

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 16 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

Long before the sun began to roast I sat by the Bay tree in cool early morning half light. Mrs Cat, curled beneath a Peony, tolerated my intrusion unimpressed by my attempt at meditation. The Brown Sparrows chirped away before aerial practice and Boris the Bat narrowly missed my bonce. I only had eyes for the emerging yellow of an Evening-Primrose in all its morning glory as I meditated on fields and mustard seed's.

Seed, bush, birds of the air: body, soul and spirit: or sometimes, first, second and third heavens, (the kingdom of the heavens). The first heaven, this world; the third, heaven God's Realm (2 Cor 12:2), the second heaven, that which unites both first and third. The soul, (second heaven), should lead from earth to Spirit (God's Realm). As spiritual beings 'in a body' the purpose of our soul is to remind us of and lead us to spirit. All too often though we remain attached to the earth and identify with it: the beautiful flower that we are sows itself as a weed: the second heaven reflects itself as the first; the beauty of colour reduced to monochrome. No wonder we are unhappy and the world is in a mess. We have allowed an enemy in! For too long the ears of mankind have listened to the strident, self opinionated, confused voice of man and not God. As a result the field, our individual and collective consciousness, is sown with weeds. But beauty is still there; wheat and weeds, beauty and ugliness existing together rather like a tapestry... pretty picture at the front, ugly knots at the back. But, remove the knots and the picture is destroyed! So don't.

Only Divine Love can resolve the opposites into a glorious whole transcending the sum of the parts; discarding illusion and error (weeds) whilst retaining the image of God that we are (wheat). That Love is a present reality. Prayer and meditation are the occasions wherein we immerse ourselves in this Love; not asking for or expecting anything; just allowing God to be God in our lives and receiving our very Self. Just as darkness is seen from light so too sin and error are seen from the unified aspect of our being. Don't despair at the sight. Rejoice that it is seen and that like the roasting sun God's love incinerates one and enlivens the other.



PASTORAL TEAM

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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](#)

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE – WEDNESDAY 22 JULY

Mary Magdalene has been a victim of mistaken identity for almost 20 centuries. Yet she would no doubt insist that it makes no difference. We are all sinners in need of the saving power of God, whether our sins have been lurid or not. More importantly, we are all “unofficial” witnesses of the Resurrection. For more on this Apostle to the Apostles click on the image in the [‘Top News’](#) box

OTHER FEAST DAYS IN THE COMING WEEK

[Saint Bridget of Sweden Thursday 23 July](#)

[Saint James, Apostle Saturday 25 July](#)

For more on these feasts please click the image in the ‘Top News’ box

HUMAN DIGNITY AND AI (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

In an interview with Vatican News, AI expert Artur Kluz, creator of "Virtue Tech" and a speaker at the AI for Good Global Summit in Geneva, says Pope Leo XIV's encyclical [‘Magnifica humanitas’](#) shifted the global conversation on artificial intelligence from technology itself to the human person. He added that AI should "expand human judgment rather than replace it," serve peace and humanitarian purposes, and that moral formation should accompany technical formation. For the complete interview click on the AI image in the [‘Top News’](#) box.

SPUC volunteers will be outside of St Gregory’s Church this weekend offering you a campaign card before Mass. Legal Consequences for a woman aborting her own baby up to birth have now been removed and self-induced abortion is permitted. Please support SPUC’s campaign by filling out the card and handing it to your SPUC supporter as you leave.

SCORE – Retiring collection for SCORE Home Projects this weekend 18/19 July

Bishop’s Charitable Fund - retiring collection next weekend 25/26 July, this is a designated diocesan collection that enables the Bishop of Clifton to respond directly to charitable causes and grassroots needs within the community

Tuesday 21 July – St Osmund, 10:00am Mass. At this Mass, we will welcome the pupils and staff of St Osmund’s Catholic Primary School for their end-of-year Mass. As a result, seating in the church will be limited, with space available mainly at the rear of the church. The Mass will be livestreamed in the Parish Rooms.

Friday Prayer Group – Summer Break: The Friday Prayer Group is taking a break for the summer and will resume on Friday 4 September, from 4.00–5.30pm in St Gregory’s Hall. The theme is ‘Trusting God in Everyday Life’ — how can we learn to trust God more in our daily decisions and live each day as a prayer? Join us as we reflect on Scripture, share our faith, and pray together in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. For more information and all the post summer dates please visit our [‘Parish Activities’](#) page and click on [‘Friday Prayer’](#).

Radiant – our monthly women’s group, which meets at the Parish Centre, is also taking a summer break. The group will resume on Friday 25 September at 7.00pm. All the new dates are now available on our website – simply click the [‘Radiant’](#) button on the homepage. For more information, please contact Xanthe on 07904 589360.

Youth Group will also resume next on Wednesday 9 September 6.30pm at the Parish Centre.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

This Sunday 19 July we will welcome David Abhulimen Ose-Itamah who will receive the sacrament of Baptism at the 9am Mass at St Osmund. Please keep David his parents Emmanuel & Omosefe 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'.

FAMILY OF FAITH 2026-7

Family of Faith is our way of supporting families with young children grow together in their faith. Within that, it is the place where our children are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion (the Eucharist) for the first time. Please do visit our [Family of Faith](#) webpage where you will find a link to sign up and dates for the new year starting after the summer break on 13 September.

Congratulations to Alba and Alicia from our Family of Faith group who made their First Holy Communion at St Osmund last Sunday 12 July.

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 9 September**. An invitation was sent out to Parents if you did not receive it please let us know.

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.

Confirmation 2026 – not all our recently Confirmed cohort for 2026 were able to receive their certificates at last week's presentation. These are now available to be collected from the Parish Office.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Not Catholic but interested in learning more?

Our Journey in Faith group will begin meeting fortnightly again later this year, with dates to be announced soon. 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@clifondiocese.com.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 16 & Psalter 4

Saturday 18 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Sebastian & Family

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS For recovery of Geraldine McConaghy

SUNDAY 19 JULY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Rosilde (Rose) Brooks RIP

09:00 St Gregory MASS Keith & Bee Fleming and Family

11:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Webb RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 20 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 21 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Leo Tyrie RIP

We also welcome St Osmund's School for their end of year Mass

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

WEDNESDAY 22 JULY SAINT MARY MAGDALENE

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving – Jacob Family

THURSDAY 23 JULY SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary-Anne Clarke RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12:00 Downton MASS Josephine Midlane RIP

18:00 St Osmund Benediction.

Friday 24 July

18:00 St Osmund MASS Wedding Anniversary blessings and thanksgiving for Michael & Liezl

SATURDAY 25 JULY SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE

10:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Kevin Kelly

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

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PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR JULY

For respect for human life.

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for Religious Communities

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sheila Whatley, Malcom Carver, Monica Johnson, Bridget Read and Maureen Mooney who died recently and all those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

FUNERAL - Malcolm Carver RIP

Many parishioners will remember Malcolm and his late wife Janet from the Holy Family Chapel and Alderbury. Malcolm's funeral is on Monday 3 August at 2pm in St Thomas's Church in the town centre and his family have extended an invitation to those who knew Malcom to his funeral and afterwards at The White Hart.

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