

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 3(A)

From Father Anthony.

It was a filthy morning, cold, overcast, wet and windy. I sat by the window, tea steaming, looking at the dour skyline. Gangsters bundled into the eaves; a couple of seagulls circled, and a siren ruined the quiet of morning. Everything had gone to ground apart from a solitary crow perched on a chimney stack. Braving the weather, he sat there, stoically, pondering it all. I had something to learn from him... or her.

We began the year with Our Lady, *'pondering in her heart'*. And now Her Son, our Master, tells us very explicitly to *'Repent, for the kingdom of the heavens has drawn near'*. Perhaps we should ponder His meaning: ponder over the life we are leading to see if we want to reconsider the way we are thinking, speaking and acting. The Kingdom of Heaven is not a cliché; it is a reality and it is at hand. In other words, it can be found as an experience that transforms who and how we are. To experience it we must reconsider (*repent*) our lives and be open to transformation. Try and imagine letting everything go; experience the abode of God as happiness, power and eternity; He has your back, no condemnation, just total love, acceptance and understanding; no worry, concern or fear... the Kingdom of Heaven, here and now, where you are. To apprehend it we must reconsider how we are living... ponder our lives.

In the abode of God, God is allowed to be God; in the Kingdom of God, found within, He is allowed to be God in our lives. We do not have to ask for anything, pray for anything, worry about anything because, being God, He not only knows our needs but supplies for them. We do not concern ourselves about good and evil because they are effects, not cause. They are the effects of forgetting that there is *one power only*... God. Our prayer or meditation is not about asking or seeking but resting in and allowing God to flow through us knowing He will take care of body, mind and spirit.

This may seem obvious or traditional... but what if it's the truth? The world seems to have forgotten God and look at what an unhappy, vicious, confused, self-preoccupied, catastrophically led and governed place it has become. Is it not time to reconsider... have a change of mind and heart... repent?

Forthcoming Mass Time Changes take effect soon – from Sunday 8 February and all the details can be found on our [website](#). More details about the 11am Mass at St Osmund's overleaf.



PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

Rev Anthony B Paris VF (Parish Priest)
01722 333581 or 07544 053785

anthony.paris@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Joseph Columba Meigh
(Assistant Priest)

01722 333581

joseph.meigh@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Tomas Krejci (Priest Sarum
Ordinariate & Assistant Priest)

tomas.krejci@cliftondiocese.com

Rev George James

(Priest in Residence at CTK, Amesbury
& Assistant Priest)

renjith.james@cliftondiocese.com

SALISBURY DEACONS

Rev John Detain (Deacon)

01722 415588

john.detain@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Stephen Godwin (Deacon)

07583 254488

stephen.godwin@cliftondiocese.com

Rev John Proctor (Deacon)

07802 631968

john.proctor@cliftondiocese.com

PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

01722 562703

salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

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](#)

MASS CHANGES AHEAD – FROM 8 FEBRUARY

11am Mass at St Osmund - Solemn Mass

'Like the Master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old' (Mt 13:52)

When the 11am Mass returns to St Osmund's, we will try to give it a more solemn, traditional 'character'. Expect more traditional hymns on our newly-restored pipe organ, the use of incense, some plainchant, and some of the common prayers of the Mass to use Latin. We would love a quiet and prayerful atmosphere prior to Mass, and that parishioners would arrive in good time to minimise disruption. The introduction of a 'Solemn Mass' for the parish would be a wonderful opportunity for people who have not previously been involved to be so! If you are planning to attend this Mass from 8 February onwards and would be willing to assist in any way (eg. welcoming, reading, altar-serving, singing, distribution of Holy Communion...), please contact the parish office or speak to a member of the clergy.

The Sunday Mass at St Gregory's will return to 9am and will continue to be a warm, relaxed environment with a contemporary feel and is an excellent Mass for families with children, and a welcoming community. There is also plenty of space for children to roam free at the vibrant after-Mass coffee gathering and children's Liturgy of the Word.

PARISH OFFICE & COMMUNICATIONS

Very soon we will stop using the email addresses that end '....@salisburycatholics.org'. To ensure appropriate security, confidentiality and control over our communications, we are moving over to exclusive use of our Diocesan email addresses. It would assist us enormously if you would now delete these email addresses from your address book and begin to use this one for the parish office: **salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com**

Volunteering in the Parish – Are you computer literate? Organised? Comfortable using the telephone? Have a few (regular) hours that you could offer to help in the parish office? We would love to hear from you. We also often need assistance on an 'ad hoc' basis at busy times with practical matters too. If you'd like to help in any way, please contact Caroline in the parish office or speak to one of the Deacons. We could really do with some help! Many thanks.

Mass time change on Thursday 29 January – Mass will be at 11am on this day. This will be a Requiem Mass for Michael Pearce to which all are welcome. As there is also a funeral service taking place in St Osmund's in the afternoon will be **NO Adoration or Benediction on this day.**

CONFIRMATION 2026



The Confirmation Retreat at Buckfast Abbey last weekend was full of rich experiences: Morning and Evening Prayer with the monks, talks and discussions, Mass in St Michael's Chapel, a tour of the Abbey, and Adoration. The group enjoyed the games room too! Sunday Mass was magnificent, with the monks, organ, and choir. Thank you to all parents for your support and to the parishes for your prayers. The next key Confirmation session is Wednesday 11 March at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre. Please click on '[Confirmation](#)' on our homepage for more information. More photos in our [Photo Gallery](#) Please continue to pray for our Confirmation Candidates.

PASTORAL AREA NEW YEAR RETREAT- 24 & 25 JANUARY

This weekend we welcome Sisters Carino and Amata, Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, to our Parish Centre. They will lead a weekend of reflection and formation to help us live out our faith in the Gospel in our daily lives. There are four sessions over the two days. **You are welcome to attend any or all of them.** For more information and to sign up, please click on the [Holy Trinity](#) image in the Top News box. **Last minute availability? Come along!** No one will be turned away even if you haven't signed up!

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith (2025-6) The next session is this **Sunday 25 January at St Gregory's** at 9am for a 9.15am start, followed by the 11am Mass. **Please note - from the 8 February, Family of Faith will gather after the 9am Masses at the Parish Centre on Exeter Street.** More information on the [Family of Faith](#) webpage.

Youth Group – meets each Wednesday in term time at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. This is for anyone in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray.

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 next session is on Sunday 8 February 10.30am **in Parish Rooms at St Osmund**. 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.

Congratulations and welcome to Avery Jossie Agyei-Tabi who received the sacrament of Baptism last Saturday. Please keep Avery and her parents Elizabeth & Patrick and godparents in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation – The next course commences next Sunday 1 February 2026 after the 9am Mass at St Osmund, please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage.

SPUC - The Annual White Flower Appeal will take place next weekend 31 January / 1 February. A SPUC member will be handing out postcards to send to Parliament. Please help us to save lives with your donation and completed cards. For the full Appeal Talk, click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' box.

Celebration Mass for Marriage & Family Life – A special Mass in Clifton Cathedral on Saturday 14 February with Bishop Bosco. For more information please click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' or visit our [Blog](#).

Catholic Parish Book Club – next meet on Thursday 29 January, from 1:30–2:30pm in the Parish Centre. Everyone welcome. Need a copy of a current book? Call/text or email Frances on 07966 925995 or rollestonfrances@gmail.com

Radiant – our monthly group for women next meets on Thursday 29 January 7pm. We would love you to join us for prayer, scripture and friendship. Bring a small plate of something for a shared supper. Please get in touch if you need a lift. For information Xanthe 07904 589360 or click [here](#).

Lent 2026: Deanery Penitential Service with Bishop Bosco taking place at Sacred Heart Church in Tisbury at 7pm on Thursday 5 March. The priests of our deanery will also be present to hear individual Confessions. Please click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' box for more. Transport a problem for you? If there is sufficient need, we will take a minibus and travel there together! Contact the parish office if you'd like to go and need transport.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 3 & Psalter 3

Saturday 24 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Ann McNellis RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Eric & Louisa Poulter and Pat RIP

SUNDAY 25 JANUARY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving for Karl, Kyle & Annalise

11:00 St Gregory MASS Claire Dutson – get well soon

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Mick Keegan RIP

Monday 26 January Saints Timothy & Titus

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 27 January

10:00 St Osmund Requiem MASS Shane O'Neill RIP
All Welcome

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 28 January Saint Thomas Aquinas

10:00 St Gregory MASS Annamma Chacko RIP

Thursday 29 January

MASS TIME CHANGE TODAY TO 11am

11:00 St Osmund Requiem MASS Michael Pearce RIP
All Welcome

14:00 St Osmund Funeral Service Patricia Dry RIP

There will be no Exposition or Benediction on this day.

Friday 30 January

10:00 St Gregory Rosary

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Mary Connor RIP

Saturday 31 January Saint John Bosco

10:00 St Osmund MASS Isabel Emilie – birthday blessings

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Monte Little RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon
and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

For Prayer with The Word Of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parishes of St Margaret Mary (Coleford)) & Our Lady of Lourdes (Newent) / St Joseph (Lydney).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Rosemary Thomas, Christopher Warren, Patricia Dry, Shane O'Neill, Michael Pearce, Michael Keegan, Monte Little, Mary Conaway 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

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and healed every affliction among the people.

Alleluia.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS Please request using this online [form](#). 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 [register](#) your interest in our Family of Faith programme.

CONFIRMATION 2027 For children who are year 9 or above please visit the Confirmation [page](#) our website.

MARRIAGE Please speak to a priest for guidance at least six months in advance of 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 stored confidentially with your parishioner record and can be given to families at the appropriate time.

Contact Désirée: salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY & WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

I well remember being told that three things were necessary for the smooth establishment of weekly Mass: *a person, a time and a place...* “mess with any of these and you will confuse and lose your congregations”, said the wise old priest!

Well, we did mess with it!!! and you have borne the inconvenience and confusion with understanding, grace and encouragement. Just to recap: back in the summer we went down to three priests, then two and for a short while, one. It was impossible to cover all the Masses and as a result the 11am at St Osmund's was cancelled displacing over 150 people. St Gregory's moved from 9am to 11am causing not a little confusion, unrest and overcrowding. At the time we said it was an interim measure – although, if I'm honest, I thought it would be permanent.

However, two things have happened. Firstly, our Mass numbers at St Osmund's, in terms of safety, are dangerously high leading to people being invited to watch Mass on screens in the hall – hardly ideal. Secondly, the Bishop has secured a fourth priest for us - Fr George who will live in Amesbury and serve both Christ the King and St George's, Warminster. This makes it possible to 'mess with the rota again' and return to the previous Sunday Mass timetable here in Salisbury.

I was minded to keep the Mass times as they are because we *could* be back to three priests next summer and may have all the confusion again. However, I have been persuaded that we must reinstate the 11am at St Osmund's and return the 11am at St Gregory's back to 9am; if for no other reason than to cope with the increased numbers at each of our Masses in the interests of safety. I will have to worry about next summer when it comes!

Therefore, it is my intention to implement the Mass timetable as shown below:

Saturday Vigil Mass	St Gregory	Remains at 5pm
Sunday Masses	St Osmund	Remains at 9am
	St Osmund	Reinstate 11am
	St Osmund	Ordinariate Mass – Remains at 12:30pm
	St Osmund	Remains at 6pm
	St Gregory	Returns to 9am from 11am

This will take effect from SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY.

This will have implications for Family of Faith which will now return to the Parish Centre in Exeter Street with families arriving after their respective 9am Mass at St Osmund & St Gregory.

Weekday Schedule Changes

St Osmund	Reinstate the Monday 10am Mass
St Osmund (Ordinariate)	Will move from Monday to Tuesday at 6pm
Benediction	Will begin at 5.30pm on both Tuesdays & Thursdays in St Osmund. On Tuesdays, this will be followed by the Angelus at 6pm, immediately prior to the Ordinariate Mass.

At the end of the day *'the buck stops with me'* and after much consultation I have made this decision for which I take full responsibility. I am sorry for the disruption, but I hope you will understand and support the decision.

God bless, lots of love and I hope you have a happy and holy Christmas.

Anthony B. Paris