

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

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

After early morning prayers I often spend time listening to local sounds. The silence, cut into quarters by cathedral bells, is palpable. It is beautifully enhanced by bird song and occasionally scratched by yowling cats! High above, long haul jets unzip the sky with long sighs; distant traffic rumbles like a hungry belly... and then it is time for tea.

We have spoken about awareness and staying awake: about preparation and prayer. Now we should examine deepening that prayer by finding a particular place in the soul through silence and stillness. Silence, here, is not referring to the absence of sound but to a quality of soul. *'There's a place in the soul where you have never been wounded'*, Meister Eckhart. This is the place we must find. How?

*"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'" The word for voice is phóné: φωνή, meaning a sound, noise, voice. As we know, sound is very powerful. It can heal or wound, soothe or irritate, inspire or destroy. As we sink deeper and deeper into the depth of our soul, through the practice of quiet and stillness, we will find a rhythm, a sound, a vibration: shallow at first and perhaps alarming, it is a quality that grows as we seek it out and persevere in it. This is the voice or sound that *cries out in the wilderness (depth of the soul)*. This is the place that has never been wounded by our experience of the world. It is the child within (*Son of Man*), the untarnished image of God that we are. It cries out to be heard... *to be born*. It is fed and grows *by* being encountered and listened too. Placed there by God it is the sound that leads us back to Him. It does not abandon the world but transforms us and all around us. This sound defines our identity. It is not a label; it is the 'I Am' out of which all labels emerge (*priest, prophet, etc*). It is the sound out of which all was made (*God Said: it came to be*).*

In our prayer let us consider going to Her who carried the perfect embodiment of this Voice; Jesus. If we have not done so already it is worth contemplating devotion to Our Lady; after all She is devoted to us.

PLEASE NOTE : This newsletter is a **three week** edition for Week 3 of Advent, 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas (which are the same week) and the week following the Feast of the Holy Family i.e from 16 December until 5 January.
The next newsletter will be issued on Friday 5 January.

**A FUTURE
FULL OF
HOPE
OF**
CLIFTON DIOCESE

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Anthony B Paris VF (Parish Priest)
01722 333581 or 07544 053785
anthony.paris@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Jonathan Creer (Pastor of Sarum
Ordinariate & Assistant Priest)
07724 896579
jonathan.creer@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Joseph Columba Meigh
(Assistant Priest)
01722 333581
joseph.meigh@cliftondiocese.com

Rev John Detain (Deacon)
01722 415588
john.detain@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Stephen Godwin (Deacon)
07583 254488
stephen.godwin@cliftondiocese.com

Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
07802 631968
john.proctor@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office

Monday-Friday 0900 - 1600
NOTICE - the parish office will be closed for Christmas from 15 December until 3 January 2024

01722 562703

office@salisburycatholics.org

Caroline Williams
caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com

Désirée office@salisburycatholics.org

Tony outreach@salisburycatholics.org

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 at:
<https://salisburycatholics.org>
click "Registration/update"

ADVENT CAROLS & BENEDICTION BY CANDLELIGHT THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER, 7PM ST OSMUND'S

A beautiful way to mark the Winter Solstice by preparing for the light of Christ to return at Christmas. Carols, readings, a short reflection by Fr Thomas Lawes (who grew up in this parish), followed by a moment of quiet adoration, ending with Benediction. Afterwards, please join us for a glass of mulled wine in the Parish Rooms—and if you can spare a tray of mince pies to share as well, please drop them into the hall on your way in, so they can be warmed up! See you there.

Christmas Message from our Parish Priest



Our parish year has been, for the most part, characterised by the closure of the Holy Redeemer & Holy Family; the refurbishment of St Gregory's and the preparations for a new parish centre. I am enormously thankful to those who have guided and administered the process. I am enormously sorry for any pain or unrest it has caused. As one door closes so another opens. I pray that Our Lord will shower us with every blessing at the end of this year and into the whole of the next. I pray that he will open the gates of our hearts so as to reveal how we can build and take our parish into the future as a shining beacon proclaiming Him as our friend, brother and Saviour. And may the Lord send down His special blessing on those baptised, confirmed and married in our community this year; may He also hold in His arms all our loved ones whose time on earth came to an end and now continues in heaven. Happy Christmas, love and prayers,

Fr Anthony Paris



CHRISTMAS MASSES

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS EVE



4pm	Carols	4.30pm	Vigil Mass	St Gregory*
5.30pm	Carols	6pm	Vigil Mass	St Osmund
7.30pm	Carols	8pm	Vigil Mass	St Gregory
9.30pm	Carols	10pm	Vigil Mass	St Osmund

**Children may wish to come in their Nativity Outfits*

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS DAY

9am	Christmas Day Mass	St Gregory
9am	Christmas Day Mass	St Osmund
11am	Christmas Day Mass	St Osmund
12.30pm	Sarum Ordinariate Christmas Mass	St Osmund

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

The Parish Office closes on Friday 15 December and will reopen Wednesday 3 January. During this period there will be no one to answer telephone calls or respond to emails. If there is an urgent matter that requires a Priest, please do visit our home page or [click here](#) for their contact details.

*From all of us in the office to all of our parishioners - we wish you a very
Happy and Holy Christmas.*

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR OUR PRIESTS

The Christmas collection is our offering to our priests. Special envelopes are available in our churches for those able to attend Mass in person. If you would like to make an offering via the parish bank account:

Account Name: **Clifton Diocese re Parish of St Osmund Salisbury** Sort Code: **52-10-03**

Account Number: **66287111** Please quote the reference **CHRISTMAS** with your payment so that your gift is allocated correctly. You can also use the contactless machines in the church porches - select 'Christmas Offering'

PREPARING ST OSMUND'S CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Church Cleaning will take place tomorrow in St Osmund's from **12 noon-2pm Saturday 16 December**. Please do come and help Henrietta if you can - many hands make light work! **Chaps, don't be shy we need you too.**

Thursday 21st December No Exposition or Benediction. We will be preparing the Church for the Advent Carols by Candlelight service from 1.30pm in St O's Church, please come along to help if you can. Greenery, garlands on the pillars and candles will all need putting in place

Sunday 24th December - The morning Masses on Christmas Eve are ADVENT Masses and so we cannot decorate the church for Christmas with flowers and festive or our Christmas Tree until after the Ordinarate Mass on that day. This means we have a VERY tight window to decorate the Church between 1.30pm and the first Mass of Christmas at 5.30pm. PLEASE come along and help to decorate for Christmas on that day if you can.

THE 'O' ANTIPHONS

On each day 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. 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 [click here](#)

Flowers for our Churches this Christmas. If you would like to contribute to Christmas flowers, please place your donation in an envelope marked 'flowers' in the normal offertory at a Sunday Mass.

White Flower Appeal 2024 – The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding their annual appeal on the weekend of 13/14 January.

St Gregory's Parish Hall will be CLOSED for the refurbishment of the toilets immediately after Christmas. We anticipate that the work will take approximately 3 months. **My Generation** will NOT meet again until after the refurbishments. Contact Chris on 321109.

Food and Friendship Due to St Gregory's Hall temporary closure, the next gathering will be on Thursday 11 January for Coffee & Cake, 10.30am-12noon and will take place in **St Osmund's Parish Rooms**.

SCORE - retiring collection this weekend 16/17 December. Money raised will help to fund local projects.

St Gregory's Livestream is now fully installed. However, before going 'live' we are putting in place all the necessary GDPR procedures and permissions.

Art and Craft Group will meet next on Monday 8 January after the 10am Mass at St Osmund's. All are welcome whether you have painted, drawn or crafted before. For information contact Oltea on 07597 453989.

Rosary Group - Meets to pray the Rosary together via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm. The next meeting will be on 3 January. Please contact Josephine in the New Year on 01722 328410 for information. Everyone is welcome to join.

LENTEN RETREAT: FROM THE DESERT TO THE MOUNTAIN. 22 - 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

Following the wonderful and highly successful retreat last year, we will be returning to the Franciscan Centre near Godalming for a retreat to kick-start your Lenten experience so that enter the Easter season with a renewed sense of faith and personal mission. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Parish Office and put your name down to receive the information pack. There will be 25-30 places available. The cost per person is about £250-£300. If you cannot go, but would like to contribute to the costs to enable someone else to go who otherwise would not be able to afford it, why not make this part of your Advent almsgiving?

Father Anthony's Homilies: Following on from his previous homilies we now have the transcript of the homily from last Sunday: Advent Week 2. To view please click on the link below his image or [click here](#).

Arts & Faith: Advent. - For each week of Advent, we have an Ignatian prayer for you. Just click on the image in the Top News box or [click here](#).

Journey in Faith: This is a programme for adults who are interested in Christianity but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next meeting is Sunday 7 January at 4.30pm in the St Osmund's Parish Rooms on Exeter Street. For more on this programme please visit 'Exploring Your Faith' on our main menu or [click here](#).

Life in The Spirit! The next talk will be by Rev Margaret Collins on 'Prophecy' on Friday 5 January after the 7pm Mass at St Osmund. Each seminar is recorded and can be viewed by clicking on the 'The Holy Spirit' button on our homepage or [click here](#)

Congratulations and Welcome to Edward Pedley-Duncalfe who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Sunday at St Gregory. Please keep Edward and his parents Mary & Tim and the godparents in your prayers

Baptism. Our next course will be at St Gregory for three consecutive Sundays starting 14 January, please register with the Parish Office. To request a baptism please [click here](#).

First Holy Communion The next session is on Saturday 13 January 2pm at St Gregory for both parents and children. All information and the schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Confirmation The first session of the programme will be an introductory social on the 16 January 2024. The complete schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Sunday Homily from Bishop Robert Barron Friends, for this Third Sunday of Advent, the Church asks us to focus on John the Baptist, who of course is one of the great Advent figures. It's as though John stands on a kind of frontier or border: all of the human longing for God, in all its various expressions over the centuries and across the cultures, is summed up in this man. 'Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist'. At the limit of human religiosity, summing up all that we can bring to the table, this figure looks to another. To listen and watch, click on the 'Sunday Homily' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Children's Liturgy from Catholic Kids Media: Christ in Our Hearts! A fun reflection based on the readings for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B. Select the 'Children's Liturgy' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Children's Christmas Party at St Gregory - Huge thanks to all who helped in any way on last Sunday with the Children's Christmas Party. It was a great success. Calling all children attending Christmas Eve mass at St Gregory's. Please come dressed in nativity characters outfits. We look forward to seeing you.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-2 Advent Week 3 and Psalter 3

Saturday 16 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Leo McShane RIP

SUNDAY 17 December GAUDETE SUNDAY

09:00 St Gregory MASS Mathew & Mary Muricken RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Victoria Menu

11:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Anthony & Limna

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 St Gregory Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Ann McNellis RIP

Monday 18 December 'O Adonai'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Samantha & Mitchel Chinedum

Tuesday 19 December 'O Radix'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Carol Carthy RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 20 December 'O Clavis David'

10:00 St Gregory MASS With gratitude to Doris M Pearson RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:30 Downton MASS For Dominic Thorp in sickness

Thursday 21 December 'O Oriens'

10:00 St Osmund MASS For the Mooney Family, Elizabeth Kane & Patricia Knott RIP

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Benediction

19:00 St Osmund Advent Carol Service

Friday 22 December 'O Rex Gentium'

10:00 St Gregory MASS Eddie Mahony RIP

19:00 St Osmund MASS Louisa & Hugh Preston & Family

Saturday 23 December 'O Emmanuel'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Canon Michael Fitzpatrick 80th Birthday

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS For the late Eric & Louisa Poulter & Pat

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after the 10:00 Mass & Saturdays 17:30 until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 09:00 until 12:00 on the first Saturday of each month & during Advent, all Saturdays after the 10:00 Mass.

and by prior appointment with our priests.

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parishes of: St Benet (Kemerton) with St Joseph (Tewkesbury) and St Nicholas (Winchcombe).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sheila Crooks, Martin Dawkins, Sarah Niccolini, Shaun Elliott, Teresina Mills, and June Rockett 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

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

Luke 1:46-50,53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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!

John 1:6-8,19-28

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 2024, 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:



ADVENT WEEK 4 (B) & CHRISTMAS



From Father Anthony

Perched on a quince tree the gunslinger tried attempted an ambush as I came out of the sacristy... I only just escaped! It was a day with too many moving parts and I was late. The traffic stacked up on both sides of the street so I decided to walk. Breathing in an undelightful mixture of ozone and car exhaust I barrelled along the streets and across the square. It looked magical with all the trees festooned with white lights. The mobile went and broke the moment. I listened and promised the caller that I would send him a message later.

Having spoken about awareness and staying awake: about preparation and prayer: about encountering the sound or voice within (*Son of Man or child within*) and letting it be born and grow: we are now on the straight (*spiritual*) path to God. As we go to Him we are, like the angel, sent to others; we transition from being disciples (mathētēs: μαθητής, learners) to becoming apostles. The word for apostle is apostellō: ἀποστέλλω to send, send away. The word reflects back to the source or the one sending: it connects the sender to the one sent. We are connected to God and sent by Him with His message; we carry Him.

Like Gabriel we are sent to a town of Galilee called Nazareth to a virgin. The town represents a person, Galilee the mind, (גליל galal, means a cylinder: spiritually, the movement of mind); Nazareth means a *watch tower*; the light within the mind that comprehends the place set aside for God unblemished by the world (*virgin*). This is the place within able to receive the message we must pass on to others...*that Christ must be born in them too*. As Meister Eckhart said, "*We are all meant to be mothers of God... for God is always needing to be born.*"

Spiritual practice, to be Christian, must also be for '*one's neighbour as one's self*', for this is how God is loved. This is how we are overshadowed by the presence of God and it is this presence that brings about His will, through us, in others, '*that those who are barren might conceive and bring Him forth too*'. Once again, we do well to go to Her who created and exemplified this path; who will teach us how to "*let it be done to me according to Your Word.*"

Child Starting School Next Year? If you have a child born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2024 onwards. You must complete an application form available from Wiltshire Council at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1657/Apply-for-a-school-place> or [click here](#) .If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please apply by the **closing date of 15 January 2024.**

LITURGY THIS WEEK 1

Year B Advent Week 4 and Psalter 4
& The Nativity of The Lord

Saturday 23 December

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS For the late Eric & Louisa
Poulter & Pat

SUNDAY 24 December 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

09:00 St Gregory MASS

09:00 St Osmund MASS The Dawkins Family

11:00 St Osmund MASS Kevin & Pat Mooney, Elizabeth
Kane & Patricia Knott RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE

16:00 St Gregory Carols followed by MASS at 16:30

17:30 St Osmund Carols followed by MASS at 18:00

19:30 St Gregory Carols followed by MASS at 20:00

21:30 St Osmund Carols followed by MASS at 22:00

CHRISTMAS DAY

MONDAY 25 December

09:00 St Gregory MASS

09:00 St Osmund MASS

11:00 St Osmund MASS

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 26 December SAINT STEPHEN

10:00 St Osmund MASS

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Benediction

Wednesday 27 December SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE

10:00 St Gregory MASS For JDP and all those named
John in the extended Pearson Family

No Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 28 December HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

10:00 St Osmund MASS Anthea Piggins RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 29 December SAINT THOMAS BECKET

10:00 St Gregory MASS Eric Elvin RIP

19:00 St Osmund MASS

Saturday 30 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16

Psalm 88

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Romans 16:25-27

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Luke 1:26-38

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Vigil Masses St G 16:30, St O 18:00 & St G 20:00

Isaiah 62:1-5

Psalm 88

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Tomorrow there will be an end to sin of the world
and the saviour of the world will be our king.**

Alleluia!

Matthew 1:1-25 (Matthew 1:18-25 at 16:30 & 18:00)

Mass during the night St O 22:00

Isaiah 9:1-7

Psalm 95

**Today a saviour has been born to us;
he is Christ the Lord.**

Titus 2:11-14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:

today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:11-12

Psalm 96

**This day new light will shine upon the earth:
the Lord is born for us.**

Titus 3:4-7

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to men who enjoy his favour.**

Alleluia!

Luke 2:15-20

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-1 Christmas Week 1
Proper of the Feast and Weekday Psalter 2



SUNDAY 31 December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

09:00	St Gregory	MASS	Wedding Anniversary - Nithin & Reshma
09:00	St Osmund	MASS	People of the Parish
11:00	St Osmund	MASS	
12:30	St Osmund	Ordinariate MASS	
18:00	St Osmund	MASS	
23:30	St Osmund	MASS (Consecration at Midnight)	

Monday 1 January MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	
-------	-----------	------	--

Tuesday 2 January Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nanzianzen

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	Cora Cahill RIP
All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament			
18:00	Benediction		

Wednesday 3 January

10:00	St Gregory	MASS	Mary Muricken RIP
18:00	St Osmund	Ordinariate Mass	

Thursday 4 January

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	Harry Meigh RIP
All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament			
18:00	St Osmund	Benediction	

Friday 5 January

10:00	St Gregory	MASS	
19:00	St Osmund	MASS	Samantha Chinedum - Intentions

Saturday 6 January

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	Margaret Mullan RIP
-------	-----------	------	---------------------

First Mass of Sunday

18:00	St Gregory	MASS	Alistair Rimmer RIP
-------	------------	------	---------------------

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory	Fridays	After the 10:00 Mass
St Osmund	Saturdays	09:00 until 12:00 on the first Saturday of each month, all other Saturdays after the 10:00 Mass.
St Gregory	Saturdays	17:30 until Mass

And by appointment with our priests.

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parish of St Thomas More (Marlborough with Pewsey).

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14

Psalm 127

**O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!**

Colossians 3: 12-21

Alleluia, alleluia!

**May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;
let the message of Christ find a home with you.
Alleluia!**

Luke 2:22-40

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 2024, please use our online form to join our 2025 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