

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



ADVENT WEEK 2 (C)

From Father Anthony

Shop fronts reflected off wet, slippery streets. Cars squelched; people bustled. It was a drab day. But, sights, sounds and aromas from the Christmas Market transformed it all, lifted spirits and gave the square an Alpine feel. Near the supermarket a gentleman of the road sat swathed in coats and blankets; he looked fed up and forlorn. A lady in front of me stopped abruptly, rummaged in her bag and, with a lovely smile, gave him something. She had come to a decision, a judgement and acted; I followed her beautiful example.

Last week we looked at Death; this week *Judgment*. Judgment, in the West, has predominantly negative connotations. For the Hebraic mind it has both a positive as well as a negative feel. God can judge in our favour as well as against us. As a rule of thumb, Scriptural understanding of judgment largely has to do with, *to do the right thing*. The woman saw a man in need and did the right thing; she responded to his need; she exercised a *holy* (qadosh, *שׂדֵּק*) positive judgment.

In the Gospel we read about Tiberias Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Annas, Caiaphas and John. Each of these historical personalities also represent aspects of our own being or mind. John is the internal aspect of Spirit (*the desert*): the others represent worldly aspects that not only tie us to the world but hinder us from hearing, recognising and approaching God and letting God approach us.

If we are to exercise right judgment - *do the right thing* - like John, we must regularly go into the internal desert of our being and listen for the voice of the Lord (*Jesus*). His voice will help us discern between the worldly and the spiritual; the things of this world and the things of God. It will help us to judge in favour of Spirit so that we can bring Spirit into the world and in all things reflect the Will of God (*prepare a way of the Lord*). The bleakness of Advent characterises this desert; and into it something beautiful and beyond compare must be born in you and me. We must learn to judge in favour of Jesus so we can feel Him judge in favour of us. *"If in your heart you make a manger for his birth then God will once again become a child on earth"*. *Angelus Silesias*.

**A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE**
CLIFTON DIOCESE

PASTORAL TEAM

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Parish Office

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

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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](#)

ADVENT - A TIME OF PREPARATION

Advent Talks: began last Friday with a talk by Fr Jonathan Creer on 'The 'Four Last Things' (Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell)' and continue tonight Friday 6 December 7pm at our Parish Centre. Deacon John Detain will give a talk on 'Death'. Can't attend in person? Click on the Advent Talks button on our homepage or [click here](#) for the recording.

Advent Carol Service Tuesday 17 December 7pm at St Osmund's The Church has such a rich and beautiful treasure-trove of music written specifically for Advent and we get to use so little of it! If you love the texts and music of Advent, add this date and time into your diary.

Singers involved - there is one more rehearsal next Tuesday 10 December 6pm-7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. Everyone is most welcome to join.

Evening of Christmas Carols and Readings - Monday 23 December 7pm at the Parish Centre with Mince pies and festivity, led by Fr Anthony. This event will be free but there will be limited space so you will need to **book your place with the Parish Office** who will be issuing tickets. Please email the office.

Preparing for our CHRISTMAS MASSES - HELP NEEDED It takes the contributions of many, many parishioners to make our Christmas Masses welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, beautiful and worthy of all that we are celebrating. Everyone is busy at this time of year but if we all do a little then it becomes easy! Perhaps you've never joined in before, then maybe this is the year! Please go to our on-line questionnaire to give us an idea of the ways in which you (and your children) could help. [Click here](#) to complete the questionnaire or click on the 'Preparation for Christmas' button on our homepage.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Church	Carols	Mass	
St Gregory & the English Martyrs	16:00	16:30	Children are welcome to come dressed as their favourite nativity character.
St Osmund	17:30	18:00	
St Osmund	—	22:30	By candlelight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Church	Mass Start Time
St Gregory & the English Martyrs	09:00
St Osmund	09:00
St Osmund	11:00
St Osmund (Ordinariate Mass)	12:30

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Church	Mass Start Time
St Osmund	23:30

No Exposition or Benediction on Thursday 12 December

Assisted Suicide - On Friday last week, Parliament voted in favour of the Assisted Suicide bill at its second reading. Please read the statement from Bishop John Sherrington in which he asks the Catholic community to pray that members of parliament will have the wisdom to reject this bill at a later stage in its progress. For the full statement please click on the 'Assisted Dying' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

St Osmund's Feast Day - Please find some photos taken during the cheese & wine celebration following Mass in our Photo Gallery or [click here](#). Thankyou to Jane & Chris for organising and running the evening.

SCORE update: Grants amounting to £11,351 were shared between 4 charitable projects at the November committee meeting. These were: Rise:61 which works with children in Bemerton Heath; CRESS which runs health clinics for refugees in Uganda; Farm Africa which supports food production in Kenya; Hope Exchange, a charity feeding homeless people in Cape Town during the Christmas period. Much more information on the [SCORE](#) page under Parish Life on our website or [click here](#)

SCORE collection next weekend 14/15 December for Home projects.

Family of Faith The final gathering of this year is next Sunday 15 December beginning with our morning 9am Masses continuing afterwards at our Parish Centre. Open to families with children in Years 2 to 5 and includes, but is not limited to, those preparing to make their First Holy Communion. Sessions take place *every other week* in term-time, finishing at 12 noon. [Click here](#) or on 'Family of Faith' on our homepage.

Journey in Faith These sessions are for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next session is this Sunday 8 December at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Contact Dave Blake via the Parish Office office@salisbury Catholics.org if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

Young(ish) Catholic Adults Group for those in their 20s, 30s, 40s...?! We will gather again next Tuesday 10 December at 8pm in person in the St O's Parish Rooms (Green door), or join us online via Zoom. Contact Fr Joseph for the link. The following meeting will be in the New Year on 7 January.

International Day On Sunday, 8 December at St Gregory's 9am Mass, we will celebrate the richness of our diverse parish community. Following Mass, everyone is warmly invited to a celebration in the hall, where we will continue to celebrate One Catholic Community - United in Faith, Rich in Diversity. Join us for a joyful gathering, featuring international snacks, music, traditional dress and dance, as we come together to celebrate the unique gifts each culture brings to our shared faith. All are welcome!

St Joseph's School Christmas Carol Service. Join us at St Joseph's and enjoy music, readings, drama and dance performed by our talented pupils. Festive treats available. Monday 16 December at 6pm.

Isaiah Books is a family-run Catholic mission to provide children with books that foster joy, a love of learning, and deeper relationship with their Creator and Good Shepherd. Please visit isaiahbooks.co.uk.

Confirmation 2025 If you have a child that is in Year 9 or above and are interested in joining our preparation programme, please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#).

Congratulations and Welcome to Sophie & Luke Den-Breejen who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Sunday at St Gregory. Please keep Sophie & Luke and their parents Claire & Wybren and the godparents in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation Course - The next course is at St Osmund starting 9 February 2025. To request Baptism for your child, click the Registration button on our homepage or [click here](#).

RECYCLING OF OBSOLETE PEOPLE'S SUNDAY & WEEKDAY MISSALS

With the adoption of a new translation, many of us have replaced our Missals and now have previous versions we no longer need. The Catholic Church in Nigeria still use the previous translation and would love to receive any missals that are still in good order. If you would like your old missal (post-2012 only: ie. those that include the revision of the Roman Missal that happened at that time) to be put to good use, please bring it to the Parish Office or leave it in the Church porch for collection. We will be passing on our large parish Lectionaries for use as well. Please ensure all personal prayer cards are removed.

LAST CALL FOR THE SALISBURY FOODBANK CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As in previous years, there is a box at the back of each of our Churches for the Salisbury Foodbank for donations of special Christmas 'treats' for those in our city who are struggling to afford any of the nice 'extras' that we all enjoy at this time of year. Mince pies, chocolate selection packs for children, nice nibbles etc will all be gratefully received. Please do ensure that all items are in-date. If you would like to contribute financially, there is a 'Salisbury Foodbank' button on the donation machines in the Church porches and on our website. Many thanks for your generosity.

ADVANCE NOTICE - PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Parish Office will close on Tuesday 17 December at 4pm for Christmas and will reopen on Thursday 2 January. There will be a 'bumper' edition of the newsletter sent out the day we close. If you have anything that you would like included, please email the office as soon as possible and certainly by Friday 13 December. Many thanks.

REGULAR PARISH GATHERINGS

Parish Prayer & Praise (Alabaré) which meets on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in our Parish Centre will have their last meeting before Christmas on the 17 December.

First Friday Talks - The next talk is tonight after the 6pm Mass at the Parish Centre and is part of the 'Advent Talks' and will be given by Deacon John Detain, the recording will be available over the weekend. To view please click on 'First Friday Talks' on our homepage or [click here](#).

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 18 December 2024 for Club members only, for their Christmas Party at 2.00pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Hope and Friendship Group - which normally meets on Mondays at 10.45am at our Parish Centre, will have their last meeting before Christmas on Monday 16 December. For more information please contact Deacon John Detain 01722 415588

Parish Rosary Group which meets to pray the Rosary together via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm will have their final meeting before Christmas next Wednesday 11 December and will reconvene on the 8 January. Please contact Alison on 01722 741681 for information. Everyone is welcome to join.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Advent Week 2
Psalter 2 Proper of Season

Saturday 7 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving for Sr Alda Civiera

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Birthday Blessings Charlotte Barton

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

09:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Tess Johny

09:00 St Osmund MASS Terry Fogerty RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Jean Baptise, Charles & Marie Yamatay

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

MONDAY 9 DECEMBER THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:00 St Osmund Requiem MASS Veronica Fulton RIP

11:00 St Gregory Funeral Service Fiona Ross RIP

Tuesday 10 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Jacob Family

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 11 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Fleming & Friends

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 12 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS The souls of the James Family

There is no Exposition or Benediction on this day

Friday 13 December Saint Lucy

10:00 St Gregory MASS Colin O'Farrell RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS Franco Aloisus Cordia RIP

Saturday 14 December Saint John of the Cross

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Nithin

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

18:00 St Gregory MASS In sickness Kathleen Savage

RECONCILIATION

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

St Osmund: On the first Saturday of the month from 9am to 12 noon, and on other Saturdays after the 10am Mass

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis Intention for December

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

[Click here](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE We pray for the Immaculate Conception (Devizes with Lavington).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

James Herlihy, Andrée Spark, Fiona Ross, Veronica Fulton, Annette Grennell and Delphine Hughes, 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:

Baruch 5:1-9

Psalms 125

**What great deeds the Lord worked for us!
Indeed, we were glad.**

Philippians 1:3-6,8-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

Alleluia!

Luke 3:1-6

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. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who is in Year 9 or above from Sept 2024, please use our online form to apply to join our 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 Desiree for more details:

office@salisburycatholics.org