

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 28 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

The gunslinger flitted down with a steely stare. It had rained and he was not impressed. I sipped tea and sympathised. The garden, cut back ready for autumn and winter, is still growing; roses and bindweed are blooming! Seeing the two together reminded me of the Arab proverb often cited by Fr Anthony de Mello, "*The nature of rain is the same; it causes thorns to grow in the marshes and flowers in the gardens.*"

In the parable the word used for *marriage feast* is *gamos* (γάμος), from a root meaning *to bind* or *unite*. Spiritually, it depicts the union of the Divine with Humanity in the everlasting joys of the Kingdom of Heaven. The original invitees rejected the invitation resulting in it being extended to good and bad alike. God's invitation, His Grace, the Life of God within us, is a free gift to all... like the rain. It is not something we initiate and we do not have to earn it. Yet, union implies transformation; two becoming one without losing identity. The transformation is characterised by the *wedding garment*... the transformed person. Spiritually, it is brought about by active repentance and trust in God rather than in self or the world. The Kingdom of Heaven and Union with God cannot be experienced without this transformation.

Practically the invitation is received by the receptive mind. Intellect, worldly concerns, arrogance and self-importance will very often not accept it or only pay lip service to it, *thorns in the marshes*. But the dark, lonely, broken, sinful, troubled, vulnerable side longs for it and accepts it because of its need for love and warmth, *flowers in the garden*. Sin therefore, can be the occasion of an encounter with and understanding of Grace leading to transformation. Strange mystery.

Acceptance of the invitation is not the transformation. Transformation means reforming thought and action through a change of mind and heart inspired and prompted by the invitation; displacing self by discerning and listening to the *servants* God sends; prime among them being Christ's mystical Presence, the Church. Do we know, believe and follow what she teaches? Living these teachings leads to transformation and union. In a world where, increasingly, anything goes; where morals and 'truth' are relative; where everyone is encouraged to voice their '*little truth*' but not those who attempt to speak *the Truth*; what real chance is there for world transformation unless we transform?



PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

Rev Anthony B Paris VF (Parish Priest)
01722 333581 or 07544 053785
anthony.paris@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Joseph Columba Meigh
(Assistant Priest)
01722 333581
joseph.meigh@cliftondiocese.com

Rev George James
(Priest in Residence at CTK, Amesbury
& Assistant Priest)
renjith.james@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Tomas Krejci (Priest Sarum
Ordinatee & Assistant Priest)
tomas.krejci@cliftondiocese.com

SALISBURY DEACONS

Rev John Detain (Deacon)
01722 415588
john.detain@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Stephen Godwin (Deacon)
07583 254488
stephen.godwin@cliftondiocese.com

Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
07802 631968
john.proctor@cliftondiocese.com

PARISH OFFICE

Caroline Williams
caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com
Désirée Coups
salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

01722 562703
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Friday 0900 - 1230
Wednesday CLOSED

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](#)

SEPTUGENARIAN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

Everyone is warmly invited to join in celebrating Fr Anthony's 70th birthday! Special invitations have been posted to each parishioner who is also turning 70 this year to be 'guests of honour' at this special parish celebration.

Sunday 18th October 12.30pm for a 1pm arrival of the Guests of Honour in St Gregory's Church Hall

We would love as many people as possible to come along and help make it a special and enjoyable parish celebration.

Much of the practical organisation has been generously volunteered and now we are asking parishioners to bring a plate of food to share as follows: Rice or pasta dishes, Fried or grilled chicken drumsticks and wings in sauce, salad and coleslaw. Pastries eg: puff puff, meat pies, mince pies, cupcakes, muffins, crisps and snacks for children. If you can assist with food provision, please contact: Toyin Imenrion – 07753 982836 toyinimenrion@gmail.com or for general offers of help and assistance, please contact Jane Dench – 07810 774855 jane7dench@gmail.com

BIRTHDAY GIFTS

Fr Anthony is very firmly insisting that he wants NO personal gifts, please! No wine, no chocolates! And whilst he would dearly love a Maserati (as we all know!) he has requested that anyone who wishes to give a gift, instead contribute towards a fund, with which he would like to purchase an item of his choosing for use in our churches in thanksgiving for his 70 years.

If you would like to contribute, there are many ways! Using our contactless machines in the porch or on the website, select 'Fr Anthony's Birthday'. Alternatively, you can put a contribution in an envelope clearly marked 'Fr Anthony's Birthday' and drop into the collection basket at Mass or hand in to the parish office. Your contributions **ARE** gift-aidable because, ultimately, the fund will go into the parish account to buy an item for the parish. Cheques can be made payable to 'St Osmund's Parish' but need to have 'Fr Anthony's Birthday' written on the reverse.

Downton Mass - Please note that Mass in Downton next Thursday, 15 October at 12 noon, will be celebrated at St Laurence's Church (Church of England), Church Hatch, SP5 3PU. This unusually large medieval church was built in 1147, centuries before the Reformation, and is one of the finest historic churches in the area.

BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK 9 – 15 OCTOBER

Baby Loss Awareness Week (9-15 October) provides an opportunity to remember babies who died during pregnancy, at birth, or shortly afterwards, and to pray for all who mourn their loss, however that loss came about. In a joint statement, Archbishop John Sherrington and Bishop Bosco MacDonald offer hope, comfort and prayer for bereaved families, affirming the God-given dignity of every child. For the full statement, click the image in the [Top News](#) box. On Friday 16 October, the Feast of St Gerard Majella, the 6pm Mass at St Osmund will be offered for 'Baby Loss'. There is also a special prayer event in Salisbury Cathedral on at 6.30pm on Thursday 15 October.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

Next Sunday is **World Mission Sunday**. By supporting **Missio**, the Pope's charity for world mission, we stand united as God's global family through prayer, solidarity and action. There will be a retiring collection next weekend. Gift Aid envelopes are available in our churches this weekend for those who are able to Gift Aid their donation.

Thank you for your support. Please click the image in the [Top News](#) box to watch Pope Leo's video message.

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS – A PARISH JOURNEY

Exploring Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, and its call to safeguard human dignity in the age of Artificial Intelligence. Our next session entitled 'Living Tradition' takes place next Tuesday 13 October, 7.30-9.30pm, in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome. If you missed last Tuesday's session 'Babel/Jerusalem' given by Deacon John Detain, a recording is now available, along with the full programme. [click the image](#) on our homepage.

FAMILY OF FAITH

The next session will take place this Sunday 11 October at the Parish Centre after the 9am Masses. While the children attend their session, parents have a separate session of their own. It is essential that at least one parent remains for the session each time. More details are on our website: <https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Congratulations to Leo who will be making his First Holy Communion at the 9am Mass at St Gregory next Sunday 18 October following the completion of our Family of Faith programme with his parents. This joyful occasion marks the beginning of a deeper friendship with Jesus in the Eucharist.

CONFIRMATION 2027

The next mandatory session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is Wednesday 4 November 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. For more please visit our [Confirmation page](#) by clicking on the image on our homepage

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group - which meets on Wednesdays in term time at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. This group is for those in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray.

Salisbury Cathedral Tower Tour – Saturday 17 October. Why not join Father Joseph for a climb to the top of Salisbury Cathedral's iconic tower, followed by a picnic afterwards? To sign up, please complete the [\[Youth Group Tower Tour form\]](#) or visit the Youth Group page under Parish Activities.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

The Sacrament of Baptism - Last Saturday we welcomed Alfie David Joshua Green, this Saturday 10 October we will also welcome Gabriel de la Torre. Please keep Alfie and Gabriel, together with their parents and families, in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation - The next Baptism Preparation Course begins at St Gregory's on Sunday 8 November, with sessions continuing on the following two Sundays after the 9am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join. A full schedule of upcoming preparation courses can be found on our [Baptism](#) page under Sacraments. To request a baptism for your child please click on the [Registration](#) button on our website and select 'Infant Baptism Application'.

The Rosary will be prayed each Friday during October at 5.15pm, before the 6.00pm Mass at St Osmund's. **The Parish Rosary Group** also meets via Zoom every Wednesday at 2.30pm to pray together. For more information, please contact Alison on 01722 741681. All are warmly welcome to join.

Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral - Friday 16 October - The Rosary is prayed by Catholics and Anglicans in Salisbury Cathedral on the third Friday of each month at 12 o'clock. The next meeting will be on Friday 16 October in the Chapel of St Edmund and St Thomas. If you would like to join us we meet in the refectory 1130-1150 before going into the Cathedral.

First Friday Talk – Last Friday's talk, was presented by Graham Brown and entitled '*From Chapel to Church: A History of Catholics in Salisbury, c.1700–1900*'. The talk was recorded and is now available to watch on our website. Please click on '[Parish Activities](#)' on our main menu and then on '[First Friday Talks](#)'.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 28 & Psalter 4

Saturday 10 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Rosalba Sassano RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Julia Comber RIP

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Sam, Charles & Lino Falzon RIP

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Francisco Ribeiro RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS David Palmer RIP

Monday 12 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 13 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS George & Monica Pickford RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 14 October

10:00 St Gregory MASS (G) Sara Edmonds RIP

Thursday 15 October Saint Teresa of Jesus

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Carolus Curley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12:00 **St Laurence (CoE) Downton MASS**

Patrick Saunders & Des Clifford RIP

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER SAINT GERARD MAJELLA

17:15 **St Osmund Rosary**

18:00 St Osmund MASS Baby Loss

Saturday 17 October Saint Ignatius of Antioch

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Maria Weeks RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Winifride Marsden RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR OCTOBER

For Mental Health Ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parish of the Holy Family (Patchway, Bristol).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Lisa Piago, Tom Gardner, Mark Wilson, Anne Beale, Sally Power, Catherine Reid, Michael O'Sullivan and Sheila Whatley 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 register 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

Reading this newsletter in paper copy? Please consider receiving it via email each week or viewing online. This saves vital parish resources and is better for the environment. Contact the parish office to subscribe.