

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



ADVENT WEEK 3 (A) GAUDETE SUNDAY



From Father Anthony.

I woke up during the night to find light pouring through the bedroom window. Thinking I'd left the outside lights on I got up to check. It was the moon... a supermoon! The amount of light was incredible. I went outside to look... it was massive. Stained glass flickered, light bounced off the bird bath; grass, hedges and trees were clearly visible but just beyond colour. It felt spooky and unlike like the light of the sun. I went in looking forward to its later rising and true depth, perspective and colour.

Advent is characterised by darkness and unknowing. We must get used to experiencing God as unknown or as darkness. No concept or thought is wide or elastic enough to stretch around the Infinite and Unbounded, the Cause of everything, in everything yet beyond everything. This darkness may seem strange and spooky and we may cling to comforting ordinary thoughts and concepts to retain some control and shape. But if we persist and allow the darkness and unknown to engulf us; if we let go of images of God and ourselves two things can happen almost simultaneously. Firstly, the darkness reveals how we have imprisoned ourselves by thoughts, feelings, dialogues and relationships which are ultimately directed towards promoting and maintaining our sense of identity, separateness and little ego... felt as depressing, embarrassing and sad. At the same time a different manner of living and being begins to reveal itself within; it is healing, outgoing, altruistic and not self-centred (*are you the one to come?*). It is a sense of the Light of God shining within. It is different, wonderful and very deeply personal. It is a stage just before we let go of our earthbound mind for a mind directed by Spirit to the awakening to the Kingdom of Heaven within.... often characterised by cutting one's head off (not literally!). John the Baptist is representative of this stage of 'spiritual development', *among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*"

There is a different way of living and being in this very troubled world. Only you and I can bring this way. We can either stay trapped and imprisoned or bring freedom by entering the Kingdom of Heaven within and then manifesting it, the Divine light, to the others and the world.

NB - Adoration & Benediction on 16 & 18 December. Due to Carol Services in the church in the evenings, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will only be until Midday when we will have the Angelus and Benediction to finish the time of Adoration.

PASTORAL TEAM

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

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

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

01722 562703

Caroline Williams
caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com

Désirée Coups
salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

Tony Peters-Ennis
website.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](#)

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

St Gregory's Church on Wednesday 17 December at 7pm – put the date into your diary!

Of all the preparations that we engage in at this time of year - preparing *ourselves* – both individually and as a community to receive Jesus **is the most important**. We will join together for reflection, prayer and song **during which** there will be the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If you would plan to come to Confession before Christmas, please come to this service if you can as we will have 4 priests available. Please do not assume that a priest will be available to hear your Confession at the last moment immediately prior to Christmas! If you would like to read or lead the Rosary at this service, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

Advent Evenings The final evening in this series will be on Tuesday, 16 December at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. This will be a musical and solemn reflection on the **O Antiphons**, which, from 17 December and for seven days following, are a special antiphon read before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer. These are a wonderful [prayer resource](#) to help us in our Advent preparations. A recording of the [previous talk](#), 'Mary - Radical Hope' is on our website.

St Joseph's School Carol Service – at St Osmund's 6pm next Thursday 18 December, all parishioners are warmly invited, parking is available at St Osmund's School and there will be mulled wine and home-made mince pies from 5.30pm in the Parish Rooms.

Evening of Carols and Readings - Monday 22 December 7pm at the Parish Centre with shared drinks, nibbles and festivity. This event will be free but spaces are limited to 70 so you will need to book your place. Please [click here](#) to book or call the parish office.

Advent Podcast 2025 - "Joy That Grows Slowly" – our second Advent podcast from Deacon Steve, shared as we approach the midpoint of the season on Gaudete Sunday. This short reflection offers a moment of pause amid our busy lives as we continue our preparation for Christmas. To listen or read please click on the ['Advent Podcast'](#)

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST OSMUNDS

Are you a Reader, a Eucharistic Minister, an Altar Server or would you like to Welcome and are planning to attend one of the St Osmund Christmas Eve or Day Masses, please do volunteer your help by completing an online form using the links below. Need help or can't access the online forms? Ring the office, we'll help!

[Readers](#)

[EMHC](#)

[Altar Servers](#)

[Welcomers](#)

PASTORAL AREA NEW YEAR RETREAT

THE HOLY TRINITY – LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE - 24 & 25 JANUARY

On 24 & 25 January, we will welcome Sisters Carino and Amata, Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, to our Parish Centre. They will lead a weekend of reflection and formation to help us live out our faith in the Gospel in our daily lives.

The Trinity is the foundation of our faith, professed in the Creed we say together each Sunday. But how can we understand the Trinity in a way that helps us truly "glorify the Lord by our lives"?

There will be four sessions over two days. You are welcome to attend any or all of them, but the programme is designed to offer the greatest benefit if you can join all four. For more information and to sign up, please click on the [Holy Trinity](#) image in the Top News box.

Christmas Offerings It is a tradition of our Church that the Christmas and Easter collections are for our priests. Christmas offerings can now be Gift-Aided. There are special Christmas Offering envelopes that will soon be available in our churches - if you are a UK taxpayer **please** take a moment to complete your details on the envelope as this increases the value of your donation by 25% **at no extra cost to you**. If you make your offering at the machines in the church porch or using the QR code shown here, please select the Gift Aid option.

If you would like to make an offering via online banking, our parish account details are:

Name: **Clifton Diocese re Parish of St Osmund** Sort Code: **52-10-03** No: **66287111** Please quote the reference **CHRISTMAS** or, if you are already registered for Gift Aid with the parish, please use reference **GAD Christmas**.

CHRISTMAS EVE FLOWER ARRANGING Each year, Xanthe and volunteers meet in St Osmund's church on Christmas Eve to make it look beautiful for Christmas. It's always a wonderful, friendly, festive time and only takes a couple of hours. If you'd like to join in, bring an apron and a pair of secateurs. Not a flower-arranger? You'll still be welcome! There's always, sweeping, tidying, getting out the crib etc. Come along at 10.30am on Wednesday 24 December. We hope to be finished by midday leaving you plenty of time to go home and put out your stocking!

FLOWER CONTRIBUTIONS – If you would like to contribute towards Christmas flowers, please place your donation in an envelope marked 'Flowers' in the normal offertory basket at a Sunday Mass or in the wall box in the church.

Christmas Eve 4pm Mass at St Gregory. Parents – all the children attending are encouraged to come dressed as a nativity character.

SCORE - The retiring collection on the 20 & 21 December will be for Home Projects. At the recent SCORE meeting a total of £11,000 was awarded to 4 charities: Alabaré; CRESS; Radio Odstock and Hope Exchange. Full details are on our website, select Parish Life on the main menu and then select [SCORE](#).

Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral - Friday 19 December. 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 19th December. If you would like to join us we meet in the cathedral Refectory 1130-1150 before going into the Cathedral.

Family of Faith: Will reconvene for the Spring term on the 11 January, for all the latest information please visit our [Family of Faith](#) webpage for more details.

Confirmation 2026: The next mandatory session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is Wednesday 14 January 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. To find out more, click on the button '[Confirmation](#)' on our homepage.

Journey in Faith – For adults who are not confirmed Catholics and for those who are returning to the faith of their childhood. The next session is this Sunday 14 December 10.30am at the Parish Centre. If you are interested in joining do contact Dave Blake at salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliffondiocese.com For more including the timetable click on the '[Journey in Faith](#)' button on our home page.

Baptism Preparation – The next course commences on 1 February 2026 after the 9am Mass at St Osmund, please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage.

Marriage Preparation - The next course is on 9/10 January 2026. Anyone planning to marry in any of our churches in Spring or Summer 2026 should attend **THIS** course. Contact the Parish Office to book.

REST IN PEACE

Mary Conaway Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 15 January at 10am to which all parishioners are warmly invited and **Anne Weston** (formerly of Whaddon) also died recently. A thanksgiving service for Ann will be held at St Peter's Church in Hove on 17th December at 12.30pm. Please keep our departed loved ones and their families in your prayers - may they rest in peace and rise in glory with the Lord.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Advent Week 3

Psalter 3 Proper of Season

Saturday 13 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Johnny Coneran RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS P. C. Chacko

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Terry Fogerty RIP

11:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Nithin

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Simon Davies & Charles Moberly RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 15 December

18:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

Tuesday 16 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Keith & Bee Fleming

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament UNTIL MIDDAY only

12:00 St Osmund Angelus & Benediction

Wednesday 17 December 'O Sapientia'

10:00 St Gregory MASS Teresa Hallinan RIP

19:00 St Gregory Advent Penitential Service

Thursday 18 December 'O Adonai'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Samantha Chinedum

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament UNTIL MIDDAY only

ALL WELCOME (Mince pies from 5.30pm!)

12:00 St Osmund Angelus & Benediction

18:00 St Osmund St Joseph's School Carol Service

Friday 19 December 'O Radix'

10:00 St Gregory Rosary, Service of the Word, Adoration & Benediction

18:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Reshma

Saturday 20 December 'O Clavis David'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jane, Hannah & Sophie Tucker

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Our Blessed Mother and St Jude

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon
and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parish of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Charlton Kings).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bernard (Monte) Little, Mary Conaway, Anne Weston William Coughlan, Ruth Healy, John Tobin, Sue Halliden, Robert Fitz and Shiny Mathew, 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:

Psalm Response

Come, Lord, and save us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.

Alleluia.

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 2026 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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

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| Christmas Eve Mass | St Osmund's, Salisbury | 17:00 |
| Christmas Eve Mass | St Osmund's | 22:30 |
| Christmas Day Mass | St Osmund's | 08:00 |
| Christmas Day Mass | St Osmund's | 10:00 |
| Christmas Day Mass | St Osmund's (<i>Ordinariate</i>) | 13:00 |
| Christmas Eve Mass | St Gregory's, Salisbury | 16:00 |
| Christmas Day Mass | St Gregory's | 09:00 |
| Christmas Day Mass | St Gregory's | 11:00 |
| Christmas Eve Mass | Sacred Heart, Tisbury | 18:00 |
| Christmas Day Mass | Sacred Heart | 09:00 |
| Christmas Eve Mass | All Saints, Wardour | 23:30 |
| Christmas Day Mass | All Saints | 10:30 |
| Christmas Eve Mass | Christ the King, Amesbury | 18:00 |
| Christmas Eve Mass | Christ the King | Midnight |
| Christmas Day Mass | Christ the King | 11:00 |
| Christmas Eve (<i>Crib Service</i>) | St George's, Warminster | 17:00 |
| Christmas Eve Mass | St George's | 21:00 |
| Christmas Day Mass | St George's | 09:00 |