

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

LENT WEEK 3(C)



From Father Anthony

¹ Recently, the garden was cut back severely and reshaped. I knew it was for the good, but it hurt to see it happen. I'd become so comfortable and attached to it as *it was*. Yet this comfort, attachment and the happiness I derived from it, was in fact killing it... in the sense of it becoming overgrown, shapeless and turning to seed. The gunslinger commiserated with me from the bay tree with a lovely evening song, daffodils smiled encouragement, and the sun sank peacefully on clouds of scarlet and gold... and the 'biscuit tea' tasted excellent.

"But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" Sounds harsh and quite threatening! But is it? Repentance means *a change of mind and heart*. Like my attachment to the garden, as *it was*, we all grow comfortable and attached to the way we *think* and *feel*, which determines what we *do* and *say* and how we experience ourselves and the world. I can only speak for myself but, the truth is, that what I perceive and feel of as myself, is like an overgrown garden going to seed. I'm anxious, lethargic, blame others for everything, find fault with the world and so on. This makes me sad, irritable and angry. And then I get remorseful for being like it! It's like a hamster wheel; *a spiral of despair*. The fig tree, which represents our lives, in my case, is not bearing any fruit. Maybe you can identify with some of this? What makes it worse is that after prayer, meditation and much spiritual reading; after listening to many wise people; after trying to *change my mind and my heart*... I'm still the same! Nothing seems to work!

The reason for this, I suspect, is because... *I'm doing it*. I'm using the problem to solve the problem. Just as an eye can't see itself, *I cannot solve myself because I am myself*. I can't cut down the garden that I am because I am it. But... I can come into the Presence of one who can transform me. I can invite Him in and trust that, in Power, Wisdom and Love, He will conform my mind and heart to His and then... I might begin to bear fruit. The person is Jesus; Lent is the time to open the door of our heart and invite Him in.

¹ **PS** over the next three weeks we are allowed to and will use readings from year A – in line with the Rites of those coming into the church at Easter which are based on year A. It is the readings from year A you will hear during the liturgy. However, I've based my thoughts on Year C and urge you to read them so that we do not lose touch with them over the years. Thanks.

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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](#)

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](#).

Assisted Suicide - Ahead of the Bill's Third Reading and vote, likely to take place in late April or early May, Bishop Sherrington insists all is not lost and that there's still time to contact your MP to ask them to oppose assisted suicide becoming law. Please click on the Assisted Suicide button on our homepage or [click here](#) to watch the video.

St Osmund's Primary School Stations of the Cross Thursday 27 March - 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. Previous years have been a huge success and it is a very moving experience to travel Jesus' journey with the Cross as interpreted by our children. Once again, parishioners and family members are very welcome to attend on Thursday 27 March at any time between 8:40-11:15am and 1:30-4pm.

Choir for the Easter Triduum in St Gregory's & St Osmund's Fr Joseph is organising a group of singers to support and enhance the music at our Triduum liturgies. With the one Triduum occurring across both churches members from both are warmly invited to form one choir. **The first get-together will be next Tuesday 25 March** followed by rehearsals on the next three Tuesdays 1 April, 8 April & 15 April all in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund at 6.30pm. Please do let the Parish Office know if you are able to attend.

ENCIRCLES is a charity with a Mission is to Feed the Hungry and Homeless in the Salisbury area. ENCIRCLES is looking for volunteers to provide 30 sandwiches, once a month, at the Salisbury Coach Park, around 6:55pm on either Monday, Thursday or Friday. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Mike Riding at Finance.Salisbury@cliftondiocese.com."

The Parish Lenten Retreat is now fully booked and final numbers have been submitted to the Franciscan Centre. **There will be a Retiring Collection this weekend 22 & 23 March** to help defray additional costs and to help those who cannot afford a place on the retreat now or in the future. Gift Aid envelopes will be available, please use one if you are a taxpayer.

Priests' Retirement Fund - Next weekend we also have a retiring collection for the Priests' Retirement Fund. This annual collection helps support our sick and retired priests. It allows the diocese to help retired priests living on their own, and if needed care home fees. Your generosity is much appreciated. To enhance the value of your gift, special gift aid envelopes will be available in all our churches - please use one if you are a taxpayer.

Lent Resources – For all on our website including times, dates and locations of all our Lent Services, in Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum. Please click on the 'Lent' button on our homepage or [click here](#)

Diocesan Jubilee Celebration of Hope 19 July Downside School & Abbey – There will be keynote speakers for the adults as well as a children's & young people's programme throughout the day. For all the details and how to book click on the image in the Top News box or [click here](#).

St Joseph's School - As part of our close working relationship with our Catholic schools, we are delighted to have a weekly update from the headteacher of activity at St Joseph's Catholic Secondary school.

<https://sics.org.uk/communications/>

THE FIRST SCRUTINY FOR THE ELECT OF OUR PARISH

The Elect are those who desire to be fully incorporated into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. They will be here with us over the coming weeks for the next liturgical rites in this process: the Scrutinies, the Presentation of the Creed and the Our Father. The Scrutinies of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults are celebrated on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. On these Sundays 'Year A' readings are used as they closely parallel the conversion journey toward baptism and powerfully convey the importance of faith in Christ as the mark of readiness to follow his way. ***The entire parish will pray and reflect on the same readings as the Elect, even if the Elect will not be present at every Mass on these Sundays.***

The Elect will be presented for the first scrutiny this Sunday at the 9am Mass at St Osmund.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ELECT OF OUR PARISH

Sandy, Tom, Isabelle, Angela, Jody, Selina and Josh

FOR THE YOUNG

FLAME 2025 last Saturday 15 March the Wembley arena was packed with 10,800 youth, the largest Catholic youth event bar World Youth day, on stage lots of singing, dancing, drama, prayer with audience participation, all linked to our faith and prayer. Bear Grylls talked about God being the key focus in his life. Cardinal Vincent led Adoration for the last part of the day and spoke to us all of Jesus' name being carved in our hearts. Quotes from our fine group: favourite part- 'all of us praying together'; 'being together in prayer was so nice' and 'the silence of over 10,000 people was so beautiful'. Thank you to our group and thank you to all who helped and prayed for us.

Sunday 23 March St Osmund's 6pm Mass will have more of a youth vibe with our young people joining. If you have a young person who has *not* yet tapped into what's going on in the parish, why not bring them along to this Sunday evening Mass?

Big Sleep Friday 28 March - Father Joseph and a few members of the Youth Group are giving up their warm beds for the night and joining the BIG Sleep at Salisbury Cathedral, sleeping on the cold stone floor while raising funds and awareness for Alabaré's work with homeless. Please dig deep and sponsor by clicking on the link below or click on the 'Big Sleep' image in the 'Top News' box. [St Osmund's Parish is fundraising for Alabaré](#) .

Youth Group - Wednesdays in term time 6.30 - 8pm in the Parish Centre.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Family of Faith the next session this Sunday 23 March beginning at our morning 9am Masses continuing afterwards at our Parish Centre. For all the dates click on the '[Family of Faith](#)' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Confirmation - The Confirmation group will next meet on Palm Sunday (13 April) but are warmly invited to join with the Youth Group in the interim. Please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#) for more information.

Young(ish) Catholic Adults Group for those in their 20s, 30s, 40s?! Next session is Tuesday 25 March at 8pm. All young adults welcome; contact Fr Joseph for more info.

Journey in Faith - The next session is Sunday 30 March at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Contact Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliffondiocese.com if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

Congratulations and welcome to - Lucas Ivancek who will receive the sacrament of Baptism this Sunday 23 March St Gregory 9am Mass. Please keep Lucas, his Parents Marina & Danijel and the godparents in your prayers.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

.Year C-1 Lent Week 3 & Psalter 3

Saturday 22 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Hansel D'Cruz RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Tony Brady RIP

SUNDAY 23 MARCH

09:00 St Gregory MASS James & Margaret Harley RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS Julius Pop RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS The People of the Parish

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intention

Monday 24 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Czeslava Maciejewska RIP

TUESDAY 25 MARCH THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

10:00 St Osmund MASS Michael Wykeham RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 26 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS Katie Jo Abrahams RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 27 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS For Beth

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 28 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS Doris Phelan RIP

17:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

18:00 St Osmund MASS The Elect of our Parish

Saturday 29 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jessica & Thomas

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Doris & Nicholas Phelan RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after the 10am Mass & Saturdays 5.30pm until Mass

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

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR MARCH

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parishes of Holy Family (Swindon) / St Joseph (Wroughton).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Andrew Scarfe, Sylvia Weston, Leslie Dodd, Kathleen Stacey, Norman Meech and Julie Gray 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: Year A Readings Lent Wk 3 Psalm Response

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts'.

Gospel Acclamation

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**

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 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. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who will be in Year 9 or above from Sept 2025, please use our online form to apply to join our preparation programme for 2026. [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 Désirée for more details: office@salisburycatholics.org

FOR LENT

Lent Resources - Please click on the 'Lent' button on our homepage or [click here](#) for all of the following:

Doors onto Salvation: - daily reflections on images, Bible texts, and action points, leading up to Christ's death.

Lent - A reflection on Lent by Bishop Robert Barron.

Confession - In a short video Fr. Alek walks us through how to make a good confession.

The Way of the Cross - Cardinal Nichols invites us to follow him through the Stations of the Cross.

Paschal Triduum - Canon Christopher Whitehead talks us through the 7 days of Holy Week.

Plus times, dates and locations of all our Lent Services, in Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum.