

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 2(A)



From Father Anthony.

It was freezing but beautiful. Ladened with bags I negotiated pavements, avoided curbs, nodded to friends and ran the lights! A man strode along in front of me gloved, hatted and smoking a cigar. The heady, earthy smoke curled round my nostrils and brought back a flood of happy memories of friends and the person I once was.... reflecting, I was amazed at how much I had changed.

"A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me. I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptising with water was that he might be made known to Israel." It is worth pondering these lines; attempt to move from mind to soul, from recorded history to spiritual experience.

Something is coming after, yet ranks ahead, because it existed before. I do not know what it is, but baptism will reveal it to me (Israel). Can't you feel something? We glimpse something that seems to come after *who we think we are*... what we have made of ourselves (*the little me*); what we glimpse feels more important than anything in the world because it is *who we were beforehand*; *who we really are*. *Who we are* is prior to *who we think we are* and *what we have made of ourselves*: it is recognised when we understand that what we have made of ourselves is not *who we really are*. This recognition is an interior form of *baptism*... from the darkness of *who we are not* into the light of *who we are*.

Who can show us this, really baptise us out of the waters of mind into the fire of spirit? The one who created us, God. How is He found? In the encounter called prayer or meditation. We must pray or meditate *not for things or outcomes* but *simply to encounter God*. Don't, for example, pray for peace. Be with, meet and listen to God (*prayer*); to have found God *is to have Peace*; don't pray for health; to meet God is to have Health... everything has its origin and being in Him... "Seek ye first the kingdom of God *and all these things will be added unto you*", *including yourself!* To meet God is to see ourselves reflected in Him as the person He created and intended. The primacy of God in our lives transforms us and therefore the world.

Forthcoming Mass Times Changes were announced before Christmas. These will take effect from 8 February and all feature on the '[Mass Times](#)' page on our website.

PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

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Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
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PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

01722 562703

salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

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

Plans and preparations for our parish-based Retreat continue apace and we are really looking forward to all that the Dominican Sisters plan to share with us and draw from us. As we will be using both the Parish Centre and St Elizabeth Hall there is plenty of space remaining **but do please book as soon as possible** so that we can ensure the room is set up properly and that we have enough resources for everyone who attends. As we seek, in this new year, to encounter God and to become the people he intended us to be, this weekend offers a period of ‘time out’ to consider our relationship with Him and to begin to see ourselves as He intends us to be.

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 or email the parish office. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

PARISH OFFICE & COMMUNICATIONS

There are changes afoot with regards to communications with the Parish Office. Going forward we will no longer be using the email addresses that end ‘....@salisburycatholics.org’. To ensure appropriate security, confidentiality and control over our communications, we are moving over to exclusive use of our Diocesan email addresses. Whilst we are not approaching a sudden ‘cut off’ of the old email addresses, it would assist us enormously if you would now delete these email addresses and begin to use this one for the parish office:

salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

Volunteering in the Parish – Are you computer literate? Organised? Comfortable using the telephone? Have a few (regular) hours that you could offer to help in the parish office? We would love to hear from you. We also often need assistance on an ‘ad hoc’ basis at busy times with practical matters too. If you’d like to help in any way, please contact Caroline in the parish office or speak to one of the Deacons. We could really do with some help! Many thanks.

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

Celebration Mass for Marriage & Family Life – The Diocesan family will be celebrating Mass in the Cathedral on Saturday 14 February (12 noon) and Bishop Bosco is inviting all families to join to acknowledge the joys & challenges of family life. In addition, there will be a celebration of those couples with significant anniversaries in 2026. For more information please click on the image in the [‘Top News’](#) or visit our [Blog](#).

Alabaré - The Big Sleep Friday 13 March in Salisbury Cathedral in aid of the homeless and vulnerable. Once again, Graham Herbert will be sleeping on the floor of the cloisters. If you would like to sponsor Graham, please ring him on 01722 333873 or bring sponsorship money to the Parish Office. If you would like to join Graham, click on the image in the ‘Top News’ box.

St Gregory’s Food Bank donation box resulted in a total of 569kg going to the Food Bank in 2025 for which they were very grateful. Thank you to all contributors.

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

Please click on [‘Parish Life’](#) on our website main menu for details on all our Parish Groups.

PEACE SUNDAY – 18 JANUARY

This Sunday, we join the global Church in observing Peace Sunday, a moment to pray for peace and reflect on our calling as peacemakers. On 1 January, the Church celebrated the World Day of Peace, a tradition carried forward by Pope Leo XIV. In his message for the 59th World Day of Peace, he proclaimed:

“Peace be with you all: towards an ‘unarmed and disarming’ peace.”

He called us to: Embrace a peace not founded on weapons or fear, but on justice, trust, and “disarming” reconciliation.

Recognize that peace begins within our hearts, flowing through humble dialogue, empathy, and solidarity.

Please click on the image in the [‘Top News’](#) box for the full text of Pope Leo’s message, a short video and resources provided by Pax Christi.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith (2025-6) The next session is **Sunday 25 January at St Gregory’s** at 9am for a 9.15am start, followed by the 11am Mass. **Please note with the advertised change of Mass times, from the 8 February, Family of Faith will gather after the 9am Masses at St Gregory & St Osmund at the Parish Centre.** The [Family of Faith](#) webpage includes helpful ‘signs of readiness’ documents for parents discerning their child’s readiness for the Sacraments. Online forms for both sacraments are also available.

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. Know a young person that may like to come? Give them a nudge. All the dates are on our website, just click on [Youth Group](#) on our home page.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Confirmation 2026: the Group are on retreat at Buckfast Abbey (Dartmoor) this weekend and will be returning on Sunday afternoon. Please pray for them: *‘Lord, instil in them the courage to embrace this experience fully. Let them be open to new friendships, activities, and most importantly, to hearing your Word’.* The next mandatory session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is Wednesday 11 March 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. The programme is now well underway and it is too late for new-joiners. Anyone interested in Confirmation can express an interest for Confirmation 2027. Please click on [‘Confirmation’](#) on our homepage for more information.

Journey in Faith – For adults who are not confirmed Catholics and for those who are returning to the faith of their childhood. The next session is Sunday 25 January 10.30am at the Parish Centre. If you are interested in joining do contact Dave Blake at salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com For more including the timetable click on the [‘Journey in Faith’](#) button on our home page.

Congratulations and welcome to Elia-Noel Joffi Njie and John Stephen McDonagh who received the sacrament of Baptism last Saturday. Please keep Elia-Noel & John Stephen and their parents and godparents in your prayers.

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 2

Psalter 2

Saturday 17 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS John Wall RIP

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Helen Ahern RIP

11:00 St Gregory MASS Tracy Noden RIP & Family

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Deirdre Benbough

Monday 19 January Saint Wulstan

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 20 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Pedralvez Family

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 21 January Saint Agnes

10:00 St Gregory MASS Damien Fleming RIP

Thursday 22 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS The Johnston Family

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12:00 Downton MASS

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 23 January

10:00 St Gregory Rosary

18:00 St Osmund MASS Bob Kimsey

Saturday 24 January Saint Francis de Sales

10:00 St Osmund MASS Ann McNellis RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Eric & Louisa Poulter and Pat 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 parishes of St Francis of Assisi (Nailsea) & St Joseph (Portishead).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Christopher Warren, Patricia Dry, Shane O'Neill, Michael Pearce, Michael Keegan, Monte Little, Mary Conaway 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

Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to be children of God.

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 2027 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