

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

LENT WEEK 2(C)



From Father Anthony

It was a lovely day. Mrs Cat sprawled languidly atop the garden wall, soaking up the rays. She glanced at me imperiously as I locked the sacristy door after Mass. Spivs sounded like football rattles warning of her presence. She took no notice. The gunslinger monitored proceedings high up from an olive branch. I made some tea, opened the post and waited for a couple. They arrived, we had a good chat and I signed references in support of them becoming citizens of another country. It would be sad to see them go.

'Our citizenship is in heaven', says St Paul. Last week we were invited to join Jesus in the *desert*, a metaphor for the interior life and Lent. He was tempted by the devil; so are we. The 'three temptations' point toward three traditional obstacles to spiritual growth. These obstacles keep us as *citizens of the world* rather than *citizens of heaven; living beings* rather than *life giving spirits*. Lent (*from Lenten old English for spring season*) is a time for identifying and rising above these earthbound obstacles (*climbing the mountain with Jesus*) for the higher ground of spirit. The obstacles are Resentment, Envy and Pride.

Resentment is wanting things to be other than they are (*turn these stones into bread*). Envy is the worship of wanting what someone else has (*worship me and I'll give you all the kingdoms of the world*). Pride is believing we are special above others; normal customs and laws do not apply to me (*throw yourself down*). Identifying this in our lives is climbing the mountain. As we 'climb', Resentment is transformed into Heavenly Wisdom (*Moses*), Envy into Heavenly Power (*Elijah*) and Pride into Love (*Jesus*). We are transformed in body, soul and spirit (*three tents*). We cease listening to and following the strident, beguiling but impotent voice of the world and begin to hear the voice of the Father claiming us as His daughters and sons; residents of His house and *citizens of heaven* here on earth.

Resentment, envy and pride are the nightmarish daydreams that keep us from recognising and embracing the spiritual being we are (*they were overcome by sleep*). Release from them awakens us to our spiritual nature (*Peter and his companions became fully awake*). Fully awakened to our spiritual nature (*transfigured*) we bring the characteristics of Moses, Elijah and Jesus to the world and transfigure it too.

PASTORAL TEAM

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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](#)

LENT SERVICES

Lent Penitential Service at 7pm next Tuesday 18 March at St Gregory - There will be a number of priests available to hear confessions.

Stations of the Cross - Every Friday during Lent 5.20pm at St Osmund.

MORE FOR LENT

Lent Resources - Please click on the 'Lent' button on our homepage or [click here](#) for all of the following:

Doors onto Salvation: - daily reflections on images, Bible texts, and action points, leading up to Christ's death.

Lent - A reflection on Lent by Bishop Robert Barron.

Confession - In a short video Fr. Alek walks us through how to make a good confession.

The Way of the Cross - Cardinal Nichols invites us to follow him through the Stations of the Cross.

Paschal Triduum - Canon Christopher Whitehead talks us through the 7 days of Holy Week.

Plus times, dates and locations of all our Lent Services, in Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum.

Choir for the Easter Triduum in St Gregory's & St Osmund's Fr Joseph is organising a group of singers to support and enhance the music at our Triduum liturgies. With the one Triduum occurring across both churches members from both are warmly invited to form one choir. The first get-together will be on Tuesday 25 March followed by rehearsals on the next three Tuesdays 1 April, 8 April & 15 April all in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund at 6.30pm. Please do let the Parish Office know if you are able to attend.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 14 March 'Lent Appeal' - Our Parish's support this Lent will help those who live in harsh climates to grow food in times of drought. There will be a retiring collection in both our churches this weekend. For more click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#) □

The Parish Lenten Retreat is now fully booked and final numbers have been submitted to the Franciscan Centre. **There will be a Retiring Collection next weekend 22 & 23 March** to help defray additional costs and to help those who cannot afford a place on the retreat now or in the future.

St Gregory's Planning Day Sunday 16 March after Mass (only 45mins) – A gathering in St Gregory's Hall after the 9am Mass this Sunday to plan events for the rest of 2025. There are long running events such as the Christmas Bazaar (23 or 30 Nov) but we'd love more ideas and volunteers to run and support new events. Ideas such as: International Mass, Summer BBQ/picnic, Treasure hunt. If you can't make it do contact Jez Mawdsley on: jeremymawdsley@gmail.com

SCORE update March 2025. Recently the SCORE committee made grants to charities totalling £10,045. Thanks to your generosity these were awarded as follows: The F3 Project £1,545, Purple Community Fund £2,000, Alabaré £4,500 and Home-Start South Wiltshire £2,000. More details are available on the website, or [click here](#).

First Friday Talks - last Friday 7 March the talk was given by Greg & Pauline on the biblical meaning of Jubilee. The session was recorded and is available to view by clicking on 'First Friday Talks' on our homepage or [click here](#).

SPUC - The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children Salisbury Branch would love to welcome new members to join our meetings and campaigns for Pro-Life matters. If anyone would like to find out more, please contact Alison Verrian on 01722 741681.

St Joseph's School - As part of our close working relationship with our Catholic schools, we are delighted to have a weekly update from the headteacher of activity at St Joseph's Catholic Secondary school.

<https://sjcs.org.uk/communications/>

THE ELECT

This Easter, we will be welcoming seven adults into full communion with the church across the pastoral area of St Edith. Three of them were able to attend the Rite of Election at Clifton Cathedral on Saturday 8 March along with friends, family and sponsors. It is a wonderfully joyful service when we as the Faithful recognise that God has called them to his church and that they are ready to receive the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). This Rite is the second step in the Rites of Christian Initiation, when they make a firm intention of continuing conversion. There were over 400 people at the Cathedral and there are more than 130 adults from Clifton diocese being received at the Easter Vigil this year; which is about 30% up on previous years. Please keep The Elect, Sandy, Tom, Isabelle, Angela, Jody, Selina and Josh, in your prayers.

We have photos of Sandy, Angela & Josh at the Rite of Election just click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#)

FOR THE YOUNG

FLAME – Tomorrow Saturday 15 March Fr Joseph is taking 15 of our young to join with 10,000 other young Catholics to a sold out Wembley arena. To take in talks from Catholic and Christian speakers, listen to music, and place Christ at the heart of their worship with Adoration led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

Sunday 23 March St Osmund's 6pm Mass will have more of a youth vibe with our young people joining. If you have a young person who has *not* yet tapped into what's going on in the parish, why not bring them along to this Sunday evening Mass?

Big Sleep Friday 28 March - Father Joseph and a few members of the Youth Group are giving up their warm beds for the night and joining the BIG Sleep at Salisbury Cathedral sleeping on the cold stone floor of the cloisters while raising vital funds and awareness for Alabaré's work with homeless and vulnerable people across Wiltshire. The invitation is always there for you to join them! if not, please dig deep and sponsor us by clicking on the link below. [St Osmund's Parish is fundraising for Alabaré](#) . This link will be repeated on our website. Just click on the 'Big Sleep' image in the 'Top News' box.

Youth Group - Wednesdays in term time 6.30 - 8pm in the Parish Centre.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Family of Faith the next session is Sunday 23 March beginning at our morning 9am Masses continuing afterwards at our Parish Centre. For all the dates click on the '[Family of Faith](#)' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Confirmation - The Confirmation group will next meet on Palm Sunday (13 April) but are warmly invited to join with the Youth Group in the interim. Please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#) for more information.

Young(ish) Catholic Adults Group for those in their 20s, 30s, 40s?! Next session is on Tuesday 25 March at 8pm. All young adults welcome; contact Fr Joseph for more info.

Journey in Faith - The next session is this Sunday 16 March at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Contact Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@clifftondiocese.com if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

Baptism Preparation Course - The next course will be at St Gregory starting 4 May. If you wish to join please contact the Parish Office. To request a Baptism for your child, click the Registration button on our homepage or [click here](#).

Congratulations and welcome to - Lucas Ivancek who will receive the sacrament of Baptism next Sunday 23 March St Gregory 9am Mass. Please keep Lucas, his Parents Marina & Danijel and the godparents in your prayers.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

.Year C-1 Lent Week 2 & Psalter 2

Saturday 15 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS John Stedman RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Roberta Tibon RIP

SUNDAY 16 MARCH

09:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Robson RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving

11:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar Mass

18:00 St Osmund MASS John Stone RIP

MONDAY 17 MARCH SAINT PATRICK, PATRON OF IRELAND

10:00 St Osmund MASS John & Margaret Stone RIP

Tuesday 18 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mini Francis RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

19:00 St Gregory Penitential Service

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10:00 St Gregory MASS Simon Thornton RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 20 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) John Edmunds RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

18:30 Downton MASS

Friday 21 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

12:00 St Osmund Requiem MASS Norman Meech RIP

17:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

18:00 St Osmund MASS Blessings upon the Allen family

Saturday 22 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Hansel D'Cruz RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Tony Brady RIP

RECONCILIATION

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

For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parish of Immaculate Conception (Stroud, with Brownhill, Painswick and More Hall).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Andrew Scarfe, Sylvia Weston, Leslie Dodd, Kathleen Stacey, Norman Meech and Julie Gray 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.

Psalm Response

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

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 If you have a child who will be in Year 9 or above from Sept 2025, please use our online form to apply to join our preparation programme for 2026. [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