

SALISBURY CATHOLIC CHURCHES

HOLY REDEEMER + ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 21 (B)

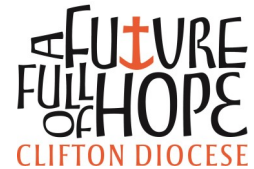
From Father Anthony...

Cool morning breeze curled around my ankles. Tea steamed. Reds, pinks, violets and a fountain of white settled comfortably into the green. The garden looked plump and mature. Tree tops waved, Gangsters loitered on the school roof and sparrows squabbled. But nothing ventured onto the lawn. Eyes peered from under a bush. A beautiful Tabby padded slowly across the grass and sat. We blinked at each other and just as I thought we had made contact... he fled! So much for my communication skills.

The initial 'vehicle' for conveying spiritual experience is language. However, language is already invested with secular meaning and common understanding. There is a moment when the secular and spiritual clash. The secular meaning or image will not 'translate' across to the spiritual unless we have already had the spiritual experience and can reinvest the secular word with spiritual meaning. Without the spiritual experience, language used of it, can seem 'barmy' at best, 'blasphemous' at worst (*intolerable*).

Jesus has been saying, 'I am the Bread of Life' and 'unless you eat my flesh'. The secular mind thinks, 'how can you be a piece of bread' or 'how can you be eaten?' It cannot understand the deeper meaning without having had the spiritual experience. Jesus says '*It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life*'. In other words, the secular meaning (*flesh*) cannot do duty for the spiritual experience... it has nothing to offer. We must venture to experience beyond our comfortable, secular understanding.

Until we do there can be a period in spiritual development when, overtly or covertly, we turn away. We've come far enough! We may continue to pay lip service but, deep inside, don't believe what is being said. According to the Saints this is, strangely, a positive outcome. No longer are we following blindly but have made a solid *contact* with Christ. It might be negative contact (*turning away*) but it is still contact. To turn away implies turning away from something or someone! In turning away, we also make solid contact with the desert of our own secular beliefs. When these beliefs fail to satisfy, we may, like the disciples, realise that there is nowhere else to go other than Christ. The moment of our turning away *from* Him is the beginning our return *to* Him.



PASTORAL TEAM

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Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
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Parish Office

Open: Monday-Friday 0900 to 1700

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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"

**REGISTERED PARISHIONERS
TO DATE : 2808**

CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS AT ST OSMUND'S AND DONATE WEBPAGE

The contactless card reader for donations is now operational in the porch at St Osmund. The card reader has been set up to accept donations for: St Osmund's Offertory, SCORE and St Osmund's Building Fund.

The 'Donate' page on our website has the same options plus two additional: Holy Redeemer Account and St Gregory Account' for parishioners of those parishes.

Gift Aid - The new card machine at St Osmund and the website page will have the ability to add Gift Aid to your donation (if you are an eligible taxpayer and wish to do so). It is recommended however that if you wish to add Gift Aid you do so on the 'Donate' webpage first. Thereafter, once your payment card is registered, the card reader and the 'Donate' webpage will recognise it the next time you make a payment. There is a button on our homepage for 'Donate' and also on the main menu.

Previously using Paypal? If you had set up scheduled payments from your Paypal account during the Pandemic, please now cancel these as we are no longer be using Paypal. Please use the new system outlined above.

Find all this confusing? We're here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact the parish office if you would like some assistance navigating the new systems.

SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE 24 AUGUST

'Son of Tolmai' is one of the twelve apostles named in the first three Gospels but said by modern scholars to be referred to in John's Gospel as Nathaniel. He was called by Philip to follow Jesus 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote'. Tradition has him preaching in India and Armenia where he is said to have been put to death. You can read the full story of Saint Bartholomew and watch a video about him by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or by [clicking here](#).

Saint Monica 27 August

Today, with Google searches, online shopping, text messages, tweets, and instant credit, we have little patience for things that take time. Likewise, we want instant answers to our prayers. Monica is a model of patience. Her long years of prayer, coupled with well-disciplined character, finally led to the conversion of her hot-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law and her brilliant but wayward son, Augustine. For the story of St Monica please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Saint Augustine 28 August

Augustine (354-430), son of Saint Monica, was brought up a Christian, although not baptised. He went on to virtually renounce his Christian faith and lived for 15 years with a mistress by whom he had a son. Augustine went to Rome and Milan where he met Saint Ambrose who baptised him in 386. Returning to Africa, he was ordained in 391 and four years later became Bishop of Hippo. For the full story of Saint Augustine click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#)

Season of Creation - Walk on 19 September

Christians throughout the world are celebrating a 'Season of Creation', starting on 1 September and closing with the Feast of St Francis on 4 October. It is an ecumenical celebration of prayer and action for our common home. Following the Creation narrative from the Book of Genesis, you are invited to join other local Christians on a walk from Salisbury Cathedral to St George's Church in Harnham, calling at seven 'Stations' - each Station marking one of the seven days of Creation. The walk takes place on 19 September and starts from Mompesson House in the Cathedral Close at 15:00. For more information click on the image in the 'Top News' box, [click here](#), or contact Graham on 01980 590465 or 07484 736398.

Salisbury Food Bank. During September we are collecting Long Life Fruit Juice for the Food Bank. Please place contributions in the box in any of our churches. Thank you.

MEETINGS ON ZOOM Please use the contacts below if you would like to join (all are welcome).

Tuesday 24 August 15:00 HR/Whaddon House Mass

Tony Peters-Ennis on 01722 562703

Tuesdays at 19:30 Weekly Alabaré Christian Community

Deacon John Proctor john@alabare.org

Wednesdays at 14:30 Rosary Group

Josephine on 01722 328410

Thursdays at 18:30 Downton Service of the Word

michael.rennie@velaplan.co.uk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The programme for 2021 is underway. The next meeting will be at Holy Redeemer on 11 September at 14:00. All the details of the programme can be found by clicking on the 'First Holy Communion 2021' button on our Home page or [click here](#). This programme (which is now full) will be completed by the end of October with a plan for First Communion celebrations in November.

If you have a **child that is currently in Year 3 or above at school whom you would like to make their First Communion during 2022**, please complete the online First Holy Communion Application Form at:

<https://p1.pamis.co.uk/salisbury/onlined01cab> or by clicking the 'Registration' button on our Homepage. If you have any questions about First Holy Communion, please email: fhc@salisbury Catholics.org

BAPTISMS

For baptism preparation at Holy Redeemer and St Osmund please contact Deacon John Proctor on 07802 631968 or email: john.proctor@clifftondiocese.com For baptism preparation at St Gregory's, please contact Deacon Steve Godwin by email stephen.godwin@clifftondiocese.com

Congratulations and welcome to Abigail Elizabeth Mowbray and Oliver Graca who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Saturday 14 August. Please keep Abigail, her parents Mary & Luke and Oliver, his parents Paulina & Krystian in your prayers at this special time.

Lourdes 'Virtual' Pilgrimage 2021

For the 2021 Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage, we are all invited to join as virtual pilgrims. Throughout the week 21-27 August 2021, a virtual programme is in place which will enable us to journey together in the footsteps of St Bernadette into deeper relationship with Jesus through His Mother, Mary. The programme, which includes the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and talks begins on Friday 20 August and will include daily night prayers with Fr Michael Thomas of our Diocese. There will also be short videos exploring Lourdes along with many other live events. For more information and to follow the Pilgrimage please click on the image in the 'Top News' or [click here](#).

Catechist's Day

On Saturday 25 September the Diocese are looking to draw together catechists as well as those involved in parish formation and evangelisation, for an opportunity for conversation and formation, focusing on family catechesis. Numbers will be limited for the day so please register through adult.education@clifftondiocese.com. Full details of the day can be found by clicking the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

The Gospel according to John

Fr Jonathan recently encouraged us all to 'take on board' the whole of John's Gospel and not just the parts we hear or read at Mass. To facilitate this, we have made available on our website a narrated audio of each of the first 12 chapters. To listen just click on the 'Gospel of John' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Parish Mission: What matters now?

A Mission is planned for the week commencing Monday 31 August. Each evening session will commence at 19:00, will be led by the Alabare community and will alternate between the churches of St Osmund and St Gregory. The mission will culminate with a lunch at St Gregory's Hall on Saturday 4 September from 12:00 to 14:00. Please find the full details by clicking the button on our Homepage or [click here](#).

The God Who Speaks. This week's reflection is by Bishop Jim Golka, recorded three years ago but still reflects this Sunday's readings. To watch & listen [click here](#) or click on 'The God Who Speaks' button on our homepage.

Sunday Homily by Bishop Robert Barron. "Friends, today's Gospel concludes John's reflection on the Eucharist. At the end of this remarkable chapter, we are faced with a question that defines the Christian faith: Will you follow Christ? May we always answer as Peter does." To listen, click on the 'Sunday Homily' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

