

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 29 (C)

From Father Anthony

After a daring aerobatic display, the Brown Sparrows landed in the hedge with great cacophony. Mrs Cat, regal as a judge, sat poised and alert on the garden wall; Gangsters and Spivs sounded the alarm. Autumn felt like an early spring day, soft, blue and gentle with a warm, wispy breeze. However, away to the west dark clouds began to gather. Slowly they protruded like a giant brooding forehead, balefully overshadowing the happy dance of life below. It made me think about this week's parable.

The widow entreats the judge to avenge her of her adversary. Parables almost always relate to aspects of ourselves. The characters described and their interrelationships, in this case the *judge*, *widow*, *adversary* and *God*, represent aspects of our makeup. The word translated as *adversary*, (ἀντίδικος) antidikos, means a prosecutor, an opponent at law. Spiritually, it is the voice in the head that always condemns what we do, say or think: always finds fault: leaves us subdued, desolate, depressed, anxious, fearful, and on edge. This accuser (*satan*) is like a heavy cloud raining on the parade of our lives. It makes us feel *widowed*, unsupported, alone, bereft with a sense of loss and lack; no one cares. When we appeal to our intellect or think it through, *the judge*, we find it hard, entrenched in worldly values (*no fear of God*) and deaf to our cries. In fact, it supports the very structures that make our life a misery... we find we cannot deal with ourselves in terms of the self we feel ourself to be! This is the leprosy mentioned in last week's gospel and it feels horrible.

Find the *widow*, *judge* and *adversary* in your own life. Realise that if you can recognise them, you are not them: you are that which recognises them. It is the same place from which your Father (*God*) sees you too. Don't you feel compassion, understanding and love towards this poor being called *yourself*. Hopefully you do because it is this love that is transformative. It is a place of prayer: not words and rituals but a place of constant observation; a place where we swap our feelings of lack and loss for those of fullness and life. Prayer means to exchange wishes. As the observer we see and exchange our worldly wishes formed by earthly, world bound intellect for those of heaven and the mind of God.



PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

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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](#)

FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Tomorrow Saturday 18 October at St Osmund there will be Confessions and Anointing from 9am to 12 noon. Mass will be celebrated, as usual, at 10am with a time of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament afterwards.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

World Mission Sunday is our chance to show love and solidarity to our brothers and sisters overseas. In offering our prayers, we join with missionaries everywhere in communion and compassion to support them in spreading the Good News, and by giving a donation we respond to Christ's call to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. For more [information](#) or click on the image in the 'Top News' box. There will be a retiring collection this weekend. Envelopes are available in our churches for those who are able to 'Gift Aid' their donation.

DILEXI TE – POPE LEO XIV'S FIRST PAPAL DOCUMENT

Pope Leo XIV's first Apostolic Exhortation sees the love of Christ incarnated in love for the poor, in caring for the sick, opposing slavery, defending women who experience exclusion and violence, making education available to all, accompanying migrants, charitable giving, working for equality and more.

Dilexi te ("I have loved you", from Rev 3:9) unfolds in just 121 paragraphs divided into five chapters and flows directly from the Gospel of the Son of God, who in the very act of entering our world through the Incarnation became poor for our sake. At the same time, it re-proposes Church social teaching, as "a veritable treasury of significant teachings" concerning the poor. For [more including a link to read the entire document](#) or click on the image in the 'Top News' box

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION TRAINING

Saturday 1 November 2025 The Parish Centre, SP1 2SG 10:45a.m. – 12:00 noon
(Immediately following the 10:00a.m. Mass at St Osmund) Light refreshments will be provided.

This session is for those who have been invited to train, as well as for existing ministers who would like a refresher. If you have not been contacted but would like to be considered, please speak to Deacon Steve or email:

stephen.godwin@cliftondiocese.com

St Joseph's School – For the latest news from the school please click on the button 'St Joseph's School News' on our website's homepage.

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 5 November 2025 for a Quiz at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Notable Parsons: 43 years of 'gratuitous' organ playing - Our archivist has added another short post to our parish history blog, the St Osmund's Archive, this time highlighting one of the normally unsung heroes of parish life: the organist. Click on '[History](#)' on the main menu of our website.

Parish Catholic Book Club – The second meeting will take place on Thursday 30 October, from 1:30–2:30pm at the Parish Centre, Exeter Street. Everyone is welcome. Further details are available from Frances on 07966 925995 or rollestonfrances@gmail.com.

FAMILY OF FAITH 2026

Family of Faith is our parish's way of supporting families with young children grow together in their faith. Within that, it is the place where our children are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion (the Eucharist) for the first time.

The [Family of Faith](#) webpage has recently been updated. There are now links to 'signs of readiness' documents to help parents discern when their children are ready for both Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. There are also online forms for both sacraments to be completed once the parents believe their children are ready. Parents, please do visit the page for a lot more detail. The next session is Sunday 26 October, gathering at St Gregory's at 9am for 9.15am, and then moving into the 11am Mass.

YOUTH TRIP TO QUARR ABBEY- FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER

The plan is: we'll take the boat from Portsmouth, have Mass at Quarr Abbey, go to Ryde for a bit of time on the beach (if not raining! ☀), then meet some of the sisters at St Cecilia's convent. We'll finish the day with fish n chips in Ryde, before getting the boat home. To cover the petrol & ferry, we're asking for £25 each (or £15 each for siblings from the same family) - but please get in touch if you want to come but money is an issue. It will be a full day, leaving around 9am, and returning by around 8pm. Please email Fr Joseph if you're interested! joseph.meigh@cliftondiocese.com

CONFIRMATION 2026

The next core session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is on the 12 November 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. To sign up or find out more, click on the button '[Confirmation](#)' on our homepage. Candidates are encouraged to join with Youth Group in the intervening weeks.

Youth Group – For those in Years 8 to 11 who'd like to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. Every Wednesday, 6.30 to 8pm (during term time) in the Parish Centre. For more [information](#), click on 'Youth Group' button on our homepage.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith – For adults who are not confirmed Catholics and for those who are returning to the faith of their childhood. The new programme is underway, the next session is this Sunday 19 October 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.

Baptism Preparation – the last of the three sessions is this Sunday 19 October at St Osmund after the 9am Mass. The next course starts Sunday 2 November at St Gregory after the 11am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage.

Sunday Homily from Bishop Robert Barron (The Power of Prayer) reflects that in the past when something tragic happens people would offer their prayers. In this generation however, in extreme cases, people of prayer are mocked, as though prayer is just something completely ineffectual that we should leave behind in favour of action. Human beings, across cultures, have always believed in the power and efficacy of prayer. Our first reading this week from Exodus 17 beautifully displays this power - and the fact that prayer, far from undermining action, sustains and supports it. To listen and watch, click on the '[Sunday Homily](#)' button on our homepage.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Ordinary Time Week 29 & Psalter 1

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER SAINT LUKE, EVANGELIST

For the Sick of the Parish at St Osmund

09:00 – 12:00 Confessions & Anointing with Adoration after Mass

10:00 St Osmund MASS The Sick of the Parish

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Lisa & Phillip Dunne RIP

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Peter Gange RIP

11:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Mary Buck RIP

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar Rite MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Sally Bradley RIP

Monday 20 October

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Gwyneth Hawkes RIP

Tuesday 21 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Peter & John Harty RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 22 October

10:00 St Gregory MASS Private Intention

Thursday 23 October

09:30 St Osmund Rosary

10:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intentions

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

18:30 Downton MASS (G) Catherine Burchall RIP

Friday 24 October

10:00 St Osmund Requiem MASS June Watson RIP

10:00 St Gregory Rosary

18:00 St Osmund MASS Jane, Hannah & Sophie Tucker

Saturday 25 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Julia in Sickness

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon
and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

For collaboration between different religious traditions

[Let us pray](#) that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray this week for the Parishes of St Gerard Majella (Knowle) & Christ the King (Knowle West).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

June Watson, Peter Blacklock, Jack Cox, Sr Patricia (Paddy) O'Connell, Alfred (Roger) Palliser, Helen Ahern 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

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of God is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Alleluia.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS [For baptisms please register your application.](#) 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.

CONFIRMATION 2026 For children who are year 9 or above please visit our [Confirmation page for information](#) and how to sign up.

MARRIAGE Please speak to a priest for guidance at least six months prior to 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 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