

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

EASTER WEEK 6(A)

From Father Anthony

A grey day; early in the morning. A lone pigeon cooed in the silence. Cathedral bells counted the hour. I opened my eyes after silent prayer. Gangsters circled over orange rooftops surrounded by pillows of green. Blood red peonies peered up from amid a sea of Blue Bell Flowers swaying gently in the breeze. The fluffy infancy of blossom and buds has given way to rampant adolescence... the garden is flourishing. I had feared for it when it was cut back so vigorously in the Autumn; but, the results are marvellous!

If you love me you will keep my commandments. The derivation of the word translated as *Commandment, entole* (ἐντολή) means *in the end: an authoritative instruction that focuses on an end result.* It does not imply mindless obedience. The end result is that the *fullness of God should manifest in and through us;* so that, to have seen us is to have seen the Father!

In this context the primary Commandment is to *love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind;* and, to *love your neighbour as yourself* (Mt 22:37-39). Both instructions imply that we have to *cut back* on ourselves in order to grow *into* Ourselves as *the image of God according to Our Likeness* (Gen1:26). Otherwise, we grow in an unruly manner; according to images of others' expectations; according to the latest advertising, trend or gimmick; we become overgrown in confusion; full of additions that lead to a sense of emptiness. By cutting back, however painful, we lose nothing but gain everything.

What is the tool for cutting back? Love... *if you love me.* The word for Love (*to exchange wishes*) has the sense of draining our desires, needs and wants so as to inhabit a silence where God is experienced as God *beyond* the chatter of those desires, needs and wants. Being closer to us than we are to our skin and knowing us more intimately than we know ourselves God supplies all our needs. We then come to understand that we had everything anyway (*son, everything I have is yours Lk 15:31*)); our desires, needs and wants only obscured what we already had. By relinquishing them, our Divine Image emerges.

If the tool is Love, it is exercised in prayer that asks and expects nothing: but simply allows God to be God in our lives... *I and the Father are one.*

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY – On Friday 5 June, the Relics of St Gerard Majella are coming to St Osmund's Church. There will be Adoration from 5pm, Mass celebrated by the Redemptorist Priest who is leading the tour of the relics and Mass & Confessions.



PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

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SALISBURY DEACONS

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Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
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PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1230
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1230
01722 562703
salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

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](#)

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD - THURSDAY 14 MAY (HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION)

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, celebrated forty days after Easter, commemorates the moment when the risen Christ, in the sight of his apostles, ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9–11). It marks the completion of his earthly mission and his exaltation at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for us as our eternal High Priest. For more on this Feast, [click here](#).

Mass Times & Locations

8am and 12 Noon - St Osmund's Church

***9.30am - St Joseph's School, Parishioners warmly invited (Church Road, Laverstock, SP1 1QY)**

7pm - St Gregory's Church

**Coffee & Cake will be served following this Mass – come and meet some of our wonderful young pupils and staff!*

SCOTT HAHN COMING TO THE CLIFTON DIOCESE

Dr Scott Hahn, Catholic writer, author, broadcaster and teacher is speaking at **St John the Evangelist, Bath, on Tuesday 26 May at 7pm**. It is a limited number, ticketed event only. (£20) Click [here](#) to buy a ticket. If you would like to travel to Bath with Fr Joseph and fellow parishioners attending, please contact the parish office **after** you have bought a ticket and we will happily add you the list on a first-come, first-served basis.

Encounter 2026 – From Eastertide to Pentecost, exploring the Holy Spirit. We are screening a set of talks from Clifton Cathedral at the Parish Centre each Tuesday from 7-9pm. The next talk on Tuesday 12 May, is 'Transformed for Mission: Allowing the Holy Spirit to Shape My Calling', given by Gary Stephens. YouTube recordings of previous talks go onto our website as they become available. For more [click here](#).

Pentecost Novena - The Pentecost Novena is prayed during the nine days from after the Ascension to the eve of Pentecost. It is the oldest novena, rooted in Christ's instruction for the apostles to return to Jerusalem and await the Holy Spirit. Inspired by Mary and the disciples praying together in the Upper Room (Acts 1:14), we are invited to unite "with one heart in constant prayer" as they did in those days of waiting. On the Pentecost Novena [webpage](#), you can find the booklet *Come Holy Spirit* (from Westminster Diocese) and a series of daily intercession podcasts to support prayer across these nine days.

Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral (15 May) - change in venue. The May ecumenical Rosary meeting, which is normally held in Salisbury Cathedral, will be held this month in the Anglican Benedictine House next to Sarum College. If you would like to come along, please meet outside the College at 11:30 on 15 May, before going to the house.

SCORE – Retiring collection for SCORE Home Projects this weekend 9/10 May

World Communications Day 17 May - There will be a retiring collection next weekend to support the work of the Bishops' Conference in communicating news on every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS : 9AM – 12.30PM

From Monday 11 May onwards, the 'open hours' for drop-in/telephone calls etc. to the parish office will be from 9am until 12.30pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. The 'working hours' of those in the office is remaining unchanged but we are hoping to carve out some quiet working time within each day to increase efficiency and respond to your emails and requests more quickly. We have been falling behind of late in responding to some things and for that, we apologise. Hopefully, this change will help us shorten response times – we will assess this going forward to see if it is successful - we really appreciate your patience, support and co-operation. Many thanks. 😊

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith: Next session is this Sunday 10 May after the 9am Masses at the Parish Centre on Exeter Street. The [Family of Faith](#) webpage includes helpful 'signs of readiness' documents for parents discerning their child's readiness for the Sacraments. Online forms for both sacraments are also available.

Bible Study with the Fathers of the Church - Fr Joseph's group for Young(ish) adults (open to all in their 20s & 30s) meets on alternate Tuesdays at 8pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms, also available to join online via Zoom. Please email Fr Joseph to be added to the WhatsApp group for notifications. joseph.meigh@cliftondiocese.com

Youth Group (Wednesdays in term time) at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. Do you want to join? This is for anyone in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. For more, just click on [Youth Group](#) on our home page.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Confirmation 2026 - The next meetings are 1-to-1 mentoring sessions in the near future. The next core meeting will be on 3 June. If you have child that will be in Year 9 or above in the next school year and wishes to be confirmed, you can sign up for the 2027 programme by visiting our [Confirmation](#) page.

Baptism Preparation. This course will run for three consecutive Sundays starting this Sunday 10 May after the 9am Mass at St Gregory: to join, click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage or call the Parish Office. The next course date & location to be arranged.

First Friday Talk – The talk last Friday (1 May) given by Xanthe Vanderputt on 'Our Lady Queen of Peace' was recorded and can be viewed by clicking on the '[First Friday Talks](#)' button on our homepage

Come Holy Spirit – Every Friday afternoon from 4:00–5:30pm, Until Pentecost. Join us over a cup of tea or coffee for a gentle, themed afternoon in good company. Our time together is relaxed and prayerful, with space for sharing, discernment, and teaching, as we grow in faith and build an inclusive church community. More info [here](#)

SPUC Salisbury Branch Annual Pro-Life Chain tomorrow Saturday 11 May at 11am to 1pm, marking the Abortion Law coming into force in 1967. For more information or to take part, contact Alison on 01722 741681.

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 20 May 2026 for Table top Games at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Parish Rosary Group meets to pray via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm. Contact Alison on 01722 741681 for information. All are welcome to join.

Hope & Friendship Group meets monthly on the 2nd Monday of each month. For those experiencing grief or loss, even from a while ago. A friendly hour or so among people who listen to one another with care and encouragement. Mondays mornings 10.45-12 noon in the Parish Centre. Questions? Call Deacon John Detain 01722 415588

Catholic Book Club – meets on the final Thursday of each month from 1:30–2:30 pm at the Parish Centre, 131 Exeter Street. Next meeting on Thursday 28 May. Contact Frances on 07966 925995 or rollestonfrances@gmail.com

Essential Training for Catechists - Clifton Diocese, in partnership with Light of Truth, is offering a course covering the basic principles of catechesis for anyone involved or interested in catechesis with adults, young people, or children. It will be delivered via Zoom on three consecutive Saturday mornings from 16 May. For more information click [here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Easter Week 6 Psalter 2 & Proper of Season

Saturday 9 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jancy Joy RIP 1st Anniversary

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Joan Brady RIP

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

SUNDAY 10 MAY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Maureen Williams get well wishes

09:00 St Gregory MASS James & Margaret Harley RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Jimmy O'Leary RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 11 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

Tuesday 12 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS K Sebastian – Private Intentions

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Wednesday 13 May

10:00 St Gregory MASS Lynda Crawley RIP

THURSDAY 14 May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

08:00 St Osmund MASS The Jacob Family

09:30 St Joseph's School MASS – *followed by Coffee & Cake to which all parishioners are warmly invited.*

12:00 St Osmund MASS

19:00 St Gregory MASS

There will be no Adoration/Benediction this day

Friday 15 May

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Jane Fitsimmons RIP

Saturday 16 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Emma Vandenhoff RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Kathleen Neeson – recovery wishes

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR MAY

That everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parishes of Holy Family (Swindon) with St Joseph (Wroughton).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

John Wilson, Philip Potter, Bob Kimsey and Tony Broughton 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.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS Please request using this online [form](#). 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 [register](#) your interest in our Family of Faith programme.

CONFIRMATION 2027 For children who are year 9 or above please visit the Confirmation [page](#) our website.

MARRIAGE Please speak to a priest for guidance at least six months in advance of your hoped-for wedding date.

FUNERALS Do your family know your wishes with regards to your funeral? Registered parishioners can provide these details which are stored confidentially with your parishioner record and can be given to families at the appropriate time.

Contact Désirée: salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com



PASTORAL AREA RETREAT

Glorify the Lord by your life: living our faith every day.

Monday May 18th – Thursday May 21st

This year, our popular residential Retreat to Ladywell Abbey is taking place during Eastertide rather than Lent and we plan to reflect upon how we respond to the exhortation at the end of Mass to 'go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!' We will focus therefore upon mission and discipleship – living our faith.

To maximise participation by both laity and clergy from our pastoral area we are going during the week this time, rather than over a weekend and we hope this will mean that some who have previously not been able to attend may be able to do so.

Speakers: Sister Magdalene Cletus, a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood (the resident community) and Father Tomas Krejci, priest in residence at Tisbury. We have organised the schedule this year to allow more time for reflection, quiet prayer and contemplation than in previous years as a result of our experience and feedback from you.

Travel: last year we all managed to give lifts to those who needed them, so we will do the same again, rather than try to take bus mid-week in term time.

Accommodation: Ladywell offers us full board – breakfast, lunch and dinner with unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits in between. All the rooms are *en suite* and some have accessible bathrooms or are situated on the ground floor. There are lifts for those who find stairs a challenge. There are single rooms and double rooms for couples, but you can also opt to share a twin room with a friend for a reduced cost.

Worship: we will join the community for Mass every day and there will be opportunity for confession. We will begin the day with prayers and end with Compline.

Activities: the afternoons will be free, but we will have some optional walks, reflections and times when you can seek spiritual guidance or request confession. The important thing at Ladywell is to allow yourself to relax into the spirituality of the place and its beautiful surroundings.

Cost: £300 per person, single. £600 for a couple in a double room. £270 per person, friendly sharing in a twin room.

Financial Assistance: if you would like to attend the retreat but would have difficulty affording it, please speak confidentially to one of our clergy, or call the St Osmund's Parish Office and speak to Dezi or Caroline.

Offering: if you would like to make a financial offering so that other people could go on retreat who might not otherwise be able to afford it, then please contact the St Osmund's Parish Office.

Book online [here](#):

