

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 3(B) SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

From Father Anthony

I sat in the office early one morning, needle and thread in hand... tea on the desk. I was attempting to mend a shirt. I gazed out of the window and felt the sharp prick of the needle... payment for inattention, ouch! Orange light glinted off vapour trails, as they raced towards the east. The sun rose in a cloudless sky. Gangsters and Spivs argued on the church roof; they danced menacingly around one another and flapped like washing on a line. After the third stab I paid attention and thought about fishermen mending their nets.

Last week we spoke about Jesus's invitation to *come and see* where He resided in Himself: what made Him what He was and is: the state of being that made Him Divine, sometimes referred to as Pure Consciousness. This Consciousness underpins everything. From it emerge our thoughts and ideas which in turn condition what we say and do, how we feel and how we affect the world and others creatively. It is not consciousness *of* or *about* something. It is unconditioned consciousness in itself; I AM'ness. And, I AM, is a name for God and Jesus. Unconditioned Consciousness was often referred to as the Net or Matrix. Under proper direction and with appropriate concentration, it is from this Consciousness that we become co-creators with God... or otherwise! Very often we find that *our net* is 'torn' and needs mending: our thoughts, feelings and creative ability are wild and dysfunctional being led by, rather than leading, the world or *boat* (*symbol of the physical*).

However, we have been given a *gift of God* (*meaning of Zebedee*). We have been given the faculty of Wisdom or Right Judgment (*James*) and the ability to Love Spiritually (*John*). These two united with Faith (*Peter*) and Strength (*Andrew*) are the faculties we must use to master our unconditioned consciousness. When we do we become as God is... in ancient times we would have been called masters of the Net; as Christians, Christlike.

Jesus, the form of Christ within us, calls these faculties out of us. He will teach us how to lead ourselves, others and the world spiritually rather than being led like sheep by a blind, material world. Our torn net is repaired (*repented*) by following and being taught by Him. We move from a physical to a spiritual focus, i.e. we leave our boats and follow Him.



PASTORAL TEAM

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OUR CHURCHES
St Osmund
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St Gregory & the English Martyrs
St Gregory's Ave SP2 7JP

Chapel of the Good Shepherd
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NEW TO THE PARISH?
We wish you a very warm welcome.
Please register online at:
<https://salisburycatholics.org>
click "Registration/update"

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

In the Motu proprio (literally, 'of his own initiative'), Pope Francis declared in 2019, that 'the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God. 'Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world'. On our webpage we have a series called 'Echoes of God' produced by *godwhospeaks.uk* which help us get a sense of the Scriptures as a whole. To see the unfolding of God's liberating and creative love in the history of Israel and in the Church, click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is a response to Christ's prayer "that they all may be one" (John 17:21). It is an eight-day period of prayer in which all Christians are invited to participate. The week is celebrated each year from 18 to 25 January, concluding on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have provided a resource with reflections and prayers for each day. Please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Congratulations to Tina Arnold and Mark Day - Tina who was Received and Confirmed into the Catholic Church and Mark who was Baptised, both at the 7pm Mass at St Osmund last Friday followed by a celebration in the Parish Rooms. Photos can be found by clicking on their image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#). *'May the Lord always protect and guide them'*.

Parish Centre - thank you so much to those who came last week and who have volunteered to come again tomorrow. Please come and join them if you can! We managed to get most of the work done, but there is still a little bit more to do so if anyone has an hour or so free to help this Saturday, 10am - noon, please just turn up. Entrance is via the rear of Saint Elizabeth Hall (the car park). We have car parking spaces for those helping to clean. Cleaning materials are supplied and tea and coffee is available. Thank you

St Osmund Votive Candle Stands - We are in real need of volunteer/s to service our votive candle stands every couple of weeks. Please do click on the image in the 'Top News' box to watch the video to see what it entails or [click here](#) and if you feel able to help us please do contact the Office on 01722 562703 or email outreach@salisburycatholics.org Please help if you can.

St Gregory's Livestream is now up and transmitting! Liturgies will be livestreamed from St Gregory exactly the same way as currently from St Osmund and will be available 24/7. If you need any support or help to access the Masses, please contact Tony in the Parish Office.

Coffee & Cake in the Parish Rooms. This lovely social event will continue each week after the 10am Mass at St Osmund on a Thursday. Everyone is welcome.

Parish Rosary Group meets to pray the Rosary together via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm. Please contact Josephine on 01722 328410 for information. Everyone is welcome to join.

SCORE There will be a retiring collection this weekend 20 & 21 January for Overseas Projects.

Justice & Peace Group are next meeting on Thursday 25 January at 7.30pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. Items on the agenda are Burma, the environment and growing the group. Do come along with your ideas.

Head Teacher Vacancy St George's Catholic Primary School in Warminster is seeking to appoint a new headteacher as soon as possible. The deadline for applications is 2 February. For further information, please contact the school on 01985 218284. Website: <https://st-georgesrc.wilts.sch.uk/>.

LENTEN RETREAT: FROM THE DESERT TO THE MOUNTAIN 22-25TH FEBRUARY 2024

Following the wonderful and highly successful Parish Retreat last year, we will be returning to the Franciscan Centre near Godalming for a retreat to kick-start your Lenten experience so that enter the Easter season with a renewed sense of faith and personal mission. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Parish Office and put your name down to receive the information pack. There will be 25-30 places available. The cost per person is about £250-£300. If you cannot go, but would like to contribute to the costs to enable someone else to go who otherwise would not be able to afford it, why not make this part of your Lenten almsgiving?

Retiring Collection next week (27/28th Jan) and again on 17th/18th Feb after all our Masses will be to enable you to support this if you would like to. All money collected will go towards helping those who cannot afford a place on the retreat to attend.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pope Francis has announced that the Church will celebrate a Jubilee Year in 2025, with the theme 'Pilgrims of Hope' and that there will be two years dedicated to helping people prepare for the celebrations.

2023 – The Year of the Council: We are called to return to the four Constitutions of the 2nd Vatican Council which was called by Pope St. John XXIII (1962-65) to renew the Church. These resources can be found by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

2024 – The Year of Prayer: Pope Francis has also called on all Catholics to spend this year deepening their prayer lives. There is a particular focus on the 'Our Father' for which we have the audio on the same page as above as well as a 'Pilgrims of Prayer Booklet', produced by the Institute of Jesuits, which introduces ways of praying to develop our spiritual health, our relationship with God and the world.

Journey in Faith: This is a programme for adults who are interested in Christianity but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next meeting is this Sunday 21 January at 4.30pm in the Parish Rooms next to St Osmund's Church on Exeter Street. For more on this programme please visit 'Exploring Your Faith' on our main menu or [click here](#).

A glimpse of the Syro-Malabar Church With almost five million faithful, the Syro-Malabar Church is the second-largest Eastern Church which is in full union with Rome tracing its origins to the Apostle Saint Thomas. The Church has recently appointed a new 'Major Archbishop', for more on this event plus some background of the Church, to which many of our own parishioners belong, please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Baptism. Our next preparation course will take place at St Osmund's on three Sundays 18 & 25 February and 3 March commencing with the 9am Mass followed by a meeting in the Presbytery. If you plan to attend, please [click here](#) to apply or ring the Parish Office.

First Holy Communion 2024 Last Saturday the children on the programme received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The next session: 'Liturgy of the Word' is on Saturday 3 February at 2pm in St Gregory's Church. All the information and the programme schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Confirmation 2024 The next event on our programme of preparation is the residential retreat which occurs next weekend, leaving on Friday 26th evening for Buckfast Abbey (Dartmoor) and returning on Sunday 28th. All the details have been emailed to the group and are also available on our Confirmation page (under Sacraments) on our website or [click here](#), then select '10 January 2024 - Fr Joseph to the Candidates'.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-2 Ordinary Time Week 3 and Psalter 3

Saturday 20 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Alan Gibson RIP

First Mass of Sunday **Sunday of the Word of God**

18:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

SUNDAY 21 January

09:00 St Gregory MASS Chiara Campari-Moss RIP
10th Anniversary

09:00 St Osmund MASS Marianne Clare RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS For those bereaved during
the past year

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Pamela Finch RIP

16:30 St Gregory Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Michael, Susan & Peter Leyden
RIP

Monday 22 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Muricken RIP

Tuesday 23 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Doris Phelan RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 24 January **Saint Francis de Sales**

10:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Muricken RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 25 January **THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL**

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 26 January **Saints Timothy & Titus**

10:00 St Gregory MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

19:00 St Osmund MASS Alice Joseph RIP

Saturday 27 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Anne & Maurice
Williams

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Jim Presley 80th Birthday

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis Intention for January - For the gift of diversity in the Church: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church. [Click here](#).

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parishes of St Joseph (Stonehouse) and The Annunciation (Woodchester).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Natalie Morabito, Joan Cave, Marianne Clare and Sheila Crooks 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

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Ps 24

Lord, make me know your ways.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The kingdom of God is close at hand:
repent, and believe the Good News.**

Alleluia!

Mark 1:14-20

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 Sept 2024, please use our online form to join our 2025 programme. [Click here](#).

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who will be in Year 9 or above from Sept 2024, 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

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after the 10:00 Mass & Saturdays 17:30 until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays after the 10:00 Mass (extended hours on the first Saturday in the month have been paused for the time being)

and by prior appointment with our priests.