

# PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



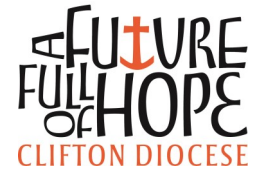
## ADVENT WEEK 3 (C) GAUDETE SUNDAY

### From Father Anthony

It was a cold clear night. Stars sparkled like Christmas lights across the velvety blackness. By contrast, morning arrived on the wings of a storm. Daubed in ink and chalk dust by a divine thumb, clouds twisted and swirled across the sky in tight embrace; wringing out torrents of rain driven horizontally by ferocious winds. Trees swayed violently, the last of their leaves scattering; the hedge shivered and shook; the path was scoured clean. Needless to say, the Gunslinger, Gangsters and Brown Sparrows were nowhere to be seen... nor Mrs Cat! When the storm abated it was eerily bare and silent: severe yet refreshing.

*Heaven: His winnowing fan is in his hand.* The winnowing fan is often used in scripture as an image of how God will shake up humanity at the end of time separating the good from the bad. It is also an image of what happens to the individual soul when it surrenders itself into the arms of Jesus. Winnowing is a process by which grain is separated from chaff, dirt and dust. Each one of us is the image of God attempting to become His likeness: *this is the grain*. All that *we think we are* or have allowed others or the world to convince us that we are... *this is the chaff, the dirt and the dust*; it hinders expression of our true image. When we come to understand this; when we surrender ourselves to Jesus, who is Our Lord, Master and Friend, then, in friendship and love, He will *shake away what is false and inauthentic*. The light of His Presence will reveal to us who we truly are; in that recognition we willingly cast aside all that we are not as so much rubbish to be *burnt up* and discarded. From a *living being* we transform into a *life-giving spirit*.

This heavenly transformation begins now by practicing the Gospel exhortations: share with one another: take no more than is needed: offer others what we have left over: don't gossip or talk about others behind their backs: be satisfied with what Providence gives us. This helps us relax: it frees us from constant attempts to either get or make ourselves *into* something. We are something *already*... the image of God attempting to become His likeness. By putting God and others first, we live the life of Love, rather than of self-preoccupation... Heaven on earth.



### PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev Anthony B Paris VF** (Parish Priest)  
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**Rev Jonathan Creer** (Pastor of Sarum  
Ordinariate & Assistant Priest)  
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**Rev Joseph Columba Meigh**  
(Assistant Priest)  
01722 333581  
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**Rev John Detain** (Deacon)  
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**Rev Stephen Godwin** (Deacon)  
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**Rev John Proctor** (Deacon)  
07802 631968  
[john.proctor@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:john.proctor@cliftondiocese.com)

### Parish Office

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600  
**Wednesday CLOSED**  
Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

**NOTICE - the parish office closes  
for Christmas at 4pm on Tuesday 17  
December until 2 January 2025  
01722 562703**

**Caroline Williams**  
[caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com)

**Désirée Coups**  
[office@salisburycatholics.org](mailto:office@salisburycatholics.org)

**Tony Peters-Ennis**  
[outreach@salisburycatholics.org](mailto:outreach@salisburycatholics.org)

### 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](#)



## GAUDETE SUNDAY - 15 DECEMBER

On this, the third Sunday of Advent or Gaudete Sunday, we sense a definite mood change. The austerity of what can be a sombre though hope-filled penitential season is replaced by a shift of emphasis. We see a burst of colour appearing at the Mass today as rose-coloured vestments and advent candle replace the violet and we are urged at the Introit to: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice' or *Gaudete in Domino semper*, hence Gaudete Sunday. For more, click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

## CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

It is a tradition of our Church that the Christmas and Easter collections are for our priests. Due to an administrative change in the way that stipends are paid to priests, Christmas offerings can now be Gift-Aided. There are special Christmas Offering envelopes available now 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**.



## ADVENT CAROLS - 17 DECEMBER AT 7PM

Advent is such a beautiful season, yet it can go by in a blur. Take an hour this Tuesday evening to soak in the beautiful music and scriptures of Advent, led by Fr Joseph & followed by mulled wine & mince pies (those traditional Advent staples!). 7pm, St Osmund's Church.

**Donations of Mince Pies will be gratefully received** - please bring to Sunday Mass, the Parish Office or to the event on the night. Many thanks.

**Advent Talks:** - The third talk tonight Friday 13 December 7pm is at our Parish Centre and will be given by Deacon Steve Godwin on 'Judgement'. Can't attend in person? Click on the Advent Talks button on our homepage or [click here](#) for the all the recordings.

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS TIMES

### CHRISTMAS EVE

16:00 (Carols) followed by 16:30 Mass at St Gregory's - children may come dressed as nativity character.

17:30 (Carols) followed by 18:00 Mass at St Osmund's - with an opportunity for children to lead a carol or two!

22:30 Mass at St Osmund's by candlelight.

### CHRISTMAS DAY

9am in St Gregory's

9am, 11am & 12.30 (Ordinariate) at St Osmund's.

NO EVENING MASS on Christmas Day

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

As in previous years, there will be Mass at 23:30hrs on New Year's Eve in St Osmund's Church timed so that the consecration occurs at the passing from the old year into the new. All welcome.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS & READINGS - 23 DECEMBER AT 7PM

As a response to feedback from parishioners, we are trying something new this year and have organised what we hope will be a relaxed sociable evening in the Parish Centre featuring some of the readings and Carols of Christmas. Depending upon how many people book to attend, this will either feel like an intimate 'around the piano' evening or a larger gathering... we shall wait and see! Either way, there will be mulled wine, mince pies & tea and coffee and good cheer! **The evening is free but you must book to attend** so that we know how many to cater for and how to set the room. To book, please click [here](#) ideally or email the parish office or (least preferable) ring the parish office **before 17 December**. Hope to see you there.

## INTERNATIONAL EVENT

Last weekend, St. Gregory's Church hosted a truly uplifting International event, bringing together parishioners from a wide range of nationalities to celebrate the diversity within our Catholic community. It was a powerful reminder of how our different cultures and backgrounds come together and are united as one family in Christ. For more and some great photos click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

**SCORE** collection this weekend 14/15 December for Home projects.

**Family of Faith** The final gathering of this year is this Sunday 15 December beginning with our morning 9am Masses continuing afterwards at our Parish Centre. Open to families with children in Years 2 to 5 and includes, but is not limited to, those preparing to make their First Holy Communion. Sessions take place *every other week* in term-time, finishing at 12 noon. [Click here](#) or on 'Family of Faith' on our homepage.

**Journey in Faith** These sessions are for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next session is on Sunday 22 December at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Contact Dave Blake via the Parish Office [office@salisbury Catholics.org](mailto:office@salisbury Catholics.org) if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

**Young(ish) Catholic Adults Group** for those in their 20s, 30s, 40s...?! We will gather again in the New Year on Tuesday 7 January at 8pm in person in the St O's Parish Rooms (Green door), or join us online via Zoom. Contact Fr Joseph for the link.

**St Joseph's School Christmas Carol Service.** Join us at St Joseph's and enjoy music, readings, drama and dance performed by our talented pupils. Festive treats available. Monday 16 December at 6pm.

**Confirmation 2025** If you have a child that is in Year 9 or above and are interested in joining our preparation programme, please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#).

**Baptism Preparation Course** - The next course is at St Osmund starting 9 February 2025. To request Baptism for your child, click the Registration button on our homepage or [click here](#).

**Flowers for our Churches this Christmas.** 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 wallbox in the church.

**THE 'O' ANTIPHONS** Beginning on the 17 December and for seven days following, a special antiphon is read before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer. These are a wonderful prayer resource to help us in our Advent preparations. Click on the 'The 'O' Antiphons' button on our home page or [click here](#).

## RECYCLING OF OBSOLETE PEOPLE'S SUNDAY & WEEKDAY MISSALS

With the adoption of a new translation, many of us have replaced our Missals and now have previous versions we no longer need. The Catholic Church in Nigeria still use the previous translation and would love to receive any missals that are still in good order. If you would like your old missal (post-2012 only: ie. those that include the revision of the Roman Missal that happened at that time) to be put to good use, please bring it to the Parish Office or leave it in the Church porch for collection. We will be passing on our large parish Lectionaries for use as well. Please ensure all personal prayer cards are removed.

## ADVANCE NOTICE - PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Parish Office will close on Tuesday 17 December at 4pm for Christmas and will reopen on Thursday 2 January. During this period there will be no one to answer telephone calls or respond to emails. If there is an urgent matter that requires a Priest, please do visit our home page or [click here](#) for their contact details.

## Volunteer Handyperson

We are seeking a dedicated volunteer to assist with general maintenance tasks across our parish buildings for a few hours each weekday, Monday to Friday. This role offers an opportunity to contribute time, skills, and care to support our church community. Tasks include checking buildings, liaising with tradespeople, conducting basic repairs, and general maintenance. Expenses will be paid.

To Apply please email your application to: Rev. Stephen Godwin [stephen.godwin@cliffondiocese.com](mailto:stephen.godwin@cliffondiocese.com)

## REGULAR PARISH GATHERINGS

**Parish Prayer & Praise (Alabaré)** which meets on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in our Parish Centre will have their last meeting before Christmas on the 17 December.

**First Friday Talks** - The last talk was part of the 'Advent Talks' and was given by Deacon John Detain on 'Death'. The next talk will be on Friday 7 February after the evening Mass and will be given by Eric Williams on 'Christian Poetry'. To view the recordings click on 'First Friday Talks' on our homepage or [click here](#).

**My Generation** will be meeting next Wednesday 18 December 2024 for Club members only, for their Christmas Party at 2.00pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

**Hope and Friendship Group** - which normally meets on Mondays at 10.45am at our Parish Centre, will have their last meeting before Christmas this Monday 16 December. For more information please contact Deacon John Detain 01722 415588

**Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral - Friday 20 Dec** - 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 Friday 20 December. All are welcome, we meet in the Cathedral Refectory 11.30am before going into the Cathedral.

**Parish Rosary Group** which meets to pray the Rosary together via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm will reconvene on the 8 January. Please contact Alison on 01722 741681 for information. Everyone is welcome to join.

**Coffee & Cake after the Thursday 10am Mass** - Will now pause until after Christmas. The next get-together will be on Thursday 2 January.

## LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Advent Week 3  
Psalter 3 Proper of Season

### Saturday 14 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Nithin

### First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS In sickness Kathleen Savage

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

### SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER GAUDETE SUNDAY

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

09:00 St Osmund MASS Rozinda Brookes RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Joan Morris 80th Birthday

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS T. C. Jose RIP

### Monday 16 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Alan Dobson RIP

### Tuesday 17 December 'O Sapientia'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Ann McNellis RIP

12:00 St Osmund Funeral Service James Herlihy RIP

### No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or Benediction

19:00 St Osmund Advent Carol Service

### Wednesday 18 December 'O Adonai'

10:00 St Gregory MASS John Brook RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

### Thursday 19 December 'O Radix'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

18:30 Downton MASS Doris Phelan RIP

### Friday 20 December 'O Clavis David'

10:00 St Gregory MASS Doris M Pearson RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS Carol & Breda RIP

### Saturday 21 December 'O Oriens'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Reshma

### First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

## RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after the 10am Mass & Saturdays  
17:30 until Mass

St Osmund: On the first Saturday of the month from 9am to 12  
noon, and on other Saturdays after the 10am Mass

## PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

### Pope Francis Intention for December For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

[Click here](#)

**CLIFTON DIOCESE** We pray for The Abbey Church (Downside) with St Benedict (Stratton-on-the-Fosse).

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

James Herlihy, Andrée Spark, Fiona Ross, Veronica Fulton, Annette Grennell and Delphine Hughes, 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:

*Zephaniah 3:14-18*

*Isaiah 12:2-6*

**Shout aloud and sing praise,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

*Philippians 4:4-7*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**The spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor.  
Alleluia!**

*Luke 3:10-18*

## 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. [Click here](#)

**CONFIRMATION** If you have a child who is in Year 9 or above from Sept 2024, please use our online form to apply to join our preparation programme. [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 Desiree for more details:

[office@salisbury Catholics.org](mailto:office@salisbury Catholics.org)