

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

From Father Anthony

I sat outside in clear morning air, just before dawn. Bundles of inky blue cloud lay like pillows on the horizon, just below an empty coral sky. It was Christmas quiet: even the birds were having a lie in. Cathedral bells chimed the hour: a motor bike chuckled down the street; otherwise it was silent. Tea steamed. The rim of the sun slowly peered and glinted over the rooftops. It seemed to float, higher and higher. For a moment it was lost in the cloud but pushed inexorably until with a burst of a thousand fireworks it pierced the sky with spears of light and shafts of warmth.

During Advent we spoke about the birth of Christ within; that Christ must be born in us, as us. When this birth takes place – or, the reality of Christ within is realised - we experience an epiphany, a revelation; something is seen, felt, understood within. Christ is a state of being, an anointing, a realisation of our reality. The effect on our rational mind is gradual but recognition of the revelation is almost instantaneous. The rational acceptance and understanding of it takes place in and over time; it matures us and transforms us: the time it takes is limited by our capacity to hold the revelation; it unfolds as our capacity increases. It is as if a great pot within begins to bubble rising to the surface; it pushes against our tired old earthbound ways. It is the journey or transformation of the earth-bound soul into the spiritual soul.

When we recognise Christ within, the deepest wisdom of our soul is released; no longer does it settle for earthly wisdom, philosophy or intellectual speculation... *the wise men come from the east*. Spiritually the east often represents our deeper spiritual consciousness: *wise men* represent the spiritual rather than the earthly wisdom of the soul. Our spiritual wisdom mobilises. As the rational mind is too slow and can't cope we have to follow our Intuition - *the star*. Spiritual Intuition draws us to our spiritual centre, *the child within*: the newly born or recognised Christ within. In this spiritual centre Wisdom reveals, the riches of spirit (Gold); it reflects the beauty of spirit (Frankincense): it rests easily in the eternity of spirit (Myrrh).

From now on there is no going back, (*Herod*). Now we have to find another way of being in the world.



PASTORAL TEAM

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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 at:
<https://salisburycatholics.org>
click "Registration/update"

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

In the Eastern Church the major feast is that of the Epiphany, which focuses on Matthew's story of the coming of the Wise men to honour Jesus with gifts. The heart of this feast lies in the revelation of Christ to the non-Jewish world represented by the Magi. It recognises the stages of God's showing himself to the world, first to the Jewish people and then, through the Jewish Jesus, to all people. Jesus is the light of the world and brings light to all who believe in him. For more click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Pastoral Letter for the Feast of The Holy Family from Bishop Declan Lang, read at all masses last Sunday, the video and the text are available by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Please pray for Tina Arnold and Mark Day who will be received into the Church at the 7pm Mass at St Osmund next Friday 12 January with Mark receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. There will be a small celebration in the Parish Rooms after Mass to which all are invited. May their faith continue to grow and always be strong.

Please note there will be no Adoration and Benediction next Tuesday 9 January due to the Funeral Service for Marianne Clare at 2pm in St Osmund.

Parish Centre - Volunteers required The first stage of the refurbishment work at our new centre is now nearly complete. It now needs a clean to make it sparkly and ready for use. We are calling on volunteers to help on Saturday 13 January after the 10am Mass at St Osmund to simply gather at the Centre. If there is someone who would be happy to co-ordinate this activity or you have any questions, please contact the Office.

Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral - Friday 19 January The Rosary is prayed by Catholics and Anglicans together in Salisbury Cathedral on the third Friday of each month at 12 midday. The next meeting will be on Friday 19 January. If you would like to join us, we meet in the Cathedral Refectory 11:30am-11:50am before going into the Cathedral. All welcome.

Salisbury Foodbank: During 2023 our churches collected over 1,500kg of food for the Foodbank, providing over 3,000 meals. A one off delivery was made over Christmas of an amazing 103.2kg. Thank you so much for your generosity. Items for the Foodbank can be left in boxes provided in both our churches throughout the year.

St Gregory's Livestream is fully installed. However, before going 'live' we are putting in place all the necessary GDPR procedures and permissions.

White Flower Appeal 2024 – The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding their annual appeal next weekend the 13 & 14 January.

Food and Friendship Festive Lunch took place on Thursday 14 December at St Gregory's Hall. Photos of the event are in our Photo Gallery or [click here](#). Due to St Gregory's Hall closure, they will gather again next Thursday 11 January for Coffee & Cake, 10.30am-12noon, **in St Osmund's Parish Rooms**.

My Generation met on Wednesday 20 December for Bingo & Mince Pies and there are photos in our website Photo Gallery or [click here](#). As St Gregory's Hall is now closed for the installation of new toilets, the group have arranged to meet at the Roman Road Methodist Hall temporarily on the first and third Thursday of each month. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Child Starting School Next Year? 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. **Closing date of 15 January 2024.**

LENTEN RETREAT: FROM THE DESERT TO THE MOUNTAIN 22 - 25TH FEBRUARY 2024

Following the wonderful and highly successful retreat last year, we will be returning to the Franciscan Centre near Godalming for a retreat to kick-start your Lenten experience so that enter the Easter season with a renewed sense of faith and personal mission. If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Parish Office and put your name down to receive the information pack. There will be 25-30 places available. The cost per person is about £250-£300. If you cannot go, but would like to contribute to the costs to enable someone else to go who otherwise would not be able to afford it, why not make this part of your Lenten almsgiving?

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pope Francis has announced that the Church will celebrate a Jubilee Year in 2025, with the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' and that there will be two years dedicated to helping people prepare for the celebrations.

2023 – The Year of the Council: Pope Francis calls on all Catholics to return to the four Constitutions of the 2nd Vatican Council – Sacrosanctum Concilium, Dei Verbum, Lumen Gentium, and Gaudium et Spes. Please find these resources by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

2024 – The Year of Prayer: Pope Francis has also called on all Catholics to spend this year deepening their prayer lives. Our Bishops' Conference will be producing resources for the preparatory year of prayer, focusing on the Our Father, as well as resources about Jubilee in the Catholic Church.

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

Father Anthony's Homilies: Following on from his previous homilies, the transcript of the homily for Advent Sunday 4 is now on our website. The next will be Epiphany. Click on the link below his image or [click here](#).

Advent Carol Service held on Thursday 21 December. A lovely and well-attended service followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Rooms. A big thank you goes to all those who decorated the church so beautifully, the choir, and to the helpers in the Parish Rooms. Photos of the event can be found by clicking on the image in the Top News box or [click here](#).

Journey in Faith: This is a programme for adults who are interested in Christianity but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next meeting is on Sunday 21 January at 4.30pm 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 next preparation course for parents 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 on Saturday 13 January 2pm at St Gregory for both parents and children. **During this session the children will be making their First Reconciliation.** All the information and the schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Confirmation The first session of the programme will be an introductory social next Tuesday 16 January 7pm at St Osmund. The residential retreat weekend is now fixed for 27 & 28 January, an outline has been sent to those participating in the weekend. The whole programme schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-2 Ordinary Time Week 1
Proper of the Solemnity and Weekday Psalter 1

Saturday 6 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Margaret Mullan RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Alistair Rimmer RIP

SUNDAY 7 January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

09:00 St Osmund MASS Richard's Intentions

11:00 St Osmund MASS Doris Phelan RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS John Delaney RIP

Monday 8 January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

10:00 St Osmund MASS Lynnette Futchter RIP

Tuesday 9 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Deceased members of the
Hughes & Moran families

14:00 St Osmund **Funeral Service Marianne Clare RIP**

No Exposition or Benediction on this day

Wednesday 10 January

10:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Muricken RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 11 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

13:00 St Gregory **Funeral Service Natalie Morabito RIP**

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 12 January

10:00 St Gregory MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

11:00 St Osmund **Funeral Service Sheila Crooks RIP**

19:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving

Saturday 13 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS For prayers answered

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis Intention for January - For the gift of diversity in the Church: Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church. [Click here](#).

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the Parish of St Osmund (Salisbury).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Natalie Morabito, Joan Cave, Marianne Clare, Sheila Crooks, Martin Dawkins, and Sarah Niccolini 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 60:1-6

Ps 71

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose

and have come to do the Lord homage.

Alleluia!

Matthew 2:1-12

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, all other Saturdays after the 10:00 Mass.

and by prior appointment with our priests.