

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

LENT WEEK 5(C)



From Father Anthony

The Avon splashed and gurgled as Cathedral bells kept pace with the sun. Children laughed and squealed on swings; parents looked on and traffic rumbled. I took it all in. Despite the dominant ego's, its ugliness, horror and confusion, the world is still a lovely place. I watched a squirrel. It bounced deftly over the grass, stopped, looked left and right, bounced on again and began to scratch at the earth with dainty paws. I wondered what it had buried there?

All things came into being through Him, and without Him nothing came into being that came into being (Jn 1.3) The first five verses of John's Gospel bear meditating on each morning as soon as you waken... especially verse three. Try and fill your mind, your senses, your heart with the breadth, depth and feeling of them. *Everything* comes into being *through* Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, God made man. Immerse yourself in these verses; let them wash around you and fill your thoughts. Many mysteries will reveal themselves over time if you do. Jesus is not another 'holy man' an 'enlightened human being'. He is *enlightenment made man* and all people, holy or not, have their origin in Him in a relationship of created to creator. *Everything* is contained in Him. He is the basis of the universe, its origin and its destiny; *all things are in Him and through Him all things hold together* (Col 1.17)

You and I are in Him: the lowliness of the dust, the grandeur of a star; the stare of a cat, and song of a bird. It is all from and in Him. That is why He writes on the ground... writes the sin of the pharisees and of the woman caught in adultery into the ground; He is the ground! Your sin and mine are written (*buried*) in Him; our sin is buried in Him who is Love; we are not condemned but loved better (*sin no more*) to live as He would live.

If this is felt and understood you can only smile and laugh and be very happy. There is no wagging finger, no, 'I told you so'... only understanding, forgiveness, peace and a very real love.

It is vital that we experience His Love because it heals. And once healed we become healed, healers bringing healing to the world... making it an even better place!

PASTORAL TEAM

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Parish Office

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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](#)

Choir for the Easter Triduum in St Gregory's & St Osmund's. With the one Triduum occurring across both churches members from both are warmly invited to form one choir. **The next session will be on Tuesday 8 April** followed by the last rehearsal on 15 April in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund at 6.30pm.

SCORE - There will be a retiring collection for SCORE overseas projects next weekend 12/13 April. A copy of the SCORE Spring Newsletter will be available in both our Churches this weekend.

Assisted Suicide - Cardinal Vincent Nichols has written a pastoral letter urging Catholics to contact their MPs – even if they have done so already – to oppose the Bill that seeks to legalise assisted suicide. As well as restating the Bishops' objections to the Bill in principle, Cardinal Nichols expresses his dissatisfaction regarding the “deeply flawed” parliamentary process. “It is a fundamental duty of every MP,” he writes, “to ensure that legislation is not imposed on our society which has not been properly scrutinised and which will bring about damaging consequences”. To read the entire letter and how to contact your MP please click on the ‘Assisted Suicide’ button on our homepage or [click here](#). There is also a short 1 minute audio from the Cardinal available.

Hope & Friendship Group – Starting Monday 14 April Hope & Friendship will meet on the second Monday of each month at the Parish Centre 10.30am to 12 noon.

First Friday Talks - Our 1st Friday talks are about to change and become a Catholic Q & A Café style in the Parish Centre after the Friday evening Mass. **Starting this evening Friday 4 April**, Fr. Joseph and Fr Jonathan will be the panel answering any questions on faith or doctrine you might like to ask. Questions like Why can't I receive communion in an Anglican service? We hope to see you there,

Cinema Trip: 'The Last Supper' - You may have heard of *The Chosen*, a Netflix-style retelling of the Life of Christ, which is the largest crowd-funded TV production in history. The first two episodes of Season 5 (depicting the Last Supper) are being released in cinemas, showing in Salisbury on Thursday 10 April at 19.45, and again Sunday 13th (Palm Sunday) at 12.15. **We've bought 20 youth & 20 adult tickets only for the Thursday screening**, Please contact the Office if you would like a ticket at £12.50. You can view the trailer here

https://youtu.be/5CVj41dtkIA?si=XYNTSCNvrl5o_Bpx.

Easter Egg Donations please! We are delighted to announce that we will once again be able to host an Easter Egg hunt for children after the morning Masses on Easter Sunday at both St Osmund and St Gregory. Donations of (individually-wrapped little ones, not full-size!) Easter Eggs will be gratefully received in your chosen church. Please hand your eggs into the welcomers at each of our Churches or to the Parish Office during the week.

Easter Flowers In honour of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Churches should be adorned with beautiful flowers, please do consider making a contribution. Donations can be placed in the normal collection basket at any Mass in an envelope marked 'Easter Flowers'. Alternatively, you can make a direct bank transfer - please use FLOWERS EASTER as the Reference and call the Parish Office if you need account details.

Parish Rosary Group meets to pray the Rosary together via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm, resumes on Wednesday 4 September. Please contact Josephine on 01722 328410 for information. All are welcome to join.

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 16 April 2025 for Hoy Bingo at 2.00pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

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://sjcs.org.uk/communications/>

THE THIRD SCRUTINY FOR THE ELECT OF OUR PARISH

For this the Third Scrutiny the theme is 'The Raising of Lazarus' which emphasizes Jesus as 'The Resurrection and the Life'. We hear in the Gospel of the raising to life of Lazarus, Jesus in his obedience to his Father has the authority to give life to whom he will.

The Elect will be presented for the third scrutiny this Sunday at the 9am Mass St Gregory and to those who are on the Parish Retreat at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ELECT OF OUR PARISH

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

FOR THE YOUNG

Big Sleep last Friday 28 March - Very many thanks to everybody who so generously sponsored Fr Joseph, Catherine Vaux, Graham Herbert, and a few hardy members of our Youth Group (as well as 30 students from St Joseph's School). They cheerfully braved a night on the cold flagstones of the Cathedral cloisters, thinking of all those who sleep rough in far worse conditions every night. Between us, we have raised over £4,000 for Alabaré's work with the homeless and vulnerable. Our St Osmund's group began the night by praying Night Prayer in the church, before heading over for hot chocolate and a sing-song, and bedding down for the night. When the sun rose over the glittering frost, we were generously provided with breakfast from McDonald's! Many thanks to all. A photo can be found by clicking on the 'Big Sleep' image in the 'Top News' box, Fr Joseph is in the cardboard box.....

Youth Group – Will reconvene after half term on Wednesday 23 April at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Family of Faith the next session is on the Second Sunday of Easter 27 April 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](#).

Journey in Faith - A new programme will start in the Autumn for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics.. Contact Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftdiocese.com if you are interested in joining 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.

EXPAND OUR PARISH COMMUNITY – START YOUR OWN GROUP!

Did you know our Parish Centre is available **free of charge** for parishioners of St Gregory's and St Osmund's to host activities? We already have a vibrant mix of groups—from the Family of Faith group, Hope & Friendship group, Bridge Club, Men's Breakfast and Radiant Women's Group to children's activities, prayer evenings, and more—but we'd love to grow even further!

Do you have an idea for a new group? Whether it's a toddler meet-up, a silent disco, a Knit & Natter group, keep-fit sessions, a choir, a book club, photography group, exercise activities, or anything else that aligns with our parish ethos, we'd love to hear from you. The possibilities are endless, and there's space in our weekly calendar waiting to be filled.

This is your chance to bring people together, share your passions, and strengthen our community. If you'd like to run a group or need more information, contact Deacon Steve, Stephen.godwin@cliftdiocese.com

LITURGY THIS WEEK

.Year C-1 Lent Week 5 & Psalter 1

Saturday 5 April

10:00 St Osmund MASS Arthur Buck RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Leonard Hirst RIP

SUNDAY 6 APRIL

09:00 St Gregory MASS The Elect of our Parish

09:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Michael Low RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS David Scouler on his birthday

Monday 7 April

10:00 St Osmund MASS Daughters of Divine Love

Tuesday 8 April

10:00 St Osmund MASS Doris Phelan RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 9 April

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving Tessy & Jose Vazhappilly

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 10 April

10:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 11 April

10:00 St Gregory MASS Faull and Baker families

17:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

18:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

Saturday 12 April

10:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving & good health

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

18:00 St Gregory MASS For the People of the Parish

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 APRIL

For the use of the new technologies. Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.. [Click here](#).

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray this week for the parish of St Mary (Swindon).

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 5 Psalm Response

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Everyone who believes in me shall never die.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living 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

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

Stations of the Cross Every Friday during Lent 5.20pm at St Osmund until 22 March.

HOLY THURSDAY 17 APRIL

Morning Prayer	9am	St Osmund
Mass of the Lord's Supper:	7pm	St Gregory

GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL

Morning Prayer	9am	St Osmund
Stations of the Cross	10am	St Osmund
Stations of the Cross	10am	St Gregory
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ	3pm	St Gregory & St Osmund
Ecumenical Walk of Witness	11am	Starting at Salisbury Cathedral (West Door)

At all of our Good Friday liturgies there will be the traditional retiring collection for the Holy Places & Christians in the Holy Land.

HOLY SATURDAY 19 APRIL

Morning Prayer	9am	St Osmund
Easter Vigil	9pm	St Osmund

EASTER SUNDAY 20 APRIL

Masses on Easter Sunday will be held at our normal Sunday Mass times and locations.
There will be an Easter Egg hunt following each of the 9am Masses.

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.

Please note - The Parish Office will close for Holy Week & Easter at 4pm Tuesday 15 April to 9am Friday 25 April.

Thursday 24 April – The 10am Mass will be a whole School Mass of Easter for St Osmund's School. The Mass will not be livestreamed.