

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

EASTER WEEK 7(A)



From Father Anthony

I took in the view and listened to the silence. Fields of dusty yellow, violet blue and velvet green stretched to the horizon. A distant helicopter chopped the air and faded away. Serene beauty and breezy silence softened yet intensified my gaze; eerily I sensed *myself looking* and *myself being seen*... a rigid form, conditioned by circular thoughts all chattering away and chopping up my mind. I let the breeze curl round my neck and blow it all away... Glorious!

"What is this life if full of care we have no time to stand and stare". (W H Davis).

When was the last time we really took time to *stand and stare*? Who has set the pace of life such that we are *so busy* we cannot or will not *stand and stare*. Is the *'the system'* mesmerising us into a state where we feel we have no space outside the grind of so called *'modern life'*? Are we forgetting how to look and listen? We look back in history and lament the slaves of various ages being corralled into serving dubious masters... *but are we any different?* Who is getting rich out of our slavery to modern life: who is making us slaves to time and the calendar; and... what spiritual price are we paying?

There is spiritual gain from *standing and staring*. When we really take something in, we get a sense of its *intrinsic worth*: a sense of the author behind it, God. We also sense our *Self* looking; a *Self*, created by the same author of whatever it is we are looking at! This can lead to heartfelt praise towards such a magnificent Creator and a sense of God as God. We may not be able to say who or what God is, but we sense God's magnificent *intrinsic worth* and our *Self* as a reflection of that magnificence... this recognition, and the liberation and praise that follow, the Gospel calls *Glory* (δόξα, dóksa). *Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you.*

Rather than asking *the what, how, why and worth of something*... let's take time to simply look at things in themselves. This may lead to glorifying God and finding one's *Self* as part of that Glory... not a number, debt slave, or puppet but, a sublime, unique reflection of God, whose gaze, through us, refreshes and enlivens the world.

PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

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PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1230

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1230

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caroline.williams@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](#)

RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

To mark the 300th anniversary of St Gerard Majella, a nationwide tour of his relics is taking place across England and Wales. This special occasion brings the presence of the saint to several dioceses, offering the faithful an opportunity for prayer, reflection, and devotion. St Osmund's will have the privilege of hosting the relics on Friday 5 June 2026. There will be Adoration at 5pm, followed by Mass at 6pm, celebrated by Fr Royston Price, the Redemptorist priest leading the tour. After Mass, Fr Royston will offer individual blessings with the relics for those who wish. Priests will also be available for Confession. St Gerard is popularly invoked as a patron of mothers, especially expectant mothers, couples hoping to conceive, and those seeking work. For more on St Gerard please click [here](#).

SCOTT HAHN COMING TO THE CLIFTON DIOCESE

Dr Scott Hahn, Catholic writer, author, broadcaster and teacher is speaking at **St John the Evangelist, Bath, on Tuesday 26 May at 7pm**. It is a limited number, ticketed event only. (£20) Click [here](#) to buy a ticket. If you would like to travel to Bath with Fr Joseph and fellow parishioners attending, please contact the parish office **after** you have bought a ticket and we will happily add you the list to travel with our group.

IN OUR PARISH

Ordinariate Mass on Tuesday 19 May is cancelled as Fr Tomas is helping to lead the **Parish Residential Retreat** at Ladywell. Please keep all those preparing, leading and attending the Retreat in your prayers. We are very grateful to those parishioners who have contributed financially to allow others to attend. Many thanks.

World Communications Day 17 May is dedicated to reflecting on the power, responsibility, and ethical dimensions of communication. This year Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme 'Preserving human voices and faces', emphasizing the importance of maintaining human presence, empathy, and moral responsibility in an era increasingly dominated by technology and artificial intelligence. Please click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' box to read Pope Leo's message.

There will be a retiring collection this weekend to support the work of the Bishops' Conference in communicating news on every aspect of the life of the Catholic Church.

Come Holy Spirit Friday afternoons from 4–5:30pm, Until Pentecost, join us over a cup of tea or coffee for a gentle, themed afternoon in good company. Our time together is relaxed and prayerful, with space for sharing, discernment, and teaching, as we grow in faith and build an inclusive parish community. More info [here](#)

Encounter 2026 from Eastertide to Pentecost, exploring the Holy Spirit. We are screening a set of talks from Clifton Cathedral at the Parish Centre each Tuesday from 7-9pm. The last talk will be next Tuesday 19 May, 'Sent in the Spirit: Living My Mission in Everyday Life', given by Ann Tarr. Do join with us in person if you can. Recordings of the talks also go onto our website as they become available. For more [click here](#).

Confirmation Candidates This is an important time for our teenage candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep them in your prayers – they will be confirmed by Bishop Bosco in June.

Radiant - our monthly group for women next meets on Thursday 21 May 7pm. We would love you to join us for prayer, scripture and friendship. Bring a small plate of something for a shared supper. Please get in touch if you need a lift. For information Xanthe 07904 589360 or [click here](#).

Rosary for Peace On Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 7pm, several Catholic Charities (CAFOD, Missio, Aid to the Church in Need UK and Stella Maris) are joining together to host a unique online opportunity for the Catholic community of England and Wales to pray the Rosary together. Each participating charity will lead a reflection on one of the Sorrowful Mysteries, the fifth reflection being led by our bishop, **Rt Rev Bosco MacDonald**. To register click [here](#):

Hope & Friendship Group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month. For those experiencing grief or loss, even from a while ago. A friendly hour or so among people who listen to one another with care and encouragement. Monday mornings 10.45-12 noon in the Parish Centre. Questions? Call Deacon John Detain 01722 415588

Catholic Book Club meets on the final Thursday of each month from 1:30–2:30 pm at the Parish Centre, 131 Exeter Street. Next meeting is on Thursday 28 May. Contact Frances on 07966 925995 or rollestonfrances@gmail.com

My Generation meets next Wednesday 20 May 2026 for Tabletop Games at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

PC Monitor – Do you have a spare/unwanted one? Our Parish Office needs a flat-screen computer monitor (one of ours has died!) If anyone has one that they no longer need, it would save the parish from having to purchase a new one. Please contact the office if you have one that you'd be happy to donate. Many thanks.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith: The next gathering will take place on 21 June following the Spring Bank Holiday on 25 May and because celebrations of First Holy Communion on 7 June. See the [Family of Faith](#) webpage for more information.

Bible Study with the Fathers of the Church - Fr Joseph's group for Young(ish) adults (open to all in their 20s & 30s) meets on alternate Tuesdays at 8pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms, also available to join online via Zoom. Please email Fr Joseph to be added to the WhatsApp group for notifications. joseph.meigh@cliffondiocese.com

Youth Group (Wednesdays in term time) at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. This group is for those in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. For more, click on [Youth Group](#) on our home page.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Confirmation 2026 - The next meeting will be on 3 June. If you have a child that will be in Year 9 or above in the next school year who wishes to be confirmed, you can sign up for the 2027 programme by visiting our [Confirmation](#) page.

Baptism Preparation. The second session of the current course is this Sunday 17 May after the 9am Mass at St Gregory. If you wish to apply for a baptism for your child please click on the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage or call the Parish Office.

ON OUR WEBSITE

Ascension Day at St Joseph's School A truly heartwarming moment took place at St Joseph's School this week when two Head Girls - separated by 62 years - came together during the school's celebration of the Ascension Day Mass. Parishioners that attended the Mass & reception afterwards were delighted to see Joan, head girl from 1964 alongside Kyla who will serve in the role in the coming year. Standing together **beneath** the school's mission statement, the pair represented more than six decades of faith, leadership and community spirit at St Joseph's. The occasion was another step on the road of enhanced connections between our parish and St Joseph's School. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all parishioners who support our wonderful school. See our '[Blog](#)' for more.

The Pentecost Novena is prayed during the nine days from Ascension to the eve of Pentecost. It is the original novena, rooted in Christ's instruction for the apostles to return to Jerusalem and await the Holy Spirit. Inspired by Mary and the disciples praying together in the Upper Room (Acts 1:14), we are invited to unite "with one heart in constant prayer" as they did in those days of waiting. See the Pentecost Novena [webpage](#), for more. you can find the booklet *Come Holy Spirit* and daily intercession podcasts to support prayer across these nine days.

Pray the Rosary for Life Each mystery will be dedicated to those most in need of protection: unborn children, victims of war and persecution, people with disabilities, the elderly and vulnerable. Much more on this on our [website](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Easter Week 7 Psalter 3 & Proper of Season

Saturday 16 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Emma Vandenhoff RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Kathleen Neeson – recovery wishes

SUNDAY 17 MAY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Donal John Ellis RIP

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Alexandra in thanksgiving

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS K Sebastian – Private Intentions

Monday 18 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS K Sebastian – Private Intentions

Tuesday 19 May St Dunstan

10:00 St Osmund MASS Arthur Buck RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

18:00 Ordinariate MASS cancelled this week

Wednesday 20 May

10:00 St Gregory MASS Eileen Butterfield RIP

Thursday 21 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intention

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12:00 Downton MASS Eileen RIP

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 22 May

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Louis Weeks RIP

Saturday 23 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Buck RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR MAY

That everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parishes of Holy Rood & St Peter (Swindon) and Sacred Heart (Royal Wootton Bassett).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bill Allen, John Wilson, Philip Potter, Bob Kimsey and Tony Broughton 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.

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