

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

HOLY REDEEMER + ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

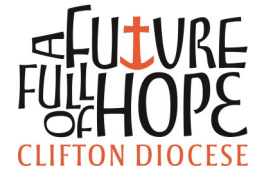
ORDINARY TIME WEEK 20(A)

From Father Anthony

I finished praying the Rosary and entered into the silence that always follows... but, too early for tea! I let the silence grow. Cool air drifted through the open window: Brown Sparrows began their morning conference: an early morning jet sighed overhead. The sun began its slow climb scattering orange light through cracks in the cloud. The more I let the silence build the more my mind chattered; worries, concerns, *fuss, bother and itch...* 'the yapping mind!' Yet, it is in the noise and confusion of these jumbled thoughts that Christ can be found.

Jesus withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Spiritually Tyre and Sidon represents the *yapping mind*: the constant jumble of sensory thoughts and behaviours. Jesus withdraws into this. He withdraws into our mind. There is no need to run from the mind or accuse it; no need to stress and strain over it because it is here that Christ can be found. The art is spotting His presence. It is not necessarily the fine, linear, orthodox thoughts that spot him: nor the lofty silence. Often it is the little yapping thoughts *the house (puppy) dogs that feed off the scraps He leaves behind.* It is *in and around* these thoughts that faith can be found.

We should distinguish between faith and belief. Faith involves belief. Belief, to an extent, is generated by us. Faith is generated by God. Faith is given by God not manufactured by man. The word we translate as *faith* is *pistis*, πίστις; it derives from a root which means *to be persuaded*. God persuades us, in our minds and hearts, to prefer what He wants for us; we are gently bent towards His will, not by force or coercion, but by Love: love, which prefers what the other wants. Our wayward thoughts, because they are wayward, without a home: because they live in fear, anxiety, confusion and much else too: all these are susceptible to His gentleness and care. Christ in us is the Faith we speak about; He is the living expression of the Father that resides in us; He can *persuade us* that things can be different: that we can prefer what the Father prefers. It is the discordant, confused thoughts that need and want Him: they make us aware of Faith (*Christ*) already residing in us. Maybe we need to love the *yapping mind*; not run from it!



PASTORAL TEAM

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Tony outreach@salisburycatholics.org

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"

PARISH UPDATE FROM FATHER ANTHONY

Dear Friends,

I hope you are well and enjoying the summer. If you have been on holiday I hope you are refreshed and enjoyed it: if you are going or are about to go away, I wish you all the very best... come back refreshed, safe and sound.

A fair amount has taken place this year, not to mention the roof & ceiling at St Osmund's, pigeons in the belfry, the refurbishment of St Gregory's Church, work in St Gregory's Hall and permission granted by Bishop Declan to close Holy Redeemer. Onwards and upwards - so I would like to update you, as promised, on the following:

i. Holy Redeemer Proposals are being developed for the use of the land at Holy Redeemer. We are waiting on the Diocese: as soon as I have something concrete I'll come back to you.

ii. Parish Centre I propose to create a Parish Centre at St Elizabeth House, Exeter Street to be known as the Parish of Saint Osmund, Parish Centre: obviously, as a merged parish, this includes all our communities from Whaddon, Downton, Holy Redeemer, Saint Gregory's and St Osmund's – the title simply reflects the name of the merged parish and not the church of the same name. The present tenants are departing and there is an opportunity to reclaim that part of the premises they rented from us. Exactly how and what it is used for will need to be explored and refined but its uses may include youth work, the elderly, parish lunches, coffee mornings, First Holy Communion preparation and Confirmation preparation... and it has plenty of parking! This Parish Centre will be in addition to our current use of that part of the building known as St Elizabeth Hall which we currently hire out on a business footing to generate income for the parish and will continue to do so.

If you feel you could assist in developing the aims, objectives and uses of the Centre – especially its management and administration - I will invite you to attend a facilitated workshop, venue and date to be announced: for now, I'd be very grateful if you would consider ways in which you could assist and be a part of the process of establishing this Centre and get in touch if you'd like to be involved.

iii. Youth

a. Two people have shown interest in becoming our parish youth worker. This is very good news. We will conduct interviews and I'll let you know the outcome.

b. I propose to trial an afterschool club on Sep 20, 27 & Oct 4, 11. It is aimed at primary-aged children who would come along with their parents to St Osmund's Church Hall for about 40mins directly after school finishes. It will be a chance for me to get to know the children and introduce them to various aspects of the sacraments, church life and basic church teaching – nothing too onerous. It will also be a chance for parents to get together over tea or coffee. Parents, please let me know what you think of this idea.

c. Following the after-school trial I will be inviting those Confirmed earlier this year along with those of the two preceding years to a series of get-togethers on Oct 18, 25 & Nov 08, 15. Again, this will be a trial and a chance to socialise, explore further and expand on the life of youth in our churches; it might lead to youth Masses and a series of youth clubs!

iv. Parish Pastoral Council Our Pastoral Council will reform in the Autumn. Details to follow soon.

Love and prayers

Anthony

PARISH FINANCES

Dear Parishioners,

The St Osmund Parish Consolidated 2022 Financial Statements, which include the results of St Elizabeth Hall and House are now on our website. These can be found by clicking on the 'Finance' button on our homepage or [click here](#). There are printed copies available in all of our churches. I apologise for the delay in publishing the 2022 results and in order to provide you with a more current position, the results for the first six months of 2023 are also presented on the same page.

We should not be complacent about the fact that at the end of 2022, net assets totalled just over £1M as the operating surplus for 2022 was only £10,735 and, after excluding the income generated from our rental properties, there was a loss of £55,400. For the first six months of 2023, after excluding the impact of the rental properties, the loss escalated to £101,765. This loss was mainly attributable to the cost of repairing the St. Osmund's Church roof, refurbishing St Gregory's Hall and Church and removing asbestos from parish properties. We anticipate further significant costs, including the costs relating to the works identified as part of the quinquennial assessment with the Diocese, to ensure that the St. Osmund and St. Gregory properties are 'Fit for Purpose'.

Further explanations of the financial results are provided under the Financial Highlights at the end of each set of figures. If you have any questions, please email me on Finance.Salisbury@cliftondiocese.com.

God Bless

Mike Riding

Chairperson of the St Osmund Finance Committee

To mark the Feast the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary next Tuesday 22 August there will be sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) with Benediction at 6pm in St Osmund's Church. Led by our priests, we are all invited to honour Our Lady in this beautiful service either in person or by joining online.

New Dawn Conference 2023 Blessed by Pope Francis and endorsed by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, New Dawn in the Church is a Catholic Conference that takes place each year at the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. This year on Day 3 our very own Fr Joseph delivered a wonderful homily at the Mass. To watch the video click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

SCORE collection The retiring collection this weekend is for SCORE Overseas Projects. The next SCORE committee meeting is in early September so please submit any grant application before the end of this month. A form can be found on the website under Parish Life/SCORE or [click here](#).

Food and Friendship is the new name for the Parish lunch which is moving to the refurbished St Gregory's Hall instead of its former location in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund's. This will enable people that live at the Bemerton side of town to attend and will allow car drivers and Community transport to easily park or drop off at the adjoining carpark. The time and frequency will be as before, 12.30pm every second Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome to join us for a home cooked lunch. We just ask for a donation to cover the cost of food and any remainder goes to our charity of the month. Our first date is Thursday 14 September at 12.30pm. Contact Jane at jane.waspe@btinternet.com

My Generation are having a sale to raise funds to help towards their running costs. Suitable items would be gratefully received and can be left in St. Gregory's Church porch. The sale is on Wednesday 20 September in St Gregory's Hall. For more information contact Chris Francis.01722 321109.

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH

To all our wonderful volunteers your packs will be available this weekend at all our Sunday Masses. If you cannot locate your pack please do let us know as it may have gone to the wrong church. Please note that if it is not convenient to pick them up at Sunday Mass you can always pop into the Office any weekday between 9am and 4pm. The cards can be posted as soon as you wish, the hope is that the cards will be delivered by 17 September.

These cards have been designed for those who may be interested in the Catholic church or for those who may wish to re-engage but just do not know where to begin. It will give them details of how to get the support and accompaniment we can offer them on their faith journey. The contact page referred to on the card can be found by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or by [clicking here](#).

If you are fit enough to simply post cards, why not join in? It's not too late! 17,000 cards have been spoken for but we have 3,000 spare cards to be delivered. You can do as few or as many as you choose/have time for! Call the Parish Office 01722 562703 or email: outreach@salisburycatholics.org

EXPLORING YOUR FAITH

The Nicodemus Group: For people who wish to share their faith (or lack of it!) with others in a very simple way; by sharing a meal together and reading the Gospels. The first meeting in the new series will be on Wednesday 11 October at 7pm in the St Elizabeth Hall, Exeter Street.

Journey in Faith: This is a programme for adults who are interested in Christianity but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next meeting will be on Sunday 3 September at 4.30pm in the Parish Rooms next to St Osmund's Church on Exeter Street.

For more information please visit 'Exploring Your Faith' on our main menu or [click here](#), or contact Dave Blake rcia@salisburycatholics.org

DON'T FORGET THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Come and pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Friday 1 September 7-9pm at St Osmund. Starting with Mass of the Holy Spirit at 7pm (with Fr Matt Anscombe) followed by testimony, teaching, discussion and prayer. This will be the 'launch' event for a series of Life in the Spirit seminars which will then take place on the following 6 Friday evenings following the evening Mass. The full programme can be viewed by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#). If you'd like to get involved in the preparation/delivery in any way, please contact the office or Deacon John Proctor.

Baptism Our next course will take place on three Sundays at St Osmund: 3, 10, and 17 September consisting of attendance at the 9am Mass followed by a one hour meeting in the Presbytery. Please register with the Parish Office on 01722 562703. To apply for a baptism please complete a 'Baptism Application' by clicking on the 'Registration' button on our homepage or by [clicking here](#).

Sacramental Preparation for 2024

First Holy Communion - If you have a Child that has just completed Year 2 (going into **Yr 3 or above** in September) and you wish to enrol them in the next programme, **the deadline is 9 September 2023**.

Confirmation - If you have a child that has just completed Year 8 (going into **Yr 9 or above** in September) and you wish to enrol them in the next programme, the deadline is 3 February 2024.

Please register for either programme by clicking on the 'Registration' button on our home page or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-1 Week 20 and Psalter 4

Saturday 19 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Eilish Duffin

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS People of the Parish

SUNDAY 20 August

09:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Tony & Family

09:00 St Osmund MASS Maureen Moore 90th birthday

11:00 St Osmund MASS Fred Giles RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

15:00 St Gregory Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Geraldine McGurk

Monday 21 August **Saint Pius X, Pope**

10:00 St Osmund MASS Bridie & Harry Clapham RIP

Tuesday 22 August **Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jacqueline Ferrin

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 **St Osmund Sung Vespers and Benediction**

Wednesday 23 August

10:00 Holy Redeemer MASS P J Chacko RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 24 August **SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE**

10:00 St Osmund MASS In remembrance of
William Vaz RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 25 August

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Jovit Merin
Vazhappilly

19:00 St Osmund MASS Liz Wallace

Saturday 26 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Doris Phelan RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS People of the Parish

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 August

For World Youth Day

We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

[Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray this week for the parish of English Martyrs (Chard, with Crewkerne & Ilminster).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

June Kelly, David Maycock, Jennifer Pothecary, Anne Gillam, Patricia Thomas, Janet O'Callaghan and Peggy (Margaret) Fletcher. We also pray for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 56:1,6-7

Psalms 66

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Romans 11:13-15,29-32

Alleluia, alleluia!

The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Matthew 15:21-28

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, 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