown on the front page of this newsletter.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

It is ESSENTIAL to book if you hope to attend Mass in person this Christmas. We have several 'extra' Masses this year to help us accommodate everyone and still maintain the required social-distancing in our buildings. Please see below for spaces still remaining:

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

16:00	St Gregory	FULL
17:00	St Osmund	75% FULL
19:00	Holy Redeemer	80% FULL
20:00	St Osmund	75% FULL
21:30	St Osmund	85% FULL
24:00	St Gregory	50% FULL

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MORNING MASSES

08:00	St Osmund	<i>(no music) Plenty of space</i>
08:30	Holy Redeemer	50% FULL
09:00	St Osmund	Rear 2 pews only
09:00	St Gregory	70% FULL
10:30	St Gregory	<i>(Ordinariate MASS)</i>
11:00	St Osmund	75% FULL

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS 23:30 (in order that the consecration is at midnight) St Osmund

Please do remember that Christmas is a season not a single day and so you may wish to book to attend Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family (27th December) as your Christmas Mass. This is a Sunday and the 'normal' Sunday schedule will apply. The Parish office will be closed over Christmas so **if you plan to come to Mass between 26th-4th January please BOOK NOW for those Masses also.**

booking@salisburycatholics.org
01722 562703 (9am-5pm : Monday-Friday)

STEWARDS AT CHRISTMAS MASSES - Last call for more volunteers!

Could you be a steward at one of our Christmas Masses? Under the current guidelines, we are obliged to have stewards at Mass to ensure that minimum health and safety standards are met. Stewarding involves greeting Mass attendees as they arrive, directing them to their seat and sanitising the pews once everyone has left, ready for the next Mass. If you are in good health and could help us, please volunteer as soon as possible. This will allow us time to complete the necessary recruitment checklist with you, plan a rota to cover the Christmas Masses and give the necessary guidance regarding the role. Our existing team of stewards is not large enough to cover all the Masses listed above. Thank you.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-1 Advent Week 3 and Psalter 3

Please book if you would like to attend Mass in person.

booking@salisbury Catholics.org 01722 562703

Saturday 12 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of the donors
with the baptisms of Bella White and Aleksander Struzik

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS Patricia Dicks

SUNDAY 13 December GAUDETE SUNDAY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Peter Csak RIP
09:00 St Gregory MASS
11:00 St Osmund MASS Jim Rolleston RIP
12:15 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS
16:00 St Osmund Polish MASS
18:00 St Osmund MASS James & Margaret Harley RIP

Monday 14 December Saint John of the Cross

10:00 St Osmund MASS
12:00 St Osmund Memorial MASS Yvonne Fox RIP

Tuesday 15 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Davey Kenny RIP
All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
18:40 Benediction
19:00 St Osmund MASS Ellen McNulty RIP

Wednesday 16 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS
12:00 Holy Redeemer MASS Alan Dobson RIP
19:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 17 December O Sapientia

10:00 St Osmund MASS
All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
18:40 St Osmund Benediction
18:30 Downton MASS

Friday 18 December O Adonai

10:00 St Gregory MASS John Brook RIP
19:00 St Osmund MASS

Saturday 19 December O Radix

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mrs Carol Carthy RIP (Birthday)

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St Gregory Fridays 09:30 until Mass
St Osmund Saturdays 10:30 to 11:30
Holy Redeemer Saturdays 17:30 until Mass

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

Evangelisation: For a life of prayer

That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ may be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

<https://salisbury Catholics.org/pope-francis>

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for Christ the King, Amesbury.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember all those who have died: Peter Rockett, Imogen Cardew, Michael Dean, Yvonne Fox, Janet Mair Brown, Sheila Miles and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE PRAYER

St Osmund will be open for private prayer. If you find the church closed call into the Newman Room at the back of the Parish Rooms during office hours to gain admittance.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Lk 1:46-50, 53-54.

My soul rejoices in my God.

1 Paul 5:16-24

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!**

John 1:6-8. 19-28

SACRAMENTS

MARRIAGES Please speak to the priest for guidance.

FUNERALS Please speak to the priest for guidance.

BAPTISMS Can now take place in accordance with government guidelines and preparation courses are taking place on Zoom. Please contact Deacon John Proctor on 07802 631968 or email john@alabare.org

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2021

We will be announcing plans for preparations for these Sacraments as soon as we can in the New Year.