PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 29 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

Ignoring me, Mrs Cat froze, ears pricked. She lowered herself, every muscle taut. I followed her gaze to a tiny face with whiskers, under a bush. A mouse. It twitched its nose looking left and right, undecided. It sensed danger and then saw it… just in time. Mrs Cat pounced. The mouse darted backwards, the bush exploded and, happily, Mrs Cat emerged minus the mouse. Phew! I needed the tea.

The mouse dilemma reminded me of the double binds we often face in life, left or right, *damned if you do, damned if you don't.* The Pharisees set one for Jesus. Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar? Saying no would put him in trouble with the Roman authorities: saying yes in trouble with the Jewish authorities for endorsing oppressive Roman rule. Many of us face an outer tension between worldly and religious values; and, inner tension between the person we and others have made and are making of ourselves, our self-image; and the person we are in Christ… the image of God attempting to becoming His likeness. It is tempting to follow the crowd or the path of least resistance and settle for the easy life. Yet *what we permit we promote* as the saying goes. The state of society and, perhaps, our interior life might cause us to reflect about what we are permitting.

Old Basil frequently demanded that we reflect on "*whose image do I think I am? What am I creating of myself or allowing others to make of me? What is the driver in my life? What distant shore am I aiming for? When I die what will I take with me? Will I be a clone of the world, angry, hateful, selfish, greedy and self-obsessed? What is the point of running if I am on the wrong road or going in the wrong direction?"* Each of us, he would say, need the prodigal son moment of coming to our senses. He would always end with Jeremiah 6;16… "*Halt at the crossroads. Look hard and follow the path that stood you in good stead long ago and you will find rest for your soul."*

Houses, jobs, ambitions, careers and what we do are often necessary: but so too is the Church and our internal being. Doing is a function of Being. If we get the Being right the Doing will follow. But have we?

Bishop Bosco has written to us regarding Pope Leo's recent diagnosis and surgery. His letter is available on our website and a printed copy is on the Church noticeboards. Please keep the Holy Father in your prayers.

A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE
CLIFTON DIOCESE

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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**

SEPTUAGENARIAN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!

Everyone is warmly invited to join in celebrating Fr Anthony's 70th birthday this Sunday! Special invitations have been posted to each parishioner who is also turning 70 this year to be 'guests of honour' at this special parish celebration.

Sunday 18th October 12.30pm for a 1pm arrival of the Guests of Honour in St Gregory's Church Hall

We would love as many people as possible to come along and help make it a special and enjoyable parish celebration.

BIRTHDAY GIFTS

Fr Anthony is very firmly insisting that he wants NO personal gifts, please! No wine, no chocolates! And whilst he would dearly love a Maserati (as we all know!) he has requested that anyone who wishes to give a gift, instead contribute towards a fund, with which he would like to purchase an item of his choosing for use in our churches in thanksgiving for his 70 years.

If you would like to contribute, there are many ways! Using our contactless machines in the porch or on the website, select 'Fr Anthony's Birthday'. Alternatively, you can put a contribution in an envelope clearly marked 'Fr Anthony's Birthday' and drop into the collection basket at Mass or hand in to the parish office. Your contributions **ARE** gift-aidable because, ultimately, the fund will go into the parish account to buy an item for the parish. Cheques can be made payable to 'St Osmund's Parish' but need to have 'Fr Anthony's Birthday' written on the reverse.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

World Mission Sunday will be celebrated by Catholics around the world this Sunday. Through Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, we are united in prayer, solidarity and support for communities in need. Marking the 100th anniversary of World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo has chosen the theme 'One in Christ, United in Mission'. Please keep missionaries in your prayers and support this important appeal. A retiring collection will be taken this weekend, with Gift Aid envelopes available in our churches. Thank you for your generosity. Click the Top News image to watch Pope Leo's message.

GRAVE SECRETS AT ST. OSMUND'S!

What secrets lie beneath the gravestones at St. Osmund's? Who was buried there, and what became of their graves? In the first of a short series of blog posts exploring the history of our burial ground, we uncover a remarkable Victorian funeral procession that scandalised Salisbury's Anglican establishment, discover some of the earliest Catholics buried here, and investigate a mystery involving twenty-two graves beside the church. A fascinating glimpse into a little-known chapter of our parish history! Read Pt 1 by clicking on History on the main menu of our website.

ONE-YEAR MISSALS Good News! We are now able to order the **St Paul's 2027 Cycle B** Sunday Missals (not the CTS ones we ordered last year). We estimate the cost to be £9.50 to £10 depending on how many we order. Deadline for orders is Sunday 8 November. Because of the passing nature of these missals, we ONLY order those committed to and don't hold any 'in stock'. Please order by email to: *salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com*

The Rosary will be prayed each Friday during October at 5.15pm, before the 6.00pm Mass at St Osmund's. The Parish Rosary Group also meets via Zoom every Wednesday at 2.30pm to pray together. For more information, please contact Alison on 01722 741681. All are warmly welcome to join.

Family of Faith

The next session will take place on Sunday 1 November at the Parish Centre after the 9am Masses. While the children attend their session, parents have a separate session of their own. It is essential that at least one parent remains for the session each time. More details are on our website: https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch**.**

Congratulations to Leo & Ella - We warmly congratulate Leo and Ella, who will be making their First Holy Communion after completing our Family of Faith programme with their parents. Leo will receive First Holy Communion at the 9am Mass at St Gregory's this Sunday 18 October, and Ella at the 10am Mass next Saturday 24 October. This joyful milestone marks the beginning of a deeper friendship with Jesus in the Eucharist.

Confirmation 2027 & Youth Group

The next session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is Wednesday 4 November 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. For more please visit our Confirmation page by clicking on the image on our homepage.

The Youth Group - which meets on 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. The group will reconvene after half term on the Wednesday 4 November.

Handing on our Faith

The Sacrament of Baptism - Last Saturday we welcomed Gabriel de la Torre, next Saturday 24 October at the 10am Mass we will also welcome Luna Matthews Padanyi. Please keep Gabriel & Luna, together with their parents and families, in your prayers**.**

Baptism Preparation - The next Preparation Course begins at St Gregory's on Sunday 8 November, with sessions continuing on the following two Sundays after the 9am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join. A full schedule of upcoming preparation courses can be found on our Baptism page under Sacraments. To request a baptism for your child please click on the Registration button on our website and select 'Infant Baptism Application'.

Magnifica Humanitas – A Parish Journey

Exploring Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, and its call to safeguard human dignity in the age of Artificial Intelligence. Our next session entitled 'Dignity of the Person' takes place next Tuesday 20 October, 7.30-9.30pm, in the Parish Centre. Everyone is welcome. For the full programme. click the image on our homepage.

Clifton Diocese invites you to a day exploring *Magnifica Humanitas* on 24 October **at** St Brendan's College, Brislington**.** Hear from Bishop Bosco**,** Dr Austen Ivereigh**,** and Professor Carmody Grey as they unpack the encyclical and lead discussion. 10am-4pm (refreshments from 9.30am). Bring a packed lunch. Early booking recommended: Register here.

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 via 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 at: salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com.

Liturgy this Week

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 29 & Psalter 1

Saturday 17 October **Saint Ignatius of Antioch**

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Maria Weeks RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Winifride Marsden RIP

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Fr Anthony on his 70th Birthday

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Septuagenarians of the Parish

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Shiny Mathew RIP

Monday 19 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Shiny Mathew RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 20 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Gwyneth Alice Hawkes RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 21 October

10:00 St Gregory MASS (G) Thomas Loaring RIP

Thursday 22 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Maria Peniston RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 23 October

17:15 St Osmund Rosary

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Maria Lambert RIP

Saturday 24 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Buck RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Catherine Boundy RIP

Reconciliation

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

Prayer & Scripture

PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV

Loving and merciful Father,

We entrust to your tender care our Holy Father, Pope Leo. Be close to him in his illness, strengthen him in his recovery and fill his heart with your peace.

Bless those who care for him, restore him to full and lasting health, and renew his strength for the ministry to which you have called him.

May he always know the love and prayers of your people throughout the world.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, keep him safe in your loving care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parishes of Sacred Heart (Westbury on Trym) with St Bonaventure (Bishopston, Bristol) and St Anthony (Henbury).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Lisa Piago, Tom Gardner and Mark Wilson who died recently and all those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

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*

Reading this newsletter in paper copy? Please consider receiving it via email each week or viewing online. This saves vital parish resources and is better for the environment. Contact the parish office to subscribe.