

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

From Father Anthony

There was a lovely moment as we paddled along the shoreline. The water was fresh and invigorating; the sky, dappled blue and white with shafts of sunlight. Out in the bay, a pod of bottlenose dolphins arrived, leaping, smiling, twisting and splashing. The beach came to a standstill. Children shrieked and pointed; one or two dogs barked. We all stood to watch and welcome these beautiful friends from the deep. They porpoised up and down for a while and then departed out to sea. Little was said but everyone wore a smile and spirits were high.

Sometimes there is confusion between the Assumption of Mary and Ascension of Jesus. The basic difference is that Jesus Ascends into Heaven by his own power and in His own right whereas it is only by the power of God that Mary is Assumed, body and soul, into Heaven. She does not *ascend* of her own power but is *assumed* by God. The action is God's. Perhaps we are to understand that there was and is nothing left in and of Her other than that which was and is of God; that only the power of God was and is alive in her; so that God could be born of His own creation, *"the love poured into the Theotokos to enable her to love so fully in her turn"* (Theotokos: a Greek word and Title used by the Eastern Orthodox Church meaning God Bearer or Mother of God). There are exceptionally deep Divine mysteries here and perhaps humble silence is the best stance.

However, Mary's quality of receiving and returning the Love of God so perfectly as to bring forth into the world the very Creator of the World is a *spiritual quality* that every Christian should aspire towards; it is our spiritual destiny to transform from being *an animated soul to a life-giving spirit* (1 Cor 15;45) through the action of God in our lives and therefore bring forth Christ into the world, spiritually.

When we have gone through the *first two trimesters* of spiritual awakening (sometimes known as the *purgative and illuminative way* or 'she was in her six month'); when we are ready for Unification with Christ (*the Unified way or final trimester or three months*): then She will come and stay with us and assist His Presence to be born in and of us. Then our souls will leap for joy.



PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

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PARISH OFFICE

Désirée Coups
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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](#)

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

This significant feast day recalls the spiritual and physical departure of the mother of Jesus Christ from the earth, when both her soul and her body were taken into the presence of God. Pope Pius XII confirmed this belief about the Virgin Mary as the perennial teaching of the Church when he defined it formally as a dogma of Catholic faith in 1950, invoking papal infallibility to proclaim, "that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". For more click on the image in the [‘Top News’](#) box.

ST GREGORY'S CHURCH; 9AM SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2026

Please be aware that due to the unforeseen but necessary absence of a Deanery Priest and the unavailability - so far - of Supply Priests: there may have to be a Service of the Word led by a Parish Deacon in place of Mass at 9am on Sunday 23 August 2026.

Please also note that there will be no 10.00am Mass at St Gregory's **next Wednesday 19 August**. Instead, a Service of the Word, led by Deacon John Proctor, will take place at the usual time.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY 6 SEPTEMBER

Pilgrimage to Glastonbury - This year's pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, 6 September 2026, and will be centred on the theme "Mary, Mother of the Faithful." We have booked a coach, with fares of £26 per adult, £19 for children aged 12-18, and free for children under 12. The increase in cost is due to a requested entrance fee of £4 and rising fuel prices. **Please book soon, as we need to know by Sunday 23 August if we have to cancel the coach due to insufficient numbers.** Sign-up sheets are available in both churches. Please ensure you include your contact details when booking. If you would like to attend but are concerned about the cost, please speak in confidence to one of our clergy. For more information click on the image in the [‘Top News’](#) box.

INTERNATIONAL MASS – SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

We are delighted to announce that our International Mass will take place at 9am on Sunday, 13 September, at St Gregory's Church. This joyful celebration will reflect the rich diversity of our parish, with Scripture readings and the Prayers of the Faithful in different languages, an international choir, and a celebration with food and refreshments after Mass.

Everyone is warmly invited. [Please click on the image in the ‘Top News’ for the full details](#). If you would like to represent your country or culture by taking part in the liturgy, music, traditional dress, or refreshments, we would be delighted to hear from you. For more information please contact Daniel Wairimu 07554 118333 or email: dmungai.w@gmail.com

Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral - Friday 21 August - 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 21 Aug in the Trinity Chapel. If you would like to join us we meet in the refectory 1130-1150 before going into the Cathedral.

SCORE – There will be a retiring collection for SCORE Overseas Projects this weekend 15/16 August.

SCORE grants. Applications for a grant will be considered at the September committee meeting. If you are involved in a charity working locally or overseas it may be eligible for a grant. Please visit the [SCORE](#) page under Parish Activities for more details and an application form which should be submitted by the end of August. Thank you.

FAMILY OF FAITH

If you have child who has not yet made their First Holy Communion, and is in Year 3 or above, our Family of Faith programme will begin again next month, so it's time to sign up via the Parish Website! There will be a short information session for parents after Mass on Sunday 6th September, and the first proper session will be Sunday 27th September. Sessions are fortnightly during term time, after the 9am Masses, at the Parish Centre. Parents have their own session whilst the children have theirs, and it is essential that at least one parent stays for the whole session, which will last 1 hour. Lots more information is on the website (<https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith>), and if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

HELP NEEDED particularly for these Family of Faith sessions, either with the parents or the children, even if it is not possible to commit to every time. In particular, it would be wonderful if somebody could offer to manage a "crèche" for younger siblings so that parents can bring them along and not be too distracted from the sessions!

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

This Sunday 16 August we will welcome Sammy Emanuel Valladores who will receive the sacrament of Baptism at the 11am Mass at St Osmund. Please keep Sammy his parents Mary & Salvador and the godparents in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation. The next preparation course starts 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

If you have a child who will be in Year 9 or above from September, please use our [online form](#) to apply to join our preparation programme for 2027 as **there will be an information evening for parents & candidates on Wednesday 9 September at 6.30pm.**

There is a wonderful residential retreat for the group during the first term and so it is vital that you sign up **NOW** to receive all the information and dates that you will need. Please click on the '[Confirmation](#)' button on our homepage for the link to sign up. The Confirmation programme and Mass are a wonderful time in a young person's life and is gaining in popularity every year with our youngsters. Please sign up now to be assured of a place for next year.

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 just click on 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- The annual Parish Retreat will take place during Lent at The Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Abbey Monday 15th February - Thursday 18th February 2027. Our theme will be 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God'. Please consider coming if you have not been before, it is open to everyone in the Pastoral Area of St Edith. There will be more details to come nearer the date, but if you are interested, then put the dates in your diary and contact either the parish office or Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 20, Proper of Solemnity & Palter 4

Saturday 15 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Eyre RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS John Brook RIP

SUNDAY 16 AUGUST THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

09:00 St Gregory MASS Frank Detain & John Brook RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Lewis Salmon RN

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 17 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Bridie & Harry Clapham RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 18 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Ross Burns RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10:30 St Gregory **Funeral Service Michael O'Sullivan RIP**

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 19 August

10:00 St Gregory **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Thursday 20 August Saint Bernard

10:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 21 August Saint Pius X

18:00 St Osmund MASS Gigliola Dragoni RIP

Saturday 22 August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving – Tony & Family

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Patricia Rayner RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

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PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR AUGUST

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for Hospital and Prison Chaplaincies

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

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.

The Funeral Service for Michael O'Sullivan is next Tuesday 10.30am 18 August at St Gregory's. Michael's family warmly invite any parishioners who would like to attend to join them as we pray for Michael and support his family at this time.

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