

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



ADVENT WEEK 1 (B)

From Father Anthony

I made my way up Exeter Street, past St Osmund's School, through the underpass and up onto the road bridge. Traffic rumbled, a hooter honked, the Avon rolled swiftly below. It had burst its banks and formed lakes upon the marshland. Swans glided upon the trespassing water, heads bowed majestically. A man came along eyes glued to his phone... I only just got out of his way in time! He ploughed by, never looked up, never aware I was there. Oh well!

Awareness is a word for Advent. The Gospel begins with *'be on your guard, stay awake'*. The word translated as *'be on your guard'* is *blepó: βλέπω*, to look, see, perceive: to see something physical, with spiritual results (*perception*) in order to take the appropriate action. The word translated as *'be watchful'* is *agrupneó: ἀγρυπνέω*, to be sleepless, wakeful. It also means to wake from the sleep of *'automatic pilot'*. How many times have we gone to work, done the shopping or driven somewhere without ever being conscious of doing it? It is as if instinct takes over and we go along with it while thinking about something else or just day dreaming... *automatic pilot*. Spiritually this is often referred to as sleep or *'sojourning in another country'*, doing the business of the day without thinking about it. It is this sleep we must wake from in order to see (*perceive*) the spiritual significance of the world around us, including our thoughts, feelings and actions. As *'Lord of the house'* we must come back from our sojourn to our inner being, *our house*, using our spiritual intelligence, *the porter*, to make sure the servants, our faculties of will, desire, intent, etc, are *'keeping the house in order'*.

During Advent we watch symbolically for the birth of the Lord in history: we also watch for His birth within. For this we need to be aware (*awake*) of the hypnotising states of consciousness we allow ourselves to get into; states where we are not in control. As we come to know the person we are, by persevering in awareness, we come to recognise the Lord who is part of the very consciousness we are looking at. This recognition is the spiritual birth within. And then we understand with Angelus Silesius, *'Christ could be born a thousand times in Galilee - but all in vain until he is born in me'*.

**A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE**
CLIFTON DIOCESE

PASTORAL TEAM

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Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
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Parish Office
Monday-Friday 0900 - 1600

**ADVANCE NOTICE - the parish office
will be closed for Christmas from 15
December until 2 January 2024
01722 562703**

Caroline Williams
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Désirée office@salisburycatholics.org

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

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

FEAST OF ST OSMUND: MONDAY 4 DECEMBER

Our parish patronal feast is on Monday 4 December and Salisbury Cathedral has invited Fr Anthony to preach at Choral Evensong at 5.30pm on that day. Our hope is that lots of parishioners will attend Evensong and afterwards return to our Parish Rooms for a Cheese & Wine celebration to which we are also inviting Cathedral parishioners. Please join if you can in this joint celebration of our city's patron saint. We anticipate the event will finish around 7.30pm. If you have never been to Choral Evensong before, come along - you're in for a real musical and liturgical treat. Please aim to be seated in the Cathedral by 5.20pm.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AT ST GREGORY'S

The parish Bazaar not only served as a great fundraising event with a raffle featuring fantastic prizes but also had a deeper purpose. Beyond the financial aspect, the primary focus was on fostering a sense of community. The event aimed to bring people from our Catholic churches and of all nationalities together, emphasising unity as the body of Christ. In a seasonal spirit of celebration, it succeeded in creating a fun-filled atmosphere, a joyous social occasion that resonated with the true essence of togetherness; praise the Lord! We have some lovely photographs from the event, kindly provided by Michael Illas. Please click on 'Photo Gallery' on our home page or [click here](#) to view.

Holy Redeemer - the Mass to mark the imminent closure of this church was celebrated last Saturday 25 November. The Mass was recorded and can be found by clicking on '[Church TV](#)' then on [Holy Redeemer Recordings](#). The decree from Bishop Declan which was read at all Masses last weekend can be found by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Christ the King Homily - following a number of requests, the transcript of Fr Anthony's homily can be found by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Life in The Spirit! The next talk will be given by Mrs Helen Inglis on 'Ministry to the homeless' on Friday 1 December after the 7pm Mass at St Osmund and Rev Margaret Collins on 'Prophecy' on 5 January. Each seminar is recorded and can be viewed by clicking on the 'The Holy Spirit' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

After-School Club the next session is next Wednesday 6 December at 3.45pm at St Osmund's. Children from Yr 2 - 4 are welcome, they **must** however be accompanied by their parents or guardians (additional siblings coming with their parents are also welcome).

My Generation will be meeting next Wednesday 6 December 2023 for a Christmas Party at 2pm in St Gregory's Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109

SPUC Coffee Morning. Many thanks to all those who supported our coffee morning last Saturday, especially the congregation at Christ the King Amesbury for their donations for the raffle. We raised a grand total of £324.

Food and Friendship Festive Lunch will take place on Thursday 14 December at St Gregory's Hall 12 noon for a 12.30pm serving. A festive menu and Christmas Carols.

St Gregory's Parish Hall will be CLOSED for the refurbishment of the toilets immediately after Christmas. We anticipate that the work will take approximately 3 months.

Starting School? If you have a child born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, then now is the time to apply for a place at a primary school for admission from September 2024 onwards. You must complete an application form available from Wiltshire Council at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1657/Apply-for-a-school-place> or [click here](#). If your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must also provide a copy of the baptism certificate to the school. Please apply by the closing date of 15 January 2024.

FAMILY ADVENT RETREAT DAY - TOMORROW SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER.

Mass 10am at St Osmund, 11am at St Elizabeth Hall (Adults) & Parish Rooms (Children) until 4.30pm

The day will begin at 10am with Mass & Confessions and move to St Elizabeth Hall (Adults) & Parish Rooms for Children at 11am. There will be a programme for children and adults in separate zones, focus on scripture and the beautiful 'O'Antiphons, crafts, prayer ministry, time of Adoration, testimony for adults and craft, drama and games for the children. The day will finish at 4.30pm and all we ask is that you bring a heart and mind open to God and your lunch! Refreshments will be provided.

CHILDREN'S PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 10 December in St Gregory's Hall from 10.30 to 12.30pm. Bookings for children have now closed, any child booked under 5 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. For those coming please bring a plate of food that is suitable for children. All donations towards the cost of the party would be gratefully received, please contact or see after Mass Sarah Varney: svarney1@me.com or Jo Kingston: joannaskingston@icloud.com e.

OPTING-OUT OF SCORE

Most parishioners will be aware that 10% of all offertory collections are paid over to SCORE. SCORE has used these funds to support a number of international charities including EduKaid in Africa, food banks in South Africa, and social projects in the Philippines and the Sudan. At home, SCORE has supported the homeless, foodbanks, Street Pastors and charities offering a range of services to local children and families in poverty.

Those parishioners, who may prefer to make contributions to their own choice of charities, can elect to opt out of the automatic SCORE allocation. This election can be made by either ticking the appropriate box on page 1 of the GIFT AID Declaration form or simply emailing your intention to *Finance.Salisbury@clifftondiocese.com*

Parish Advent Penitential Service will be held at St Gregory's church on **Thursday 14 December 7pm** There will be a short service including music followed by the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a number of priests available to hear individual Confessions. **In addition every Saturday during Advent, Confessions will be heard between 9am and Midday at St Osmund.**

Advent Carol Service: Thursday 21 December 7pm at St Osmund's Church Fr Joseph is once again organising an Advent Carol Service (the one held last year was absolutely beautiful) and is calling for singers to join him. There are two more rehearsals the 7 & 13 December 6pm - 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms and everyone is most welcome - the music will not be too challenging, come and make this part of your personal preparation for Christmas, email: *office@salisburycatholics.org* or call 01722 562703.

Journey in Faith: This is a programme for adults who are interested in Christianity but who are not confirmed Catholics. Next meeting: this Sunday 3 December 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](#).

Baptism Our current preparation course at St Osmund is ending this Sunday with the final session. Our next course will be at St Gregory for three consecutive Sundays starting 14 January, please register with the Parish Office. To request a baptism please [click here](#).

First Holy Communion The next session is Saturday 9 December 2pm at St Gregory for both parents and children. All information and the schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Confirmation The first session of the programme will be an introductory social on the 16 January 2024. The complete schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-1 Advent Week 1
Psalter 1 Proper of Season

Saturday 2 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Janet Jose Vazhappily

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Margaret Leydon RIP

SUNDAY 3 December

09:00 St Gregory MASS Tharuthu RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Susan & Les Burry RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving

Monday 4 December FEAST OF ST OSMUND

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jean-Paul Pearson RIP Family & Friends with thanks

17:30 **Salisbury Cathedral** Choral Evensong followed by Cheese & Wine in the Parish Rooms (see inside newsletter for details)

Tuesday 5 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Family Yamatay - Charley - Marie - Jean Baptise

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 6 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS Frank Farley RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS RIP Dear Parents

Thursday 7 December Saint Ambrose

10:00 St Osmund MASS Walter O'Dea RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 8 December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Tess Johny

19:00 St Osmund MASS Joseph George - Thanksgiving

Saturday 9 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Deceased members of the Brook, Detain, Kenny & Murray Families

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis Intention for December - For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parish of St Peter (Gloucester).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Martin Dawkins, Sarah Niccolini, Shaun Elliott, Teresina Mills, and June Rockett 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

Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

Ps 79

**God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

Alleluia!

Mark 13:33-37

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 2024, please use our online form to join our 2025 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

RECONCILIATION

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

St Osmund: Saturdays 09:00 until 12:00 on the first Saturday of each month & during Advent, all Saturdays after the 10:00 Mass.

and by prior appointment with our priests.