

SALISBURY CATHOLIC CHURCHES

HOLY REDEEMER + ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



ADVENT WEEK 4 (B)

From Father Anthony...

I sat in the car outside Holy Redeemer. I had forgotten my keys! A woman hurried past, head down, arms folded. A man ambled across the field; his dog sniffed and circled. A car roared and changed gear. Overhead it was dark. But, in the distance, as the sun sank below a black jagged horizon line, the vast sky became turquoise, a dome of iridescent crystal. It felt mysterious. I was captivated. For a brief moment I felt the sky looking at me; it was unnerving. Cars arrived and familiar faces warmed the cold night. I went into the church feeling enlivened but not sure of what I had just experienced!

Advent Gospels have immersed us in the mystery (*wilderness*) of our own being. They have encouraged us to clear a space in our lives (*make straight his path*) so that Christ can emerge spiritually in us (*be born*). By definition, we cannot understand a mystery; and being mystery, it is, therefore, difficult to understand ourselves. We best understand ourselves in the light of another... Christ. We see and understand ourselves through His eyes; it is unnerving. But, He never comes by force; only when we are ready and intend Him to come. The Gospel reveals the manner of his coming.

Mary's experience is ours; what she consented to we must also consent to... spiritually. God does the work *in* us (*overshadows us*); we consent to it (*intend it*). We begin with an *intention* to push away all that is not of God in our lives (*meaning of Mary*). We create a virgin space within. God's strength (*Gabriel means 'Gods strength'*) visits this space in us (*town*) and acts in the energy of our soul (*Galilee*). God tends the spiritual shoot emerging in this virgin ground (*Nazareth; from Netzer meaning, a shoot*). The knowledge that we are to host Christ in our being is alarming (*do not be afraid*). We learn and understand how Christ will manifest in our lives (*rule over the House of Jacob*): we consent to it. The action of God in us is intensely personal and we are wise to make a deep spiritual friendship with Mary. As she taught her Son so she will teach us what all the mystical writers know, '*Christ could be born a thousand times in Galilee - but all in vain until He is born in you and me.*' (*Angelus Silesius*).



PASTORAL TEAM

Parish Priest

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Parish Office

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01722 562703

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Caroline Williams

caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com

Tony Peters-Ennis

outreach@salisburycatholics.org

MASS BOOKING

booking@salisburycatholics.org

(*email is preferable if possible*)

01722 562703 9am-5pm Mon-Fri

St Osmund

95 Exeter Street SP1 2SF

St Gregory & the English Martyrs

St Gregory's Ave SP2 7JP

Most Holy Redeemer

Fotherby Crescent SP1 3EG

Chapel of the Good Shepherd

Barford Lane, Downton SP5 3QA

Chapel of the Holy Family

Southampton Rd, Whaddon SP5 3EB

NEW TO THE PARISH?

We wish you a very warm welcome.

Pop into the Newman Room and say hello! Please register online at:

<https://salisburycatholics.org>

click "Registration/update"

REGISTERED PARISHIONERS

TO DATE : 2698



ADVENT

LINKS IN THE NEWSLETTER

Going forward we shall not be displaying 'full description' hyperlinks (website addresses) within the newsletter. Instead, if you are viewing the newsletter online and wish to view a news item further, you will just need to click on the embedded hyperlink which is the two words: ['click here'](#) on each item.

THE 'O' ANTIPHONS

These began on the 17 December and will finish on the 23 December. On each day a special antiphon is read before the Magnificat during Evening Prayer. These special antiphons express humanity's desire and longing for God, a longing which has existed throughout the history of God's people from the beginning of time through Abraham, Moses and David. A history which was fulfilled on the night when Emmanuel (God with us) was born. Each prayer begins with one of seven Old Testament titles for the Messiah now attributed to Jesus. These are a wonderful prayer resource to help us in our Advent preparations. You will find them by clicking on the button 'The 'O' Antiphons on our home page or [click here](#)

READING MARK IN ADVENT is an 18-part podcast series where we upload a chapter of Mark's Gospel each weekday of the season. With a global pandemic sweeping the world and lockdowns and restrictions placed on our everyday living we need to remember that the Word of God is never locked down and isolated. Please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or the '**St Mark's Gospel**' button on our homepage to listen to each chapter.

DIVINITAS: THE ART OF FAITH. Fr Marcus Holden and Art Historian Teresa Lane probe the Mysteries of Faith. This week we introduce Part 2: Creation and Original Sin (The Expulsion from Paradise) and Part 3: The Old Testament (The Sacrifice of Isaac). Please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

ADVENT We continue to feature weekly Advent video reflections on the Sunday Gospel and the life that God can call individuals to. For Advent Week 3: Fr Joe Owusu-Ansah – Priesthood. Fr Joe reflects on the Third Week of Advent and his own state of life, Priesthood. "I see lives transformed in my ministry as a Priest, I see miracles when I hear confession". This can be found by clicking on the 'Advent' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS There is another excellent reflection on video by Fr Jim Golka on this weekend's Gospel (4th Sunday in Advent) on our website. The reflection is just 3 minutes.

Also on this page is the fourth in a series of monthly reflections by Fr Henry Wansbrough OSB in which he responds to some of the questions that many people have about the Bible. In this fourth video reflection by Fr Henry, he reflects on the 'Infancy Narratives'. For all of this click on 'The God Who Speaks' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

CHILDREN'S LITURGY We have a children's liturgy of the word for last weekend: 3rd Sunday in Advent. Click on 'Church TV' then select 'Children's Liturgy' or [click here](#).

SUNDAY HOMILY We have the latest podcast from Bishop Robert Barron for this coming Sunday (20 December, Fourth Sunday in Advent) on our website. The dramatic readings for this fourth Sunday of Advent place us right in the heart of a central mystery in the Bible: the mystery of God's providence. Click on the 'Sunday Homily' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

MUSIC IN ISOLATION For the Fourth week of Advent we have added the hymn 'The Angel Gabriel' by the Kings College Choir, Cambridge in 2012. Please click on the 'Music in Isolation' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

SCRIPTURE IN SONG This feature associates an element of scripture with song each month. For Advent we have 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'. Just click on the button 'Scripture in Song' on our homepage or [click here](#)



CHRISTMAS 2020



FROM FR ANTHONY...

May I say thank you to all who throughout the year give of their time and talents to make our churches and parish communities what they are. May I repeat what I said last year... 'without you it would not work'. This year we have had to adapt and find new ways of working. And, we have adapted. Our churches are open, when permitted, and church life continues within the relevant guidelines. I am enormously grateful to our stewards and those who organise them and to the team that works tirelessly with Mass bookings. Without them we could not attend Mass. I would also like to say thank you to Fr Jonathan, our Deacons, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, Catechists, Children's Liturgy Group Leaders, Altar Servers, Organists, Musicians, Singers, Collectors, Welcomers, Sacristans, Church Cleaners, Coffee Crew, Catering Volunteers, Flower Arrangers, Grounds' Helpers, Webmaster, Social Media Leaders, Parish Treasurers, Counters and Helpers, Repository Keepers, Fund-Raisers, Outreach Volunteers, our Hospital and Home Visitors, Administrative Staff, our Youth Ministry Team, and all our Voluntary Helpers. Regardless of whether or not we have exercised our parishes' ministries, we are there waiting and ready to resume them when we can... you are deeply appreciated. On behalf of the church may I say...

THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU ALL
Fr Anthony

FROM FR MICHAEL FITZPATRICK

Greetings to all!

It is just over twelve months since I retired. What a year this has been!! Since the second lockdown I have been living a quiet life. The only time I leave the house is to go shopping and to spend some time on Clifton Downs on a Sunday. At Christmas, I have been asked to help in one of the Bristol parishes and I am really looking forward to seeing people again. We have never experienced anything like this and it is hard to believe that Covid-19 could come so suddenly and place all these restrictions on our freedom and movement. This last 12 months has been difficult for priests and parishioners alike. A vital part of our lives was suddenly taken from us - being able to come together as a community to support one another, coming together in the presence of the Lord at Mass and to receive him in Holy Communion. We are lucky that with the advancement in communications, we can join with others remotely for Mass and this helps to keep us in touch with what is going on in our parishes. We pray that all this will soon come to an end. Many thanks for your cards, emails and good wishes. I wish Fr Anthony, Fr Jonathan and all parishioners a very happy and peaceful Christmas and may the New Year bring you many blessings. God bless. Fr Michael

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE FROM OUR PARISHES

Amongst the many things that we are not able to do at the moment, the loss of congregational singing in church is felt very keenly by many of you, I know. Before we went into Lockdown 2 (at the beginning of November) it was becoming clear that there was going to be no congregational singing allowed in our churches as we approached Christmas. However, we decided that we would not be entirely thwarted and that we WOULD offer you the opportunity to join in singing Christmas Carols from one of our own churches. With incredible speed and much co-operation from everyone involved we pulled together a Christmas Carol service which we recorded in St Osmund's Church with singers from all three of our churches. If you would like to watch and sing along click the 'Carol Service' button on our homepage or [click here](#). There is also a service sheet there so that you can sing along. This service was performed and recorded in compliance with the COVID-guidelines in force at the time of recording.

BOOKING TO ATTEND MASS IN PERSON

Please ring or email to book to attend Mass on this email address and telephone number only:

booking@salisburycatholics.org

01722 562703 (See Christmas Office times below)

We have a dedicated email address for Mass booking ONLY. When booking to attend Mass, please limit the subject matter of your email to Mass booking only - as these emails may be opened, read and responded to by volunteers assisting in the office. If you are awaiting confirmation of a Mass booking, please check your 'Junk' or 'Spam' folder before contacting us. This is happening occasionally, so please mark our emails as 'not junk' or add us to your 'safe-senders' list - different email providers use different ways of allowing you to mark an email so that it isn't automatically put into junk/spam.

For all other parish, pastoral or confidential matters, please continue to use the existing email addresses as shown on the front page of this newsletter.

ATTENDING MASS DURING THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

We strongly encourage all parishioners who wish to attend in person to book a place at a Christmas Mass as soon as possible, as the Masses are filling up fast! Please see the page below for all the details.

We are also now taking bookings up until 3 JANUARY. Please book soon as **no one will be in the office to take bookings on Christmas Day, 26, 27 or 28 December.** No more bookings will be taken after 3pm on Christmas Eve 24 December.

CHRISTMAS MASS BOOKING

It is **ESSENTIAL** to book if you hope to attend Mass in person this Christmas. We have several 'extra' Masses this year to help us accommodate everyone and still maintain the required social-distancing in our buildings. Please see below for spaces still remaining:

THURSDAY 24 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

16:00	St Gregory*	95% FULL
17:00	St Osmund	95% FULL
19:00	Holy Redeemer	90% FULL
20:00	St Osmund	3 chairs left
21:30	St Osmund	98% full
24:00	St Gregory*	75% FULL

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER CHRISTMAS MORNING MASSES

08:00	St Osmund	<i>(no music) Plenty of space</i>
08:30	Holy Redeemer	70% FULL
09:00	St Osmund	FULL
09:00	St Gregory*	85% FULL
10:30	St Gregory	<i>(Ordinariate MASS)</i>
11:00	St Osmund	FULL

* The Organ loft/gallery is being used for Christmas Masses at St Gregory's to provide extra space.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS 23:30 St Osmund CANCELLED

booking@salisburycatholics.org

01722 562703 (9am-5pm : Monday-Friday)

Christmas Eve - The Parish Office will close at 3 pm

FROM OUR PARISH TREASURERS...

Christmas Offerings to our priests

Envelopes are available at the back of our churches for those able to attend Mass in person. If you are unable to attend or would prefer not to handle cash, you can make your Christmas offering via your parish's bank account - please see details below.

Please be sure to quote the reference **CHRISTMAS** with your payment so we can keep the money separate from parish funds. Please do not use the 'Donate'/PayPal button our website or the Diocesan Gift Aid account (ending ****357) as these are managed centrally and there will be difficulties keeping the money distinct from other diocesan funds.

Many thanks.

Parish	Full Account Name	Sort Code	Full Account Number
Holy Redeemer	Clifton Diocese re Parish of Most Holy Redeemer Salisbury	52-10-03	6628 7081
St Gregory	Clifton Diocese re Parish of St Gregory Salisbury	52-10-03	6628 7103
St Osmund	Clifton Diocese re Parish of St Osmund Salisbury	52-10-03	6628 7111



PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

The Parish Office will close at 15:00 on Christmas Eve.

After this time, there will be no one to answer telephone calls or respond to emails until Tuesday 29 December (so book for Christmas & Holy Family Masses NOW!)

Tuesday 29 December - 31 January 2021 The office will remain **closed** to the public but we will be taking Mass bookings by email and by telephone.

Please only contact us about Mass bookings until Monday 4 January.

This will enable everyone who works and volunteers in our parish office to take a decent break over Christmas.

I would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers that work in the parish office, without whom, very little would happen! From all of us in the office to all of our parishioners - we wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-1 Advent Week 4 and Psalter 4

Please book if you would like to attend Mass in person.

booking@salisbury Catholics.org 01722 562703

Saturday 19 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mrs Carol Carthy RIP (Birthday)

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS

SUNDAY 20 December

09:00 St Osmund MASS Imogen Cardew RIP
09:00 St Gregory MASS Mathew Muricken
11:00 St Osmund MASS Brigid Presley - In Remembrance
12:15 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS
18:00 St Osmund MASS Karlo for his recovery

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

There will be an opportunity for Confession after every Mass from 21 - 23 December and by appointment.

Monday 21 December 'O Oriens'

10:00 St Osmund MASS George Joseph RIP

Confessions after Mass

Tuesday 22 December 'O Rex Gentium'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Davey Kenny RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:40 Benediction

19:00 St Osmund MASS Sophie O'Neill RIP

Confessions after both Masses

Wednesday 23 December 'O Emmanuel'

10:00 St Osmund MASS Brian Potter RIP

12:00 Holy Redeemer MASS

19:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Confessions after all Masses

Thursday 24 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Andy Mundy RIP

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL MASSES

16:00 St Gregory 20:00 St Osmund

17:00 St Osmund 21:30 St Osmund

Mooney Family, E Kane, P Knott RIP 24:00 St Gregory

19:00 Holy Redeemer

Friday 25 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS MORNING MASSES

08:00 St Osmund 09:00 St Gregory

08:30 Holy Redeemer 10:30 St Gregory (*Ordinariate*)

09:00 St Osmund 11:00 St Osmund

Saturday 26 December SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

10:00 St Osmund MASS John White RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS John Baker RIP

SCRIPTURE AT MASS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12. 14. 16.

Psalms 88

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Romans 16:25-27

Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:

let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia!

Lk 1:26-38.

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

All Vigil Masses & Christmas Midnight Mass

Isaiah 9:1-7

Psalms 95 **Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.**

Titus 2:11-14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day

08:00 St Osmund and 08:30 Holy Redeemer will use the 'Mass at Dawn' scripture:

Isaiah 62:11-12

Psalms 96 **This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.**

Titus 3:4-7

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour.

Alleluia!

Luke 2:15-20

All other Masses on Christmas Day will use the 'Mass during the Day' scripture.

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalms 97 **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Hebrews 1:1-6

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has dawned upon us.

Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone upon the earth.

Alleluia!

John 1:1-18

LITURGY NEXT WEEK

Year B-1 Christmas Week 1
Proper of the Solemnity

Please book if you would like to attend Mass in person.
booking@salisbury Catholics.org 01722 562703

Saturday 26 December SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

10:00 St Osmund MASS John White RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS John Baker RIP

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

SUNDAY 27 December

09:00 St Osmund MASS Ellen Morgan RIP
09:00 St Gregory MASS
11:00 St Osmund MASS Joint Presley Family intentions
12:15 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS
18:00 St Osmund MASS

Monday 28 December HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

10:00 St Osmund MASS Yvonne Fox RIP

Tuesday 29 December SAINT THOMAS BECKET

10:00 St Osmund MASS Deceased members of the
Schofield and Wykeham families

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:40 Benediction
19:00 St Osmund MASS

Wednesday 30 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Imogen Cardew RIP
12:00 Holy Redeemer MASS
19:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 31 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS
All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
18:40 St Osmund Benediction

23:30 NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Friday 1 January MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 St Gregory MASS
19:00 St Osmund MASS Daniel Quirk RIP

Saturday 2 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St Gregory Fridays 09:30 until Mass
St Osmund Saturdays 10:30 to 11:30
Holy Redeemer Saturdays 17:30 until Mass

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

Evangelisation: For a life of prayer

That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ may be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

<https://salisbury Catholics.org/pope-francis>

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parish of St Peter & St Paul, Bath.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember all those who have died: Carol-Ann Coyle, Peter Rockett, Imogen Cardew, Michael Dean, Yvonne Fox and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE PRAYER

St Osmund will be open for private prayer. If you find the church closed call into the Newman Room at the back of the Parish Rooms during office hours to gain admittance.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

Psalms 104

**He, the Lord, is our God.
He remembers his covenant for ever.**

Hebrews:11:8. 11-12. 17-19

**Alleluia, alleluia!
At various times in the past
and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!**

Luke 2:22-40

SACRAMENTS

MARRIAGES Please speak to the priest for guidance.

FUNERALS Please speak to the priest for guidance.

BAPTISMS Can now take place in accordance with government guidelines and preparation courses are taking place on Zoom. Please contact Deacon John Proctor on 07802 631968 or email john@alabare.org

FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION 2021

We will be announcing plans for preparations for these Sacraments as soon as we can in the New Year.