

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



ADVENT WEEK 1 (C)

From Father Anthony

The garden was stiff and frozen: the sky an inky wash tinged with pink. Snowflakes fluttered like butterflies and danced in between skeletal forms. Two red roses nodded frozen heads in remembrance of warmer days. Mrs Cat tiptoed across the frosty lawn. She glared at me as if it was my fault that her dainty feet were cold and wet. It was a winterscape of stillness and death... with the promise of life to come!

Traditionally, during Advent, we meditate on the *four last things (quattuor novissima)* - *death, judgment, heaven and hell*. Maybe we can look at them in the coming weeks: open our hearts to them as present realities, not just future events. They might point us to Life and the Love God has for us and the world.... *now*.

Death. 'With death life is changed not ended'. If a seed did not die, there would be no plant. The plant, when it blooms, reflects the quality of the seed. We might ask what the quality of our life (*seed*) is, now.

In the Gospel we read, "Take heed to yourselves now, lest you be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the cares of this life". The word translated as 'cares' or 'anxieties', μέριμνα (*merimna*) comes from the verb μερίζω (*merizō*), meaning "to divide" or "to separate." This division or separation gives us a meditation pointer. God gives us freedom; allows us to leave the oneness of His Love and go our own way. Going our own way can lead to self-idolisation, self-preoccupation, loneliness and the coldness of being away from His warmth. We feel pulled by the world on the one hand yet want to be one with Him on the other. We feel divided. The 'trick' is to move towards and live in the Love of God so as to bring His Love to earth: not to run away from the world but in dying to it bring God (*Life*) into it. When we do this, we come alive within and transform the world. This is our purpose. When we don't do it, we feel oppressed and controlled by the world; we become embodiments of its advertising, values and strange laws; living embodiments of the death which it is. God came to earth not to run away from heaven: but to bring heaven to earth and earth back to heaven. That is our task too.

**Blessing of our New Lectionaries & Missals - This evening Friday 29
November 6pm at St Osmund**

**A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE**
CLIFTON DIOCESE

PASTORAL TEAM

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Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

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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](#)

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<https://salisburycatholics.org>



Salisbury Catholic Churches

FEAST OF ST OSMUND: WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER

Osmund was known for his administration, scholarship and purity. He was present at the council of Sarum, when in 1086 the results of the Domesday survey were presented to the king. He is the patron saint of our town and, of course, of our Parish.

- **The 10am Mass on Wednesday will be in St Osmund's Church this week (NOT St Gregory's) St Osmund's Primary School will be attending Mass as it is also their patronal feastday.**
- **There will be a special Mass at 6pm at St Osmund followed by cheese and wine in the Parish Rooms to which everyone is warmly invited.**
- **There will be no weekday Ordinariate Mass this week.**

ADVENT - A TIME OF PREPARATION

Advent Talks: The 'Four Last Things' (Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell) begins tonight Friday 29 November 7pm at our Parish Centre. Fr Jonathan Creer will speak on 'What Happens When We Die'. For details of all four talks, click 'Parish Planner' on our website or [click here](#).

Sung Vespers this Sunday 1 December 5.30pm at St Osmund Fr Joseph will lead a simple celebration of sung Vespers (Evening Prayer) for the 1st Sunday of Advent at 5.30pm (**please note the time change**) in St Osmund's, before the 6pm Mass.

Advent Penitential Service in St Osmund's Thursday 5 December at 7pm. There will be a short service followed by the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be multiple priests available to hear individual Confessions.

Advent Carol Service Tuesday 17 December 7pm at St Osmund's The Church has such a rich and beautiful treasure-trove of music written specifically for Advent and we get to use so little of it! If you love the texts and music of Advent, add this date and time into your diary. Celebrating Advent properly and thoughtfully helps us to avoid the so-called 'Christmas creep' that can make us feel we have been celebrating it since mid-October! Let's prepare our hearts and minds together and arrive at Christmas eve still fresh and ready to wonder at the incarnation as though for the first time.

Singers involved - there are two more rehearsals Tuesday 3 December and Tuesday 10 December 6pm-7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. Everyone is most welcome to join.

Preparing for our CHRISTMAS MASSES - HELP NEEDED It takes the contributions of many, many parishioners to make our Christmas Masses welcoming, inclusive, vibrant, beautiful and worthy of all that we are celebrating. Everyone is busy at this time of year but if we all do a little then it becomes easy! Perhaps you've never joined in before, then maybe this is the year! Please go to our on-line questionnaire to give us an idea of the ways in which you (and your children) could help. [Click here](#) to complete the questionnaire or click on the 'Preparation for Christmas' button on our homepage.

YOUTH MINISTRY TALK & APPEAL

At the end of our Youth Mass last Sunday, Daisy and Margot gave us a short talk on our Youth Ministry, coupled with an appeal for funds via one-off donations or by standing order directly to our Youth Fund. This will enable us to maintain and increase the capacity of this vital ministry. To view the talk click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#). Please do contact the Parish Office if you can support in any way.

Youth Group - Meets on Wednesdays at the **Parish Centre** at 6.30pm for anyone in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. [click here](#).

Bible Timeline talks concluded this week with Stuart Ford from the Bible Society presenting the remaining books of the New Testament (Acts, Epistles and Revelation) These sessions have been so well-attended that ideas are now sought on possible subject areas for future talks. Thank you to all who attended, to our speakers Stuart Ford, Fr Joseph, Fr Jonathan and Deacon John Detain; to Ross who set out the chairs each week and to those who provided hospitality at each session.

Family of Faith The next gathering begins with our morning 9am Masses this Sunday 1 December and continues afterwards at our Parish Centre. Open to families with children in Years 2 to 5 and includes, but is not limited to, those preparing to make their First Holy Communion. Sessions take place *every other week* in term-time, finishing at 12 noon. [Click here](#) or on 'Family of Faith' on our website homepage.

Young(ish) Catholic Adults Group for those in their 20s, 30s, 40s...?! We will gather again on Tuesday 3 December at 8pm in person in the St O's Parish Rooms (Green door), or join us online via Zoom. Contact Fr Joseph for the link. We meet on alternate weeks.

Parish Christmas Bazaar last Sunday at St Gregory's Parishioners enjoyed tea/coffee, mince pies and delicious hotdogs. A few Christmas trees are still available at £30 and cribs at £10 with delivery available. Contact Jez : jeremymawdsley@gmail.com or on 07947 700889. Huge thankyou to all the organisers and donors. The Bazaar raised a fantastic **£1,140** for the Parish Building fund. Photos are in the 'Photo Gallery' on our website, [click here](#).

International Day On Sunday, 8 December at St Gregory's 9am Mass, we will celebrate the richness of our diverse parish community. This Mass will have an international flavour, reflecting the many cultures that make up our parish family. Following the service, everyone is warmly invited to a celebration in the hall, where we will continue to celebrate One Catholic Community - United in Faith, Rich in Diversity. Join us for a joyful gathering, featuring international snacks, music, traditional dress and dance, as we come together to celebrate the unique gifts each culture brings to our shared faith. All are welcome!

Wardour School Carol Service Preparations are underway for the greatest show on earth - well nearly! You are warmly invited to our Carol Concert at Wardour Chapel on Monday 16 December at 2pm.

St Joseph's School Christmas Carol Service. Join us at St Joseph's and enjoy music, readings, drama and dance performed by our talented pupils. Festive treats available. Monday 16 December at 6pm.

SPUC Salisbury Branch would like to thank all those who supported our coffee morning last week. We raised £186 and are very grateful to all our supporters.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith These sessions are for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next session is next Sunday 8 December at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Contact Dave Blake via the Parish Office office@salisburycatholics.org if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

Confirmation 2025 If you have a child that is in Year 9 or above and are interested in joining our preparation programme, please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#).

Baptism this Sunday. We welcome Sophie & Luke Den-Breejen who will be baptised during the Sunday morning 9am Mass at St Gregory's on 1 December.

Baptism Preparation Course - The next course is at St Osmund starting 9 February 2025. To request Baptism for your child, click the Registration button on our homepage or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Advent Week
Psalter 1 Proper of Season

Saturday 30 November

10:00 St Osmund MASS Annette Grennell RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

09:00 St Gregory MASS Mariam Chakkappan RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS Tharuthu RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Joan Jackson RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

17:30 St Osmund Sung Vespers

18:00 St Osmund MASS Nonie & Harry Fleming RIP

Monday 2 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Janet Jose Vazhappilly

Tuesday 3 December Saint Francis Xavier

10:00 St Osmund MASS Susan & Les Burry RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER SAINT OSMUND

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

St Osmund's School will all be attending this Mass.

NB - NO MASS at St Gregory's Church today.

18:00 St Osmund MASS

Thursday 5 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS All the souls of the Sebastian family

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

19:00 St Osmund Advent Penitential Service

Friday 6 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS Paul Gillen - in sickness

18:00 St Osmund MASS Recovery of Des O'Brien

Saturday 7 December Saint Ambrose

10:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving for Sr Alda Civiera

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Birthday Blessings Charlotte Barton

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after the 10am Mass & Saturdays
17:30 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 December

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

[Click here](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE We pray for the parishes of St Margaret Mary (Coleford), Our Ladies of Victories (Cinderford) and Our Lady of Lourdes (Newent with Blaisdon).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Fiona Ross, Veronica Fulton, Annette Grennell and Delphine Hughes, 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.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 24

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Show us, O Lord, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.**

Alleluia!

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who is in Year 9 or above from Sept 2024, please use our online form to apply to join our preparation programme. [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 Desiree for more details:
office@salisbury Catholics.org