

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 4(A)

From Father Anthony.

I watched storm Chandra from high ground thrilled to be back by the sea: the swell and crash of mountainous waves, the sound of gulls and surf rampaging across the sand. One world... but such a difference between the hard, defined shape of the land and the malleable raging motion of an almost uncontrollable sea. The land felt safe, secure and knowable; the sea dangerous, uncontrolled, mysterious yet... alluring. The difference, perhaps, between body and soul, exterior and interior?

Jesus went up the mountain... to teach. The mountain is associated with spirit; Jesus is teaching the disciples(us) in spirit. Teaching what? The Old Testament is marked by the Law of Moses especially the Law of Cause and Effect. All too often Cause is mistaken for Effect and power given to Effect which rightly belongs to Cause. Confusion and error ensue. Religion becomes focussed on the exterior and material, with ruling bodies, temples, sacrifices, rituals and so on.

In contrast the New Testament is marked by Grace and Truth through Christ in Jesus. The focus is interior; on the Life of God in men and women. Grace and Truth (the very life of God in us) contains and surrounds the exterior, the law of cause and effect, but transcends it. It is freeing. It takes us beyond law to life lived in and from the Cause... God. God, being infinite, is ever present, all powerful and all-knowing, without shape or boundary... this is what we must find and live from in ourselves!

Now, have we ever really left Old Testament times? Look at the world we are living in. Yes, we have gadgets, gizmos and tech... but in terms of collective spiritual maturity and the ability to see God in each other? Each of us must transition from the Old to the New Testament, from Moses to Jesus, from Law to living by Grace. We must learn to use the safety of shape and boundary (Law) to launch into the unknown and God if we are to develop and mature ourselves, the world and society.

The Beatitudes reflect the tension between the outer and the inner, the old and the new and describe the length of the journey between them. Read the Ten Commandments and then the Beatitudes. Your response will tell you more than words ever could where you are in relation to Law and Grace and Jesus' teaching.

Forthcoming Mass Time Changes take effect from next Sunday 8 February and all the details can be found on our [website](#).



PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

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Rev John Proctor (Deacon)

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PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

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salisbury.catholic@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](#)

MASS CHANGES AHEAD – FROM 8 FEBRUARY

11am Mass at St Osmund - Solemn Mass

'Like the Master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old' (Mt 13:52)

When the 11am Mass returns to St Osmund's, we will try to give it a more solemn, traditional 'character'. Expect more traditional hymns on our newly-restored pipe organ, the use of incense, some plainchant, and some of the common prayers of the Mass to use Latin. We would love a quiet and prayerful atmosphere prior to Mass, and that parishioners would arrive in good time to minimise disruption. The introduction of a 'Solemn Mass' for the parish would be a wonderful opportunity for people who have not previously been involved to be so! If you are planning to attend this Mass from 8 February onwards and would be willing to assist in any way (eg. welcoming, reading, altar-serving, singing, distribution of Holy Communion...), please contact the parish office or speak to a member of the clergy.

The Sunday Mass at St Gregory's will return to 9am and will continue to be a warm, relaxed environment with a contemporary feel and is an excellent Mass for families with children, and a welcoming community. There is also plenty of space for children to roam free at the vibrant after-Mass coffee gathering and children's Liturgy of the Word.

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Racial Justice Sunday is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

The theme this year is: "Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21). The resources provided for this year's Racial Justice Sunday are specially designed to create a culture of welcome and hospitality in parishes. To view click on the image in the ['Top News'](#) box

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (CANDLEMAS)

MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY

In Luke's account, Jesus was welcomed in the temple by two elderly people, Simeon and the widow Anna. They embody Israel in their patient expectation; they acknowledge the infant Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah. Early references to the Roman feast dub it the feast of Saint Simeon, the old man who burst into a song of joy which the Church still sings at day's end. For a reflection and the story of this feast click on the image in the ['Top News'](#) box.

There will be Mass at St Osmund at 10am AND the Ordinariate Mass at 6pm

Also known as the Feast of Candlemas - It is an ancient tradition on this feast to bless the candles which will be used for prayer, in church or in our homes, during the coming year. If you would like to have a candle blessed for your own home, bring it along to Mass on Monday, and add it those at the front of the church (you may wish to label your candle, so you can collect it again afterwards!).

PASTORAL AREA NEW YEAR RETREAT- 24 & 25 JANUARY

This was a wonderful success with a good number taking part from all over the pastoral area. The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph had a light touch with a deeply theological topic. Sr Carino brought out the importance of God's self-revelation for our understanding of ourselves, one another, our families and communities and how it helps us make better decisions individually and with one another. Sr Amata's wonderful exposition of the story of the healing of the paralytic - taken from Mark's gospel - will live long in the memory. There are a few images of the event on our [website](#).

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith (2025-6) – The next session is on the 8 February and from then on, Family of Faith will gather after the 9am Masses at the Parish Centre on Exeter Street. More information on the [Family of Faith](#) webpage.

Confirmation 2026 - The next key Confirmation session is Wednesday 11 March at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre. Please click on '[Confirmation](#)' on our homepage for more information.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith – For adults who are not confirmed Catholics and for those who are returning to the faith of their childhood. The next session is Sunday 8 February 10.30am in **Parish Rooms at St Osmund (change of venue for this session)**. If you are interested in joining do contact Dave Blake at salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com For more including the timetable click on the '[Journey in Faith](#)' button on our home page.

Baptism Preparation – commences this Sunday 1 February after the 9am Mass at St Osmund. The next course will be on 1 March after the 9am Mass at St Gregory for three consecutive Sundays, please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage.

SPUC - The Annual White Flower Appeal will take place this weekend 31 January / 1 February. A SPUC member will be handing out postcards to send to Parliament. Please help us to save lives with your donation and completed cards. For the full Appeal Talk, click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' box.

First Friday Talk – Next Friday 6 February will feature a video talk by Fr Stephen Wang on 'The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist'. All are welcome, but if you cannot attend, the talk will be available on our website that evening. Please click on 'Parish Life' on our main menu and then on '[First Friday Talks](#)'.

Lent 2026: Deanery Penitential Service with Bishop Bosco is taking place at Sacred Heart Church in Tisbury at 7pm on Thursday 5 March. The priests of our deanery will also be present to hear individual Confessions. Please click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' box for more. Transport a problem for you? If there is sufficient need, we will take a minibus and travel there together! Contact the parish office if you'd like to go but need transport.

Alabaré Lent Group – From Tuesday 24 February and each Tuesday in Lent will meet at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre using Sycamore videos for input. All welcome. Tea & coffee provided.

Sunday Parking Charges – There is a proposal by Wiltshire Council to align Sunday parking charges with weekday rates. This would mean that the charge for parking on the Brown Street car parks for example would increase from £1.90 (all day) to £5.90 (maximum of 3 hours). Please visit our [Blog](#) for the detail and how to express your concerns.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

St. Osmund Parish Finances	December 2025	Full Year 2025
- Total Receipts	£24,978	£381,567
- Total Payments	£36,750	£444,533
Deficit	(£11,772)	(£62,966)

Recent Second Collections

SCORE - November	£3,124.40
SCORE - December	£1,823.00

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 4 & Psalter 4

Saturday 31 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Isabel Emilie – birthday blessings

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Monte Little RIP

SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Keith Fleming in thanksgiving
 11:00 St Gregory MASS Pat & Errol Rayner in sickness
 12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS
 18:00 St Osmund MASS Nicholas & Doris Phelan RIP

MONDAY 2 FEBRUARY THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Anna Clarke RIP
 18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 3 February

10:00 St Osmund MASS Yamatsy Puahi

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 4 February

10:00 St Gregory MASS Brian Wrixon

Thursday 5 February Saint Agatha

10:00 St Osmund MASS Ahini Aline

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 6 February Saints Paul Miki and Companions

10:00 St Gregory Rosary
 18:00 St Osmund MASS David Eugene Clarke

Saturday 7 February

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

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Catherine Watson RIP
 18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass
 St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon
 and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parish of Immaculate Conception (Devizes with Lavington).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Joan Conner, Veronica Barreiro, Rosemary Thomas, Christopher Warren, Patricia Dry, Shane O'Neill, Michael Pearce, Michael Keegan, Monte Little, Mary Conaway 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:

Psalm Response

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad,
 for your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS Please request 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

FORTHCOMING CHANGES TO THE SUNDAY & WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

I well remember being told that three things were necessary for the smooth establishment of weekly Mass: *a person, a time and a place...* “mess with any of these and you will confuse and lose your congregations”, said the wise old priest!

Well, we did mess with it!!! and you have borne the inconvenience and confusion with understanding, grace and encouragement. Just to recap: back in the summer we went down to three priests, then two and for a short while, one. It was impossible to cover all the Masses and as a result the 11am at St Osmund's was cancelled displacing over 150 people. St Gregory's moved from 9am to 11am causing not a little confusion, unrest and overcrowding. At the time we said it was an interim measure – although, if I'm honest, I thought it would be permanent.

However, two things have happened. Firstly, our Mass numbers at St Osmund's, in terms of safety, are dangerously high leading to people being invited to watch Mass on screens in the hall – hardly ideal. Secondly, the Bishop has secured a fourth priest for us - Fr George who will live in Amesbury and serve both Christ the King and St George's, Warminster. This makes it possible to 'mess with the rota again' and return to the previous Sunday Mass timetable here in Salisbury.

I was minded to keep the Mass times as they are because we *could* be back to three priests next summer and may have all the confusion again. However, I have been persuaded that we must reinstate the 11am at St Osmund's and return the 11am at St Gregory's back to 9am; if for no other reason than to cope with the increased numbers at each of our Masses in the interests of safety. I will have to worry about next summer when it comes!

Therefore, it is my intention to implement the Mass timetable as shown below:

Saturday Vigil Mass	St Gregory	Remains at 5pm
Sunday Masses	St Osmund	Remains at 9am
	St Osmund	Reinstate 11am
	St Osmund	Ordinariate Mass – Remains at 12:30pm
	St Osmund	Remains at 6pm
	St Gregory	Returns to 9am from 11am

This will take effect from SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY.

This will have implications for Family of Faith which will now return to the Parish Centre in Exeter Street with families arriving after their respective 9am Mass at St Osmund & St Gregory.

Weekday Schedule Changes

St Osmund	Reinstate the Monday 10am Mass
St Osmund (Ordinariate)	Will move from Monday to Tuesday at 6pm
Benediction	Will begin at 5.30pm on both Tuesdays & Thursdays in St Osmund. On Tuesdays, this will be followed by the Angelus at 6pm, immediately prior to the Ordinariate Mass.

At the end of the day *'the buck stops with me'* and after much consultation I have made this decision for which I take full responsibility. I am sorry for the disruption, but I hope you will understand and support the decision.

God bless, lots of love and I hope you have a happy and holy Christmas.

Anthony B. Paris