

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ADVENT WEEK 1 (A)



From Father Anthony

The wind was icy, the rain relentless; black clouds brooded above. Winter had barged in from the West, leaving chaos and floods across the country. I felt for those who had suffered damage. The garden is now shorn and skeletal; winter preparation for the new life of spring to come and the fruits and flowers of summer... *Where we see bare earth, the farmer sees the crop to come.*

Advent is a time of preparation for interior spiritual birth. A time to look inside at the person we are; the ground ready and ripe for transformation. The tired sights and old images we manufactured as ourselves must be transformed into who we truly are, the clear image of God.

There are two basic aspects to humanity. One aspect is when we are specifically wedded to the world through the senses. We look *outside* with longings, desires, keeping face, being a part of the crowd; this becomes the horizon we race towards. But... the closer we get the further it recedes. We are constantly seeking but never finding. It leaves us tired, unhappy and restless. The other aspect is when we come to rest and, rather than looking outside, look within seeking who we truly are. Until this time the two aspects live together, *eating and drinking, making merry*. When we are sincere and ready to let go... the flood comes! The powers of our soul release us from the bonds of the earth so, like the Arc, we can rise and ascend in spirit... *two men will be out in the field one will be taken one will be left.*

Advent is a time of preparation for the necessary separation of these two aspects. It's not that the earthly is bad: it is effect, a derivative but not cause. Spirit is Cause; only Spirit will give us true peace, understanding, creative ability and sight of God. It is this we must want, intend and desire. The *flood* takes place in God's time not ours. He knows when we are ready. So, the Gospel tells us to *stay awake* in readiness for it. It reminds us that it is what He does in us not what we do for ourselves. Our part is to want, prepare and be ready for it because, "*Christ could be born a thousand times in Galilee but all in vain if not in me*". (Angelus Silesius)

PARISH BAZAAR IS THIS WEEKEND

Come along and join in – it's always FABULOUS! 12 noon on Sunday in St Gregory's Church Hall. See you all there.



PASTORAL TEAM

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 (Sarum
Ordinatee & Assistant Priest)
tomas.krejci@cliftondiocese.com

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

Caroline Williams
caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com

Désirée Coups
salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

Tony Peters-Ennis
website.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](#)

FEAST OF ST OSMUND – THURSDAY 4 DECEMBER

This week, we invite parishioners to join with Salisbury Cathedral parishioners in celebration of the feast day of [St Osmund](#) whose relics lie in Salisbury Cathedral. Fr Joseph has been invited to preach at the Cathedral Service at **5:30pm**. We hope many parishioners will attend and then join us in the Parish Rooms for a **Cheese & Wine reception**, to which Cathedral parishioners are also warmly invited. Chris & Jane are kindly managing the reception but will need help! If you can help with setting up, serving or clearing away, please contact the Parish Office.

The 10am Mass on this day will be attended by all of St Osmund's Primary School

ADVENT - A TIME OF PREPARATION

Advent Talks began last Tuesday with a short talk by Dee Chislett on 'Watchfulness' and will continue next Tuesday 2 December 7.30pm in the Parish Centre with a talk on 'Isaiah & John the Baptist - Prophets of Promise'. Can't attend in person? Click ['Advent Talks'](#) on our website.

Advent Penitential Service in St Gregory's Wednesday 17 December at 7pm. There will be a short service followed by the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be multiple priests available to hear individual Confessions.

An Advent Podcast 2025 Deacon Steve Godwin has written and recorded a short podcast ahead of the season, in the hope that it might offer a moment of quiet reflection during this busy time. To listen or read please click on the ['Advent Podcast'](#)

Evening of Christmas Carols and Readings - Monday 22 December 7pm at the Parish Centre with shared drinks, nibbles and festivity. This event will be free but spaces are limited to 70 so you will need to book your place. Please [click here](#) to book or call the parish office.

Parish Christmas Bazaar this Sunday 30 November 12 noon St Gregory's Hall Our fantastic Bazaar is here - one of the biggest and most important fundraisers of the year and an amazing afternoon is planned! Expect festive fun, lively stalls, great activities, and delicious hotdogs to keep everyone going. Do come along and support

First Friday Talks – next Friday 5 December is cancelled due to the Patronal Feast event the previous evening.

PARISH RETREAT: The Holy Trinity - Living as God's People. Put the dates in your diary now! 24 & 25 January. Saturday 11am to 4 pm; Sunday 10.30am to 4pm at the Parish Centre. **Light of Truth** Catholic formation for everyone. Join us for a two-day retreat led by Sister Carino and Sister Amata, Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. Each day will conclude with Adoration and Benediction. More details and sign-up link coming soon!

Flowers in St Gregory's Church After many years of Mandy blessing us with beautiful flowers for Christmas, Easter, and many other occasions, she has now stepped down. We are deeply grateful for all the time and care she has given. If you would like to help with the Christmas flowers at St Gregory's this year, please add your name and telephone number to the list in the porch.

Christmas Cards are on sale in the Parish Office in support of 'Aid to the Church in Need' who support persecuted Catholics and Christians and Stella Maris who support seafarers and their families.

Liturgical Diaries for 2026 (Year A) and Directories are on sale in the Parish Office. The diaries run from Advent 2025 to Christmas 2026 and are a very useful guide to the church year as well as a good clear, desk-size diary.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE PARISH CENTRE

The Parish Centre will need to close during the day at short notice for up to two weeks starting **Monday, 1 December 2025**, due to essential and urgent building works.

Bridge Group will NOT be meeting on Tuesday 2 December. **All the evening groups will continue as normal** with the area of work being cordoned off. This work is unexpected but necessary, and we hope it will prevent further closures in the near future.

Users of the Parish Centre please take note: Following a Fire Risk Assessment (given the apartments above), please note that no naked flames can be used in the Parish Centre.

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 this Sunday 30 November 10.30am at the Parish Centre. 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.

Baptism Preparation – The next course commences on 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.

Congratulations to Anita-Marie and Michael McDonagh who made their First Holy Communion at Christ the King Amesbury on Friday 21 November. [Please visit our blog](#)

Marriage Preparation - The next course is on 9/10 January 2026. Anyone planning to marry in any of our churches in Spring or Summer 2026 should attend **THIS** course. Contact the Parish Office to book.

FAMILY OF FAITH 2025-6

Family of Faith is our way of supporting families with young children grow together in their faith. Within that, it is the place where our children are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion (the Eucharist) for the first time. The [Family of Faith](#) webpage includes helpful ‘signs of readiness’ documents for parents discerning their child’s readiness for the Sacraments. Online forms for both sacraments are also available. The next session is next Sunday 7 December at St Gregory’s at 9am for a 9.15am start, followed by the 11am Mass.

CONFIRMATION 2026

The next session for those on our Confirmation programme is 10 December 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. To sign up or find out more, click on the button [‘Confirmation’](#) on our homepage. Candidates are encouraged to join with Youth Group in the intervening weeks which meets every Wednesday, 6.30 to 8pm (during term time).

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

...well not quite yet but we are starting to get organised! There’s always lots to do in preparation for this wonderful celebration in all of our churches. Could you offer your gifts and talents? Watch this space in the coming weeks for ways in which you can help.

ST OSMUND’S ORGAN UPDATE

We have heard from our Organ Builder that work on the re-leathering of the bellows of the St Osmund’s organ is progressing well. At the moment, the work is still on target to be completed by Christmas. Many thanks to all those who have contributed.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Advent Week 1

Psalter 1 Proper of Season

Saturday 29 November

10:00 St Osmund MASS Alf Bowley RIP

10:00 St Gregory Filipino MASS

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Deceased members of the Kenny Family

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Mai Lee

11:00 St Gregory MASS Joan Jackson RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinarate MASS
Thanksgiving for Janet Jose Vazhappilly

18:00 St Osmund MASS Jack Cox RIP

Monday 1 December Saint Alexander Briant

18:00 St Osmund MASS Mariam Chakkaffan RIP

Tuesday 2 December

10:00 St Osmund Requiem MASS Sue Halliden RIP
ALL WELCOME

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 3 December Saint Francis Xavier

10:00 St Gregory MASS Tharuthu RIP

Thursday 4 December FEAST OF ST OSMUND

10:00 St Osmund MASS Susan & Les Burry RIP

This will be attended by St Osmund's School

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

17:00 St Osmund Benediction

NB - One hour earlier this week to enable parishioners to attend Salisbury Cathedral Service at 5.30pm with Fr Joseph preaching.

Friday 5 December

10:00 St Gregory Rosary, Service of the Word,
Adoration & Benediction

18:00 St Osmund MASS Kieran McLaughlin RIP

Saturday 6 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Hughie Mullan RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Doris Phelan 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 DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parishes of Our Lady, St Mary of Glastonbury (Glastonbury), St Michael (Shepton Mallet), Our Lady Queen of the Apostles (Cheddar) and St Joseph & St Teresa (Wells).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

William Coughlan, Ruth Healy, John Tobin, Sue Halliden, Robert Fitz, Shiny Mathew, 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

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

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 2026 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: office@salisburycatholics.org

PASTORAL AREA

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Mass	St Osmund's, Salisbury	17:00
Christmas Eve Mass	St Osmund's	22:30
Christmas Day Mass	St Osmund's	08:00
Christmas Day Mass	St Osmund's	10:00
Christmas Day Mass	St Osmund's (<i>Ordinariate</i>)	13:00
Christmas Eve Mass	St Gregory's, Salisbury	16:00
Christmas Day Mass	St Gregory's	09:00
Christmas Day Mass	St Gregory's	11:00
Christmas Eve Mass	Sacred Heart, Tisbury	18:00
Christmas Day Mass	Sacred Heart	09:00
Christmas Eve Mass	All Saints, Wardour	23:30
Christmas Day Mass	All Saints	10:30
Christmas Eve Mass	Christ the King, Amesbury	18:00
Christmas Eve Mass	Christ the King	Midnight
Christmas Day Mass	Christ the King	11:00
Christmas Eve (<i>Crib Service</i>)	St George's, Warminster	17:00
Christmas Eve Mass	St George's	21:00
Christmas Day Mass	St George's	09:00