

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

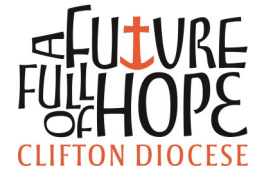
LENT WEEK 4(B) LAETARE SUNDAY

From Father Anthony

It was icy cold. Thin light strained through early morning fog. Birdsong and bells echoed eerily in the gloom. I opened the church, lit a candle for us all and, coming out, looked across to where the cathedral and spire should have been! It was hard to imagine that a towering Portland magnificence lay hidden behind nature's veil. It would take the heat and light of the sun to reveal it.

Our spiritual 'darkness' is caused as much as by what we do not do (sin of omission) as by what we actually do (sin of commission). By both we can 'miss the mark' (Sin). Spiritually, as with the man born blind, we sit by the wayside of our lives waiting for support and guidance but doing little for ourselves. Awareness of this is a stage of the soul becoming illuminated by Spirit (Christ the Light) rather than being dulled by the world. The spiritual soul of Christ (saliva) mixes with our blind, worldly understanding (the ground). We become spiritually grounded in Him. The awareness is sudden, almost unbelievable and it takes time to process; we know we are in the presence of something magnificent but can't quite make it out. It takes time to filter through the fog of the life we have been living. The Light (recognition) has to burn its way through, by a process of purification... we must wash in the pool of Siloam.

Siloam comes from שלח, shalah. It means to send. We are sent to purify ourselves by overcoming the scepticism and interrogation of our worldly thoughts (neighbours) along with our religio-spiritual beliefs (Pharisees); we must learn to withstand and go beyond all our internal questioning and doubts. It is not an easy time; and, if we talk about it, others often think we have lost the plot! So, it can be a lonely time too. But, it is time well spent because it purifies and spiritualises our thinking, understanding and emotions. Most importantly it leads us back to Christ who was and is the Light that started the process to begin with... only, now, we know it. We are no longer of or about Christ: we come from Christ, as Christ. We are Christ (the Light) in the world. Only gradually did the man born blind come to understand who Jesus (Christ) was and is. And then he told everyone. So must we.



PASTORAL TEAM

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Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
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Parish Office

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

01722 562703

Caroline Williams
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Désirée Coups
office@salisburycatholics.org

Tony Peters-Ennis
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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"

QUIET WEDNESDAYS - CHANGES TO PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS

After more than four years as our Parish Priest, Fr Anthony has *finally* been persuaded to take a fixed day off (that which many of us take for granted!). On Wednesdays, Fr Anthony will not be responding to calls or emails and we would ask parishioners to support this by not arriving without an appointment to the presbytery. Fr Joseph will be around as normal for any urgent matters that require a priest.

Parish Office: The Parish Office will also be closed on Wednesdays with immediate effect.

Parish of St Osmund Mobile App Our App called 'Parish of St Osmund' has been updated and published on both the AppStore and Google PlayStore - search for Parish of St Osmund. If you have the App already you may need to refresh/update the App to see the changes. If you don't have the App, why not?!? It provides easy access to key information such as: Mass Times, Contact Details, and much more. Need help? No problem - pop into the office to see us and we'll help you get this onto your phone or tablet.

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.

Choir for Easter Triduum in St Osmund's Fr Joseph is organising a group of singers to support and enhance the music at our Triduum liturgies in St Osmund's Church. Following the initial session last Thursday there are rehearsals next **Wednesday 13 March** followed Tuesday 19 March and Tuesday 26 March in the Parish Rooms all at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. Don't worry if you didn't come last week - join us this week!

Easter Flowers In honour of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Churches need to be adorned with beautiful flowers, please do consider making a contribution. Donations can be placed in the normal collection basket at any Mass in a 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.

Life in The Spirit! The last talk by parishioner and prison chaplain Gerlinde Symons on 'Prison Ministry' is now available to watch on our website by clicking on the 'The Holy Spirit' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Confirmation 2024 A bonus extra session has been added to the original programme next Tuesday 12 March at 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms for our wonderful Confirmation group. Further information and the programme schedule is on our website: [click here](#). We look forward to seeing you all again.

Baptism Preparation. The next course is at St Gregory starting 5 May. If you plan to attend, please contact the Parish Office. To register for a Baptism please click the Registration button on our homepage or [click here](#).

First Holy Communion 2024 The next session is on Saturday 16 March at 2pm in St Gregory's Church. Further information and the programme schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Parying the Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral - Friday 15 March The Rosary is prayed by Catholics and Anglicans in Salisbury Cathedral on the third Friday of each month at midday. The next meeting will be on Friday 15 March. If you would like to join us, we meet in the Refectory 1130-1150. All welcome.

World Day of Prayer Ecumenical Service last Friday at St Osmund was extremely well attended. Photos of the get together afterwards in the Parish Rooms can be viewed by visiting our 'Photo Gallery' (button on our homepage) or just [click here](#). Many thanks to Frances and her team who helped make this event such a success.

Please note - there will be NO Confessions in St Osmund on Saturday 16 March after the 10am Mass

PRESENTATION OF THE CREED & SECOND SCRUTINY FOR THE ELECT

The Elect are those in the final stage of their journey to become fully incorporated into the Catholic Church at Easter through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The Rites taking place this weekend are embedded in our Year A Scripture with its focus upon turning away from darkness and towards Christ who is The Light. At Friday evening Mass, the Elect will be presented with The Creed so that they, like the Man Born Blind, will be ready to state 'I believe' as they turn away from darkness and towards the light. Our second reading from St Paul reminds us that we are in darkness no more but that we now *are* light in the Lord and that this light must shine through our goodness, right-living and truth. The second scrutiny will take place at the 9am Mass at St Osmund but this is an important occasion in the life of the whole parish and so the Year A scripture will be adopted at all Masses. Please continue to pray for André and Lawrence.

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

Penitential Service Wednesday 20 March 7pm at Christ the King, Amesbury (with Bishop Declan)

Stations of the Cross Every Friday during Lent 6.20pm at St Osmund until 22 March.

HOLY THURSDAY 28 MARCH

Morning Prayer	10am	St Osmund
Mass of the Lord's Supper:	6.30pm	St Gregory
	8pm	St Osmund

GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH

Morning Prayer	10am	St Osmund
Children's Stations of the Cross	10am	St Osmund (Parish Rooms)
Stations of the Cross	10am	St Gregory
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ	3pm	St Gregory & St Osmund
Walk of Witness	11am	Starting at Salisbury Cathedral (Organised by The Parish of St Osmund)

HOLY SATURDAY 30 MARCH

Morning Prayer	10am	St Osmund
Easter Vigil	8pm	St Gregory
Easter Vigil	9pm	St Osmund

EASTER SUNDAY 31 MARCH

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 more information on the above and a narration by Canon Christopher Whitehead who talks us through Holy Week and Easter please click on the 'Holy Week & Easter Services' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

MORE FOR LENT

Clifton Diocese Lenten Reflections 'Journeying Through the Desert'. For the 4th Sunday in Lent, Canon Christopher Whitehead reflects on the Gospel, calling us to allow the Lord to touch our eyes and see more clearly where He is in our lives. The videos are on our '[Lent](#)' page.

Alabaré Lenten Reflections on the Passion are being held on Tuesdays during Lent at Riverside House, 2 Watt Rd SP2 7UD. The next one titled 'The authorities at the Passion' is next Tuesday 12 March starting at 7:30pm. Light refreshments will be available

For all our Lent resources please visit our Lent page, click on the 'Lent' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-2 Lent Week 4 and Psalter 4

Saturday 9 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Pacifico & Maria Falzon RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

SUNDAY 10 March

09:00 St Gregory MASS In remembrance of Raphaella

09:00 St Osmund MASS Jose Cardoso RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Chris & Kristina belated 25th
Wedding Anniversary

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Peggy Lemonde RIP

Monday 11 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Anne & David Power RIP

11:30 St Osmund **Funeral Service Bernadette Gallagher RIP**

Tuesday 12 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Dorothy Wells - In sickness

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 13 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 14 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Tony & Kathleen Harty RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

18:30 Downton MASS Leonard Hirst RIP

Friday 15 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS Roberta Tibon RIP

18:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

19:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

Saturday 16 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Recovery of Heather Prescott

PLEASE NOTE - NO CONFESSIONS TODAY

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis Intention for March

For the new martyrs:

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm [Click here](#).

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parish of Sacred Heart (Tisbury with Wardour).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anita Pheby, Michael Lennard, Stefanie Hawtin, Andrew Osmond and Bernadette Gallagher 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 Week 4

1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

Psalm 22

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

Romans 5:1-2,5-8

**Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**

John 9:1-41

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 Sept 2024, please use our online form to join our 2025 programme. [Click here](#).

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who will be in Year 9 or above from Sept 2024, 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

Please note - There will be NO CONFESSIONS after Saturday morning Mass on 16th March.

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

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

and by prior appointment with our priests.