

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

HOLY REDEEMER + ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

LENT WEEK 4(A) LAETARE SUNDAY

From Father Anthony

I sat outside, tea in hand, admiring the daffodils and listening to the Gangsters squabbling. Trees are budding, the ground sprouting and a sweet scent lingered in the air. The sun rose with languid majesty and Mrs Cat sashayed over for a rare visit. She jumped onto my lap with a little trill. I fussed over her and saw that one of her eyes was slightly blocked. She let me wipe it, purred, flicked of her tail and went about her rounds... sight restored!

Last week we described the *water well* as spiritually symbolic of 'where we seek out and draw our worldly life from'... what attracts us. This is often a function of money, sex and power... which often breed resentment, pride and envy. In this state we are spiritually blind. It is not our fault: we are not to blame. We are born this way (*original sin*). We are born blind to Spirit and focused solely on the world. When we understand what the *well* represents in our life we also encounter Christ who has been waiting there all the time.

During this encounter He gives us Himself (*liquid - spittle - is symbolic of His Soul and earth His Body*). By covering our physical senses with Himself, he opens our *spiritual eyes*. The physical act recorded in the Gospel (*covering the eyes of the blind man with clay*) also represents the reality of *opening* his spiritual eyes. With spiritual eyes open, understanding, knowledge, clarity and happiness dawn upon us.

Neither we nor the world can bring about spiritual sight because neither contain a reference for understanding, *i.e.* how would you describe the colour green to a person born blind from birth... they have no reference for green. They need sight! Only Christ can give us spiritual sight because He, being Spirit, *is* the reference for spirit; the encounter and recognition with Him is the opening of our spiritual eyes. Therefore, we *must* encounter Him and find Him where we seek for what we think will give us life, however disordered (*blind*) it may be... *our sinfulness can then become the means to our salvation.*

A consequence and condition of awakening spiritual sight is to be *sent (Siloam)* to those who are still spiritually blind: to proclaim Christ as the only means of true awakening. And for this we may have to pay the price of being rejected!



PASTORAL TEAM

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OUR CHURCHES

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

‘LOVE THE STRANGER’

In 2023, people making dangerous journeys across the Channel to reach the UK are called by various names: ‘refugees’, ‘asylum seekers’, ‘migrants’, and often by more derogatory terms. ‘Love the Stranger’ is a new publication by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales Department for International Affairs that articulates our Christian duty to look beyond such labels and see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life. We have both the document and the accompanying video on our website. Please click on the image in the ‘Top News’ box or [click here](#).

Parish Coronation Tea & Talk - Sunday 7 May 23 at 3pm at The White Hart Hotel. This is a pre-bookable event only. Book via the Parish Office on 01722 562703 or office@salisburycatholics.org. £16.50 per head which includes tea and a buffet of small sandwiches, cakes and scones. For more details please click on the image in the ‘Top News’ box or [click here](#).

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion A wonderful day was spent last Saturday at St Gregory’s led by Father Joseph & Deacon John which culminated in 32 EHMCs being commissioned. Thank you to everyone who attended.

Choir for Easter Triduum in St Osmund’s Fr Joseph is organising a group of singers to support and enhance the music at our Triduum liturgies in St Osmund’s Church. The first rehearsal was held last Wednesday. Further rehearsals will be on the next 3 Wednesdays 22 & 29 March & 5 April in the Parish Rooms at 7pm. Everyone is welcome. Please inform the office if you would like to join in.

SCORE update. At the committee meeting in March a total of over £9,000 was given to charitable projects. These include: Home-Start South Wiltshire, Aids Care and Education, The Bridge Youth Project and EdUKaid. Full details can be found on the website under Parish life/SCORE or [click here](#). There will be presentations and feedback from some of these groups at a special SCORE open meeting on Monday 22 May at 7pm. Thank you for your generous support, it is much appreciated by those receiving grants.

Easter Egg Hunt! We are delighted to announce that we will once again be able to host an Easter Egg hunt for children after the morning Masses on Easter Sunday at both St Osmund and St Gregory, also eggs will be given out after the Mass at Holy Redeemer. Donations of (individually-wrapped) Easter Eggs will be gratefully received in your chosen church. Please hand your eggs into the office or to the welcomers at each of our Churches.

Easter Flowers In honour of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Churches will hopefully be adorned with beautiful flowers, please do consider making a contribution. Donations can be placed in the normal collection basket at each of our churches in an envelope marked ‘Easter Flowers’.

Prayer & Social for Young Catholic Professionals - Warm invitation for young, working-age Catholics (21-35) who’d like to meet together for a short time of prayer followed by a chance to chat over drinks and snacks. Thursday 23 March, St Osmund’s at 6.30pm. Contact Fr Joseph (joseph.meigh@clifftondiocese.com).

Justice & Peace Group are meeting in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund after the 10am Mass on Monday 27 March. The group will be discussing a number of topics including: Climate Change, Military Dictatorship in Burma and ways of growing the group. All are invited.

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 5 April for Bingo at 2pm in St Gregory’s Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Confirmation Programme 2023 has now commenced, the next session will be on Friday 19 May 7pm for a Candidate's social, followed by a session the next day on Saturday 20 May at 11am also for the Candidates. Both sessions are at St Osmund. All those enrolled in this year's programme are encouraged to attend. The programme is available on our website, please click on 'Sacraments' on our main menu and then select 'Confirmation' or just [click here](#).

First Holy Communion Programme 2022/2023 Details are on our website, please click on 'Sacraments' on our main menu and then on 'Holy Communion' or [click here](#). The next session is Saturday 1 April at 2pm in St Gregory's Church for both Parents and Children. It is very important that all sessions are attended.

Baptism Preparation To arrange for a baptism please complete an application by clicking on the 'Registration' button on our homepage or by [clicking here](#).

Congratulations to Elliot Carl Moore who received the Sacrament of Baptism last weekend at St Osmund's. Please keep Elliot and his parents Samantha & James and the godparents in your prayers.

EASTER MASS TIMES CARDS - OUTREACH DELIVERY TO THE NEW ESTATES

This Easter we are concentrating our Outreach efforts exclusively on the new housing developments. Many thanks to all who have volunteered so far. The cards have now arrived and will be available for collection from the Sunday Masses. **Please deliver your cards between now and Palm Sunday.** There are still have some streets available at Longhedge, Old Sarum, and St Peter's Place. If you are fit and able please do volunteer. There is no door knocking involved, simply posting cards through letter boxes. The available streets are all listed on our website, click on the 'Adopt a Street' button on our homepage or [click here](#). To claim a street (or two!) please email outreach@salisburycatholics.org or call the office with the name of the street or streets you wish to adopt. *We scatter the seeds and leave the rest to God.*

LENT 2023

Lent Penitential Service is next Tuesday 21 March 7pm at St Gregory's Church. There will be three priests available to hear individual Confessions.

The Stations of the Cross is a beautiful devotion to recall and honour the Passion of Christ. There are Stations of the Cross devotions in St Osmund's Church **each Friday during Lent at 6.20pm** (prior to the 7pm Mass). The liturgy next Friday 24 March follows Jesus on his journey to Calvary through the eyes of his mother Mary, 'Mary's Way of the Cross'. You can also join from home via our [Church TV](#).

Stations of the Cross in St Osmund's School Our children are once again preparing their reflections on Jesus' journey to Calvary by creating their own Stations of the Cross representations in the school hall. Parishioners and family members are very welcome to attend on Thursday 23 March between 9-11am and 1.30-4pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to join us in prayer and reflection as part of our joint parish/school preparation for Easter.

Tuesdays in Lent - Bewildering Books, Challenging Chapters, Villains in Verses - There's a lot of strange stuff in the Bible! 7.30-8.45pm at Riverside House (way down the end of Watt Road). Need a lift? Ask a Deacon.

Chrism Mass in Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday 5 April. We have booked a small coach to travel to the Chrism Mass which will be picking up in Salisbury and Amesbury. **Book Now, the deadline is next Wednesday 22 March**, please contact the office, email: office@salisburycatholics.org or phone 01722 562703

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-1 Lent Week 4 and Psalter 4

Saturday 18 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS People of the Parish

SUNDAY 19 March

LAETARE SUNDAY

09:00 St Gregory MASS Barry Scott McCombe RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS The Elect of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS James Ennis RIP

12:15 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 St Gregory Syro Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

Monday 20 March

SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:00 St Osmund MASS Michael Wykeham RIP

Tuesday 21 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

19:00 St Gregory Deanery Lent Penitential Service

Wednesday 22 March

10:00 Holy Redeemer MASS

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 23 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mini Francis RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 24 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS For John

18:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

19:00 St Osmund MASS

Saturday 25 March

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory Fridays After the 10:00 Mass

St Osmund Saturdays After the 10:00 Mass

Holy Redeemer Saturdays 17:30 until Mass

And by appointment with our priests.

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR MARCH

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for Chaplaincies to HM forces in the diocese.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Marion Phillips, Michael Pyne, Pamela Finch and Michael Villis who died recently. We also pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

Psalm 22

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

Ephesians 5:8-14

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory!**

John 9:1-41

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS For baptisms please register your application [click here](#). For more information contact Deacon John Pr 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: caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com

LAETARE SUNDAY

The name comes from the first words of the Entrance Antiphon for Mass, "Laetare Jerusalem" — "Rejoice, O Jerusalem." The fourth Sunday marks the half-way point of the season of Lent. Signs of joy are allowed on this day, expressing our belief in the hope of the resurrection and to inspire us as we continue our Lenten commitments to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Symbolising joy, rose-coloured Mass vestments can be worn instead of purple, to indicate the contrast between Laetare and the other Sundays of Lent.

SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 20 MARCH

The Bible tells us nothing of Joseph in the years after the return to Nazareth except the incident of finding Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–51). Perhaps this can be taken to mean that God wants us to realise that the holiest family was like every other family, that the circumstances of life for the holiest family were like those of every family, so that when Jesus' mysterious nature began to appear, people couldn't believe that he came from such humble beginnings: "Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary...?" (Matthew 13:55a). It was almost as indignant as "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" (John 1:46b). For more click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD 25 MARCH

The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son. We are continually reminded of the importance of this feast to our salvation in various devotional prayers. Two examples that highlight the importance of this feast are the joyous mysteries of the Rosary and the Angelus. For more click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Toy Swap is back for Easter - Do your kids have toys they no longer play with? Come and swap them for other toys they will love... FOR FREE! The Easter toy swap will take place on Wednesday 5 April - 10am - 12pm. For all the details click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#)

Sunday Homily from Bishop Robert Barron in this episode he reflects on the Gospel on this the fourth Sunday of Lent, that it is one of the most magnificent stories, the healing of the man born blind. This is not only a story about something that Jesus did; at a deeper level, this is a story about all of us. To watch and listen just click on the 'Sunday Homily' button on our homepage or just [click here](#). Video is available late on Saturday.

Children's Liturgy from Catholic Kids Media: 'Jesus and the man born blind' for this the 4th Sunday in Lent . Click on the 'Children's Liturgy' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Rosary Group meets to pray the Rosary together via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm. Please contact Josephine on 01722 328410 or email: josephineandgin@hotmail.co.uk for information. Everyone is welcome to join.

Art Group: Meets on Mondays between 10.30am - 12.30pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms, all are welcome, whether or not you have painted or drawn before. Contact John and Elizabeth on 01725 510310.

Bible Book Club meets on Tuesdays in the Parish Rooms 10:45am - 12:30pm. Please join us. For further details contact John 07899 244072.

Parish Charity Quiz Night held on Saturday 4 March. We have some photos of the event on our website just click on 'Photo Gallery' on our homepage and then select the 'Parish Quiz'.

Christian Cards - St Osmund and St Gregory churches both stock a wide selection cards, including Easter cards, available for sale.