

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 23 (C)

From Father Anthony

I opened the church and lit a candle. The sky was a pale blue wash with pink edges and slits of golden red. A low mist rolled in. The sun changed gears with the traffic and hurriedly started its climb, scattering light everywhere. A pigeon raced across rooftop; gangsters squawked. And still the mist rolled in: until it covered everything. The sun, now a ghostly disc, gathered momentum and with a huge effort picked up the misty air and dissolved it. Brilliant!

Whoever does not pick up his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. There is way of reading this sentence as, *whoever does not pick up the cross **which is himself** cannot be my disciple.* The word Cross (σταυρός stauros) has the meaning of an upright - *an upright pole, very often with a cross beam.* If we look at ourselves, we have a spine, *the upright*, and a crossbeam, *the shoulders*. The physical, sensory, worldly body is our cross. It is the instrument through which we get all our sensory information which we identify with and form confusing images of who we think we are. Contained in, attached to and crucified on this body of sense is the person of spirit... who we truly are; it was before and continues after the physical body is dissolved. Life is changed not ended with death. Death is the beginning of new life, resurrection, beauty... life to the full. This we can have now, if we desire it. The person of spirit must learn to pick up their bodily cross, which gives nothing but pain and illusion, and lead it on a new interior path... the path that Jesus took. It involves dying to the sensory to be reborn in the spirit. Instead of the physical attempting to carry the spiritual, the spiritual must carry and guide the physical...pick it up. As St Paul said, *we must transform from an animated being into a life-giving spirit.*

A first step is to recognise our sensory, worldly nature and *hate* it (*hate father, mother, etc*). This *hate* is comparative. It means to rely less on the senses in favour of discerning the spirit within; we rely less on father, mother, brother, etc, as sensory objects and labels as we discern our common spiritual reality in God. We rise above the sense world, relate to it from spirit and thus transform it.



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](#)

TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS BILL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

With the expected second reading next Friday 12 September, Archbishop Sherrington has again raised key concerns.

- **Threat to Care Homes and Hospices:** May pressure institutions to act against their ethical principles or reduce services.
- **Inadequate Conscience Protections:** Healthcare professionals could be forced to participate indirectly, undermining their moral autonomy.
- **Risk to Vulnerable Patients:** Safeguards are seen as weak, increasing the risk of coercion or pressure to end life.
- **Impact on Palliative Care:** Legalising assisted suicide could divert resources away from essential end-of-life care.

For the full statement click on the 'Assisted Suicide' button on our home page or [click here](#).

75 YEAR CELEBRATION MASS - CHAPEL OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Last Thursday, 28 August, our fellow parishioners in Downton joyfully celebrated the 75th anniversary of their Chapel with a special Mass.

Following the sale of the Trafalgar House estate in 1948, Lord Henry Nelson generously acquired a large plot of land on Barford Lane. This land was conveyed to the Diocese of Clifton, along with an endowment for the construction of a new church. The Chapel was built in 1949 by a Salisbury-based firm and was consecrated in 1950.

Photos from the celebration have been kindly shared and can be viewed by clicking on the '[Photo Gallery](#)' button on our homepage or by [clicking here](#).

Youth Group - With the start of a new school year the Youth Group will recommence next Wednesday 10 September. A warm invitation is extended to anyone in Years 8 to 11 who'd like to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. Every Wednesday night, 6.30 to 8pm (during term time) in the Parish Centre. See you there! All the dates can be found by clicking on 'Youth Group' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Last Saturday 30 August, our youth visited Queen of Martyrs & St Ignatius Church, Chideock. They explored historic artefacts, celebrated Mass with Father Joseph, and venerated relics of saints and martyrs. After a picnic at the Museum, they enjoyed time at the local beach. Thanks to all who joined. Next trip: 31 October! For more including photos visit the 'Youth Group' page and then click on the Chideock button or [click here](#).

SCORE – There will be a retiring collection for SCORE Home Projects next weekend 13 & 14 September.

First Friday Talks - begins again this evening Friday 5 September after the 6pm Mass in the Parish Centre. The speaker will be Graham Brown who will reflect on the 'Care of Creation'. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend each talk will be recorded and available on our website over the weekend. Please click on 'Parish Life' on our main menu and then on 'First Friday Talks' or [click here](#).

Men's Breakfast - The next men's breakfast will be next Saturday 13 September at 8.00am in the Parish Centre. Tickets are £10 each. Payment can be made on the day in cash or direct to Deacon John Proctor. To book your place please [click here](#) or for the QR code [click here](#).

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 17 September 2025 for Hoy Bingo at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

New Catholic Book Club – We're excited to launch a new Catholic Book Club in our parish! The first meeting will take place on Thursday 25 September 2025, from 1:30–2:30 pm at the Parish Centre, Exeter Street.

After that, the group will meet on the last Thursday of each month (excluding December). Come along for a friendly and welcoming social occasion as we read and discuss engaging books together.

Everyone is welcome—feel free to bring a friend! Light refreshments will be provided and there is free parking. Further details are available from Frances on 07966 925995 or rollestonfrances@gmail.com.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN SALISBURY FOR 2026

The preparation of our children to receive their first Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion (the Eucharist) takes place at *Family of Faith*. All the information is below.

FAMILY OF FAITH

Family of Faith is our parish's way of helping families with young children grow together in their faith. It is also where our children are prepared to receive their First Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion. The children have some teaching and fun activities, and the adults have a separate input and discussion to support each other in nurturing faith-filled families.

Family of Faith is open to children in Year 2 to 5, with Year 3 being the normal age for children to start preparing for their First Communion. This year, we are going to try moving to a new home at St Gregory's church. We will gather from 9.15am, and then move into the 11am Family Mass.

The first session this year will be on Sunday 28th September. There is lots more information, and all the dates, and the link to sign up, on our website—[CLICK HERE](#).

CONFIRMATION 2026

This year's Confirmation programme is now published, so if you (or your son or daughter) are in Year 9 or above and want to be confirmed, this is for you. It will be on Wednesday nights. So if you are interested in Confirmation in 2026, please click on the '[Confirmation](#)' button on our home page or [click here](#). **Please note there is an information evening next Wednesday 10 September 6.30pm for the parents in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund.** The potential candidates will join with Youth Group at 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 new programme which starts in the Autumn is now on our website with the first session on 21 September 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 or [click here](#).

Congratulations to Maksymilian Sebastian Dharmarajah who received the sacrament of Baptism last Saturday 30 August at St Osmund. Please keep Maksymilian, his parents Anna & Norman and godparents in your prayers. We will also welcome Ruairí John Greene who will receive the sacrament of Baptism tomorrow Saturday 6 September at St Osmund. Please keep Ruairí, his parents Rebekah & John in your prayers

Baptism Preparation – The first course after the summer break starts next Sunday 14 September at St Gregory and will run for 3 consecutive Sundays after the 11am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the 'Registration' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Ordinary Time Week 23 & Psalter 3

Saturday 6 September

Anniversary of the Dedication of the Parish of St Osmund

10:00 St Osmund MASS Lourdes Garcia de Villava RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Maurice Petty RIP

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving

11:00 St Gregory MASS George Pulickal RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Florence Devine RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:00 St Osmund MASS Charles Moberly RIP

Tuesday 9 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Sally Bradley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 10 September

10:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Webb RIP

Thursday 11 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Czeslava Maciejewska RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 12 September

10:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Robson RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Dominic Garibaldo RIP

Saturday 13 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Bridie & Harry Clapham RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS James (Jimmy) Quinlan RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after 10am Mass & Saturdays 5.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon
and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray this week for the Parish of Saint Bonaventure (Bishopston, Bristol).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Helen Ahern, Stephen Castle, Sally Bradley, Ruth Gibson, Duncan Green and Terri Thomas, 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

O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees.

Alleluia.

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 2026 For children who will be year 9 there is an information evening on Wednesday 10 September for potential candidates and their families.

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