

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 24 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

I wandered in and out of the borders enjoying the sun. With all the welcome rain the garden has stretched out its arms and legs and put on a spurt of growth. The Gunslinger flitted about: Gangsters circled menacingly. A pretty white plant hung its head dejectedly; bindweed, coiled like a serpent, was choking the life out of it. I cut the cords and, hopefully, it will come back.

The effect of unforgiveness is deadly; it chokes the life out of ourselves and others. The first to experience the effect is the *unforgiving person*. Unforgiveness hinders us becoming as God is (*His image becoming His likeness*). We cannot become His Likeness without Forgiveness... not just forgiving transgressions; but *becoming* Forgiveness. Peter asks if he should forgive seven times (*seven, a sign of completeness*). Jesus' replies, *seventy times seven*... completeness multiplied by multiples of itself! The slave owes 10000 Talents: the price, at the time, of up to 200,000 years' worth of labour. No one could repay that debt! But, the Father cancels it; He *is* Forgiveness. However, the forgiven slave *is not* in a state of forgiveness... over a sum that represents just a few months' work. And watch: by not being in a state of forgiveness he is at variance with God and will experience life as a prison and torturous; life choked out of him. Unforgiveness, to misquote Nelson Mandela, *is like drinking poison hoping it will kill your enemy*.

The principal ingredient of this *poison* is distilled from the thorns of *Pride, Envy and Resentment*. The remedy is not something we do but... *what we allow God to do in us*.

Go to God. Go beyond any idea or image of God: sink into His Presence. Don't ask for anything; don't try to feel anything. Be still, almost absent. Allow God to be God in your life however strange, dark or unknowing this feels. Trust. Whatever you are or have done *you are forgiven*... because He *is* Forgiveness. Surrender all that you are to Him... everything. You are before Him, with Him, in Him... as you would be with *that* friend or loved one. This Presence is Prayer. In this state of being loved and forgiven let go of any unforgiveness; shower the love you feel now on *that* person or event that is the cause of your unforgiveness. Do this regularly and let God transform you.



PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

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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](#)

INTERNATIONAL MASS – SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 9AM, ST GREGORY'S

Our International Day will be a joyful celebration of the many cultures and traditions that enrich our parish community. After Mass, everyone is invited to share a meal featuring dishes from around the world. Please bring a dish that reflects your culture or country. You can also support the event by donating an item or service for the auction, with all proceeds benefiting the Foodbank. We encourage everyone attending to bring a non-perishable food donation. Come and share your culture, your food and the joy of our parish community. Click the image in [‘Top News’](#) for full details.

SEASON OF CREATION

Pastoral Letter - Bishop Bosco's Pastoral Letter for the Season of Creation (Sunday, 6 September 2026) can be viewed by clicking on the image in the [‘Top News’](#) box.

Mass for the Care of Creation The Season of Creation runs until the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. To mark the 800th anniversary of St Francis' death, Pope Leo has approved a new Mass for the *Care of Creation*. Fr Joseph will celebrate this Mass at 6pm this evening (Friday 11 September) in St Osmund's Church, and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Also this evening, the Justice & Peace Group will be screening the film National Emergency Briefing at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. This powerful documentary explores the reality of climate change and highlights how the choices we make today will shape the future. Please note that the film is not suitable for under-16s.

Glastonbury Pilgrimage: Our sincere thanks to Michael Rennie, who generously volunteered to drive the minibus for our pilgrims to Glastonbury last Sunday. Michael's kindness and willingness to help ensured that the pilgrimage could go ahead; without his support, we would have had to cancel the trip. We are very grateful for his assistance.

SCORE – Retiring collection for SCORE Home Projects this weekend 12/13 September

Home Mission Sunday (formerly known as Evangelii Gaudium Sunday) will be marked with a retiring collection next weekend, 19/20 September. The collection supports the work of the Bishops' Conference in promoting encounter, evangelisation, and the liturgy.

Education Sunday – This Sunday we celebrate Education Sunday, the annual celebration of Catholic education across the country. Bishop Bosco has chosen this day to renew his appeal for more volunteers to come forward as governors and directors in our Catholic schools. He has written a special letter encouraging parishioners to consider this important ministry. To read the letter, please click on the image in the [Top News](#) box.

Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral - Friday 18 September: 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 18 Sep in the Chapel of St Edmund and St Thomas. If you would like to join us we meet in the refectory 1130-1150.

Parish Rosary Group meets to pray the Rosary together via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm. Please contact Alison 01722 741681 or Josephine 01722 328410 for information. All are welcome to join.

First Friday Talk – the talk last week was an introduction to Catholic Social Teaching by Jason Charewicz, the videos are now available on our website. Please click on [‘First Friday Talks’](#) button on our homepage.

Youth Group which meets on Wednesdays in term time at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm has now resumed. This group is for those in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. For more, click on [‘Youth Group’](#) on our home page.

FAMILY OF FAITH

Family of Faith is for children in Year 3 or above who have not yet made their First Holy Communion. The programme began last Sunday with a short information session for parents. For those who were unable to attend, the introductory information is available on the [Family of Faith](#) page of our website.

The first full session will take place on Sunday 27 September, with subsequent sessions held fortnightly during term time at the Parish Centre after the 9.00am Masses. While the children attend their session, parents will have a separate session of their own. It is essential that at least one parent remains for the full hour-long session each time.

Further details, including the registration form, can be found on our website: <https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith>
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Next Sunday 20 September Imogen Smith will be making her First Holy Communion at St Osmund's 9am Mass. Imogen has prepared for this special moment alongside her parents in our Family of Faith programme. Please keep Imogen in your prayers.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

The Sacrament of Baptism - This weekend we will welcome **William Christopher McDonagh** and **Raffaele Antonio Carmelo Inglese**, next Sunday 20 September at the 11am Mass we will also welcome **Lily Joan Young**. Please keep William, Raffaele and Lily, together with their parents and families, in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation. The next preparation course starts this Sunday 13 September after the 9am Mass at St Osmund for three consecutive Sundays, please do contact the Parish Office to join. To apply for a baptism for your child please click on the [Registration](#) button on our homepage and select 'Infant Baptism Application'.

Marriage Preparation – Our next preparation for those wishing to get married next year will be on Friday 18 & Saturday 19 September. Please register with the Parish Office

CONFIRMATION 2027

Our first meeting for parents and Confirmation candidates took place on Wednesday 9 September. Both groups enjoyed some fun 'getting to know you' activities, along with plenty of laughter and refreshments. It was wonderful to see such a great group, including members of our Youth Club (Years 8 to 11).

Next Wednesday 6.30pm at the Parish Centre, all young people in the programme are invited to our core session: 'What Makes Me Happy?' exploring the theme of happiness. We look forward to seeing you there! Its not too late to sign up simply click the '[Confirmation](#)' button on our homepage to register and find all the information you need about the programme.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Not Catholic but interested in learning more?

Our Journey in Faith group will begin meeting fortnightly from the 29 November, all the dates are now on our website via the [Journey in Faith](#) button on the homepage. In the meantime, if you feel drawn to the Catholic faith - or are thinking about returning to it - we would be delighted to speak with you. Please feel free to talk to a member of the clergy, contact the parish office, or speak to Dave Blake.

Parish Retreat 2027: Join us for our annual Parish Retreat at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Abbey, from 15 to 18 February 2027 during Lent. Our theme is "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God." Open to everyone in the St Edith Pastoral Area, whether you have attended before or not. To express interest, contact the parish office or Dave Blake at salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com.

LITURGY THIS WEEK
Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 24 & Psalter 4

Saturday 12 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS James Patrick Thurlow Herlihy RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Gilbert Miller RIP

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Donal John Ellis RIP

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Hansel Anthony D'Cruz RIP
2nd Anniversary

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Charles & Dolores Mattocks RIP

MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

10:00 St Osmund MASS Private Intention

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 15 September Our Lady of Sorrows

10:00 St Osmund MASS Leonard Hirst RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 16 September Saints Cornelius (Pope) & Cyprian (Bishop)

10:00 St Gregory MASS Arthur Buck RIP

Thursday 17 September Saint Edith of Wilton

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Buck RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12:00 Downton MASS

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 18 September

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Maria Lambert RIP

Saturday 19 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Brian McGloughlin – get well wishes

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

For the Care of Water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the Parish of St John the Evangelist (Bath).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anne Beale, Sally Power, Catherine Reid, Michael O'Sullivan, Sheila Whatley, Malcom Carver and Monica Johnson 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

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