

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 2(C)

From Father Anthony

I parked Agnes and went for a hike. The landscape was skeletal. Crows cawed in the distance; a train rumbled past; a river gurgled. Sheep wandered up hoping for something edible... and went away disappointed! But there, under a stark, barren tree, purple, white and yellow crocuses, sheathed in green: life in a winterscape; transformation. The sun peered over a cloud, smiled for a moment and then went back to bed... but spring is on the way!

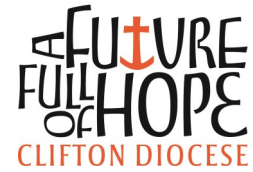
After the recent major Feasts, we are back to Ordinary Time. Purple, Gold and White vestments have given way to Green. The very change of colours suggests transformation. Has there been or will there be any transformation in our own lives? I heard someone say, *"thank God it's all over and we can get back to normal"*. I wondered if *normal* meant when ten years' experience is one years' experience repeated ten times; repetition confused as growth. Very often governments and society educate us into a box; to know our place; to become and remain debt slaves to higher echelons; to become skeleton before our time. We are created for life not death: and life requires transformation.

The gospel passage, Jesus' first sign, is about transformation; water into wine; rational experience into spiritual experience: an animated soul into a life-giving spirit (*St Paul*). The second reading makes it clear that each one of us has a particular gift; this is the gift God has planted in us, *as us*, when we were created before the foundation of the world... *"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone"*. If our gift is not obvious to us, if it lies hidden, then it might be a sign that we are still too earthbound; too focussed on the material world. Our particular gift is spiritual in nature: the person who transforms us and reveals our gift is Jesus. Our part in transformation is to bring the stone water jar of our life to Him; He will effect the necessary bridge of worldly incidences that we have to cross which will reveal to us our gift... which, we must then reflect back to the world we live and work in and bring a smile to its tired, barren face.

Bishop Bosco's Visit last weekend.

It was wonderful to have Bishop Bosco at St Osmund's last weekend. If you would like to watch a Mass at which he presided and preached, go to the 'Recordings' tab in our Church TV or [click here](#).

He also visited our Family of Faith session to meet the children and even got briefly involved in a game with them!



PASTORAL TEAM

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Parish Office

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday (& Thursday this week only) CLOSED

Friday 0900 - 1600

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Caroline Williams

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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](#)



<https://salisburycatholics.org>

IMPORTANT - MASS CHANGES ON SUNDAY 2 FEBRUARY

Due to unavailability of priests, there will be a one-off change to our normal Sunday Mass schedule on Sunday 2 February. **The regular 9am Mass at St Gregory will take place at 11am (in St Gregory's Church) and there will be NO 11am Mass at St Osmund on that day ONLY.** The revised Mass schedule on Sunday 2 February will be:

9am St Osmund, 11am St Gregory, 12.30pm Ordinariate St Osmund and 6pm St Osmund.

If you know anyone who only attends Mass occasionally, please let them know.

PLEASE NOTE - The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday 23 January. Our existing computers are all circa 2012-14 and cannot run Windows 11. They are old and very slow now and we have limped along with them as long as we can but now that Microsoft are removing support for Windows 10, we have no choice but to replace them. This is an unavoidable expense for the parish and will also cause a some disruption as we move from our old systems to new ones. If anyone has a modern monitor (screen) that they are currently not using, we would be happy to receive it! Many thanks. The office will be closed on Thursday to allow for installation of the new pcs. Many thanks for your patience and generosity while we undertake this upgrade.

The Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, Apostle - Saturday 25 January. Once a fierce persecutor of the early church, Paul became the greatest of the early Christian missionaries. For a reflection on this great Saint and the audio of the conversion in Ch 9 of Acts of the Apostles click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Justice & Peace Group - are meeting on Monday 20 January at 7.30pm at the Parish Centre. Main topics for discussion are: Parish Recycling, Ethics of the Fashion Industry and a new Rosary Group. All are welcome.

SCORE - there will be a retiring collection for SCORE overseas projects this weekend 18/19 January.

A retiring collection for SPUC's White Flower Appeal will take place on 1/2 February. This year's Appeal Post Cards call on the Government to adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Please give generously. Cards may be completed and handed in at the back of the Church or posted by yourselves.

Chrism Mass in Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday 16 April. A coach has been booked to travel to the Chrism Mass. Timings are expected to be similar to last year departing St Osmund's Church at 7.20am, then leaving St Gregory 7.35am with a pick up at Amesbury library at 7.55am. Mass is at 11am. This will be the first Chrism Mass gathered around our new bishop. If you would like to join our priests and deacons on the coach, please complete the sign up sheet in the porch of each church or contact the office office@salisbury Catholics.org.

Encounter 25 is a Diocesan wide programme and will run between Easter and Pentecost. All are welcome to the initial planning event on 1 February 2025 at 9.30am - 1 pm at St Bernadette's, 731 Wells Rd, Bristol BS14 9HU. For more information, email: pentecost@clifftondiocese.com

Christmas Carols 23 December at our Parish Centre. We have some lovely images provided by Greg Wall of the event. A wonderful evening of music, readings, mulled wine, infinite number of mince pies and a 'Partridge in a Pear Tree'. Thank you so much to the hospitality team that night who made it such a wonderful evening. To view visit our Photo Gallery (button on our homepage) or [click here](#).

Parish Centre Prayer Tree - A large number of events occurred in our Parish Centre over Christmas, prayer groups, social activities, carol concerts, youth groups, and our 'Family of Faith' programme. Parishioners were encouraged to write prayers and hang them on the Christmas tree, many prayers were offered with hope and expectation, several of these prayers were written by our children. To view visit our website [Blog](#) or [click here](#).

Final Call for old Sunday Missals - If there are any more pre-new lectionary missals (in good order) that you wish to donate, can you please hand them into the Office within the coming week.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith The next session is on on Sunday 26 January beginning at our morning 9am Masses continuing afterwards at our Parish Centre. For all the dates click on the '[Family of Faith](#)' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

A Man for All Seasons (St Thomas More) Theatre trip to Bath tomorrow Saturday 18 January. Due to the wonderful generosity of our parishioners who sponsored tickets (£35 each) we have been able to offer to 30 young people a discounted ticket price of £10 each. For the young people travelling on the minibus please be at the Parish Centre car park (131 Exeter Stree) no later than 10.40am.

Youth Group - The Youth Group which meets each Wednesday during term time at 6.30pm at our Parish Centre will be running a Youth Alpha course from next week. Youth Alpha is designed to help explore the big questions of life, whether you already have a strong faith, or whether you have none at all but are curious to learn more. So if you're in school years 8 to 11, it's a great opportunity to start coming, and to bring a friend along for the discussions. If you're not quite young enough to join, please support with your prayers... but we're also looking for help in the kitchen, preparing some food - so if you could come along on just one Wednesday evening and do some cooking, it would be a huge help, please get in touch. All the dates are on our website, just click on Youth Group on our home page or [click here](#).

SHARING OUR FAITH

Confirmation 2025 31 candidates attended the first session on Tuesday which was an icebreaker/getting to know one another session. The next session is Tuesday 28 January at 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. The Confirmation Retreat will follow on Friday 31 January - Sunday 2 February. Please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#) for more information.

Journey in Faith Our ongoing programme for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics. We meet on a Sunday morning to learn about what it is Christians believe, why they believe it, and explore what it means for our own lives. The next session is this Sunday 19 January at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Contact Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@clifftondiocese.com if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

Baptism Preparation Course - The next course is at St Osmund starting 9 February 2025. To request a Baptism for your child, click the Registration button on our homepage or [click here](#).

ENCOUNTER - PARISH LENTEN RETREAT 3RD - 6TH OF APRIL 2025

Following the wonderful and highly successful retreats in previous years, we will be returning to the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell near Godalming. This year's theme is Encounter. We will be looking at how even the smallest encounter with Jesus can change the course of a life. There will be 25-30 places available. The cost per person is about £250-£300, but please don't let cost prevent you from coming along, we are able to offer some support to those who need it to make this possible. Please contact the Parish Office to book or Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@clifftondiocese.com for more information.

If you cannot go, but would like to contribute to the costs to enable someone else to go, why not make this part of your Lenten almsgiving? Contact the Parish Office for more information - all contributions, large or small will be gratefully received.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Ordinary Time Week 2 and Psalter 2

Saturday 18 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Frances Morris in sickness

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS In Thanksgiving

SUNDAY 19 JANUARY

09:00 St Gregory MASS Nora O'Reilly RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS Anne Josephine Sheehan RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Dorio Melfi RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 20 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Mathew Jose

Tuesday 21 January Saint Agnes

10:00 St Osmund MASS Michael, Susan & Peter Leydon
RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 22 January

10:00 St Gregory MASS Doris Phelan RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate Mass

Thursday 23 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Anne McAllister in sickness

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 24 January Saint Frances de Sales

10:00 St Gregory MASS Michael & Liza - safe journey on
your travels

18:00 St Osmund MASS Paul Wright RIP

SATURDAY 25 JANUARY CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Peggy O'Farrell RIP

RECONCILIATION

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

St Osmund: On the first Saturday of the month from 9am to 12
noon, and on other Saturdays after the 10am Mass

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected. [Click here](#).

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parish of St Peter (Gloucester).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Christopher Piggins, Sylvia Weston, David Humphries, Florindo Carpenito, James Herlihy and Andrée Spark 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.

Psalm Response

Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! God called us through the gospel, so that we may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

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 is coming to Mass regularly, for whom preparation for First Communion may be appropriate, please use our online form to register your interest in our Family of Faith programme. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who is in Year 9 or above from Sept 2024, please use our online form to apply to join our 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 Désirée for more details: office@salisburycatholics.org