

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

From Father Anthony

As usual, tea in hand, I stood by the window after my early morning prayers. The sun cast a golden halo over roof tops, the sky fresh and opalescent. Down below Mrs Cat and one other, were at a standoff, yowling, tails flicking, with tight statuesque movements. Gangsters flapped and squabbled around the church eaves making an unholy din; a couple of seagulls up from the coast added to it with haunting cries. Then, as if on cue, the vapour trails of two jets intercepted and made a beautiful white cross against the deepening blue sky... the Cross exalted above the noise and brokenness of the world, I thought!

It is difficult to write about the mystery of the Cross and seems impertinent to do so; what can such a shrivelled, small mind say about such a great and terrible mystery!

'Old Basil' would urge us to sit or stand before an image of the Cross and '*look into it, Gentlemen.*' Let the mind settle, thoughts dissipate, heart soften. Keep looking. See the bruised, blooded, twisted body, nailed painfully to the cross. Feel the pain, the hurt the injustice... but don't get sentimental. Keep looking and then, perhaps, the Cross will become a mirror for the soul. Slowly with each drop of blood, each tare of the skin, you will see the pain, hurt, confusion, sorrow and sins of your own life. The lies, dishonesty, thefts, addictions, frustrations, angers, disappointments, sexual difficulties and distortions; the longing for comfort and security and something, *oh something*, that will make sense of the event we call life but so often feels like death. And, if we keep looking and get past all the '*stuff of our lives*' we might see His face looking back at us; no anger, no rebukes just perfect understanding, rest, acceptance and Love beyond all telling.

It is this Love that makes sense of it all. It is this love that helps us accept who and what we are. It takes us beyond our self, away from who we thought we were into who we truly are... one with Christ. This is an exhalation of the Cross; a resurrection from the old to the new. So, rather than discuss the Cross it might do better to meditate *into it*; feel how we are one with it and let it become our instrument of resurrection, our happiness and exaltation.



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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

[Click Here](#)

Mass Changes:

Wednesday 17 September – The 10am Mass at St Gregory will be replaced by 'Service of the Word'. This week only.

The Requiem Mass for Ruth Gibson will take place at 11am on Thursday 25 September at St Gregory's. As a result, there will be no 10am Mass at St Osmund's on that day.

INTERNATIONAL MASS –SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, 11.00AM, ST GREGORY'S CHURCH

Join us for a special International Mass with contributions in different languages from our Polish, Slovakian, Nigerian, Indian, and other nationalities. After Mass, all are welcome to the hall for refreshments and a celebration of food and traditions from around the world—a wonderful chance to meet others and share in our parish community spirit.

Please feel free to bring along a dish to share (including British favourites!) for the buffet table.

Thursday 18 September Downton Mass – Harvest Festival for CAFOD

Our Mass in Downton next Thursday will be our annual Harvest Festival Mass in aid of CAFOD.

We kindly invite parishioners to bring donations of produce (fruit, vegetables, baked goods, preserves, etc.) which will be sold to raise funds for CAFOD. Your generosity will help support those in need around the world.

EdUKaid Visit – Meet Bintially Mfangavo

We're delighted to share that EdUKaid has a special opportunity to welcome their Programme Manager, Bintially Mfangavo, to the UK—thanks to the support of Oxford University.

During her visit, Bintially will be staying with Tim and Sarah Varney and will be attending 11am Mass at St Gregory's on Sunday, 28 September.

After Mass, please join us for coffee, where there will be a chance to meet Bintially and hear more about the inspiring work EdUKaid is doing—work we proudly support through SCORE.

First Friday Talks – began again last Friday 5 September in the Parish Centre. The speaker was Graham Brown who reflected on the 'Season of Creation'. The talk was recorded, to view please click on 'First Friday Talks' on our homepage or [click here](#).

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

My Generation will be meeting next Wednesday 17 September 2025 for Hoy Bingo at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

New Catholic Book Club – We're excited to launch a new Catholic Book Club in our parish! The first meeting will take place on Thursday 25 September 2025, from 1:30–2:30 pm at the Parish Centre, Exeter Street.

After that, the group will meet on the last Thursday of each month (excluding December). Come along for a friendly and welcoming social occasion as we read and discuss engaging books together.

Everyone is welcome—feel free to bring a friend! Light refreshments will be provided and there is free parking. Further details are available from Frances on 07966 925995 or rollestonfrances@gmail.com.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN SALISBURY FOR 2026

The preparation of our children to receive their first Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion (the Eucharist) takes place at *Family of Faith*. All the information is below.

FAMILY OF FAITH

Family of Faith is our parish's way of helping families with young children grow together in their faith. It is also where our children are prepared to receive their First Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion. The children have some teaching and fun activities, and the adults have a separate input and discussion to support each other in nurturing faith-filled families.

Family of Faith is open to children in Year 2 to 5, with Year 3 being the normal age for children to start preparing for their First Communion. This year, we are going to try moving to a new home at St Gregory's church. We will gather from 9.15am, and then move into the 11am Family Mass.

The first session this year will be on Sunday 28th September. There is lots more information, and all the dates, and the link to sign up, on our website—[CLICK HERE](#).

CONFIRMATION 2026

Thank you to all the parents and young people who joined us for the launch of our Confirmation 2026 programme this week. If you were unable to attend but would still like your child to be Confirmed this year, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

The full Confirmation programme is now available. If you—or your son or daughter—are in Year 9 or above and wish to be Confirmed, this programme is for you. Click on the 'Confirmation' button on our home page or [click here](#).

Youth Group – For anyone in Years 8 to 11 who'd like to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. Every Wednesday night, 6.30 to 8pm (during term time) in the Parish Centre. Next Wednesday we welcome our Parish Priest, Fr Anthony, to talk to us about his life as a military chaplain. For more click on 'Youth Group' button on our homepage or [click here](#)

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith – For adults who are not confirmed Catholics and for those who are returning to the faith of their childhood. The new programme which starts in the Autumn is now on our website with the first session on 21 September 10.30am at the Parish Centre. If you are interested in joining do contact Dave Blake at Salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com. For more including the timetable click on the '[Journey in Faith](#)' button on our home page or [click here](#).

Congratulations to Ruairí John Greene who received the sacrament of Baptism last Saturday 6 September at St Osmund. Please keep Ruairí, his parents Rebekah & John and godparents in your prayers.

We will also welcome Lucas Peter Bell who will receive the sacrament of Baptism tomorrow Saturday 13 September at St Osmund. Please keep Lucas, his parents Rhiannon & Peter in your prayers

Baptism Preparation – The next course starts on Sunday 5 October at St Osmund and will run for 3 consecutive Sundays after the 9am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the 'Registration' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Ordinary Time Week 24 Proper of the Feast & Psalter 4

Saturday 13 September Saint John Chrysostom

10:00 St Osmund MASS Bridie & Harry Clapham RIP

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS James (Jimmy) Quinlan RIP

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Czeslava Maciejewska RIP

11:00 St Gregory MASS Sheila, Archie, Bridget
Campbell-Murdoch RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Doris Phelan RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS Private Intention

Monday 15 September Our Lady of Sorrows

10:00 St Osmund MASS In Thanksgiving

Tuesday 16 September Saints Cornelius & Cyprian

10:00 St Osmund MASS Leonard Hirst RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 17 September Saint Edith of Wilton

10:00 St Gregory Service of the Word

Thursday 18 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Czeslava Maciejewska RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

18:30 Downton MASS (G) James Victory RIP

Friday 19 September

10:00 St Gregory MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS Helen Ahern RIP

Saturday 20 September Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang & Companions

10:00 St Osmund MASS Kathleen Coyle RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Maurice Petty RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after 10am Mass & Saturdays 5.30pm until
Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon
and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER

For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray this week for the Parish of Holy Cross (Bedminster).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Helen Ahern, Stephen Castle, Sally Bradley, Ruth Gibson, Duncan Green, Terri Thomas and Alfred (Roger) Palliser, 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.

**Requiem Mass for Ruth Gibson RIP will on
Thursday 25 September 11am at St Gregory**

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm Response

Never forget the deeds of the Lord!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by
your cross you have redeemed the world.**

Alleluia.

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 is coming to Mass regularly, for whom preparation for First Communion may be appropriate, please use our online form to register your interest in our Family of Faith programme. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION 2026 For children who are year 9 or above please visit our Confirmation page for information and how to sign up. [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 Désirée for more details: office@salisbury Catholics.org

CANONISATION OF SAINTS CARLO ACUTIS & PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

Last Sunday 7 September 2025, the Church joyfully celebrated the canonisation of two remarkable young Catholics whose lives continue to inspire people around the world.

Saint Carlo Acutis

Born in 1991, Carlo was a teenager with a deep love for the Eucharist and a gift for technology. He created a website documenting Eucharistic miracles to help others grow in faith. Carlo died of leukemia at just 15, offering his suffering for the Church. He is now known as the first millennial saint and a powerful example of holiness in the digital age.

Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati

Born in 1901 in Turin, Pier Giorgio was a university student who lived out the Gospel through service to the poor and a joyful spirit. He was active in Catholic groups and loved mountain climbing, often combining his adventures with prayer and reflection. He died at 24, and his life earned him the title 'Man of the Beatitudes'.

For more including the Canonisation Mass celebrated by Pope Leo XIV and homily, click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY – DIOCESE PILGRIMAGE 2025

On Sunday, parishioners from Salisbury & Amesbury joined pilgrims from across the Diocese of Clifton for the annual diocesan pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Glastonbury, held this year under the theme "Mary, Woman of Hope."

Parishioners travelled together by coach, while children and staff from St Joseph's Catholic School came by minibus. We all met on arrival in Glastonbury and shared the day's programme of prayer and pilgrimage.

The celebrations included the Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Benediction in the Shrine Church. In the Abbey Grounds, pilgrims took part in the Jubilee procession, healing prayer at the Chapel of Healing, and the Rosary procession through the town centre.

The day culminated in a moving open-air Mass at 3.15pm in the Abbey grounds, with the ruins of the ancient abbey providing a powerful and prayerful backdrop to the liturgy, celebrated by Bishop Bosco MacDonald.

We arrived home to Salisbury at 7pm tired but happy.

Deacon Steve has kindly provided some photos, please visit our 'Photo Gallery' or [click here](#) to view.