

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 25 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

I looked out the open window. Thick black cloud crowded the Eastern skyline, but it was bright blue towards the West. Would it rain? Should I take a coat or umbrella? Mrs cat sauntered over the lawn disdainfully, ignoring my petting noises. Collared Doves splashed in the bird bath. I decided to chance it. Rain is indiscriminate and covers everything; you either soak it up or repel it; on the way back, I got soaked.

We learn something quite beautiful, consoling and encouraging in the Parable of the Workers; that God's Grace (*the Life of God within us*), is not earned; it is His gift to all. However much we may have '*humanised*' God, by projecting onto Him our personal or collective, limiting values of justice, fairness, self-worth, merit and so on; God is beyond these values and not limited by them. His Love, Grace, like the rain, covers us all: good, bad, right, wrong, early, late, clever, stupid; all of us wherever and whoever we may be. We either soak it up or repel it.

Our response to this boundless, indiscriminate Love reveals more about us than about God. *It's not fair, it's not just, it's not right*, the shrieks of moral outrage, might be rooted in *pride, envy* and *resentment* and not love. They blind us to love and create in us the very qualities we despise and complain about in others. The worst criminal may repel God's Love by his activities when we have been '*good*' all our life; but, our resentment or envy of him being loved, forgiven and cherished when he returns to God is of the same quality as his repelling sin; not to mention our pride in thinking we were superior. It reveals how far we are from experiencing and expressing the love of God residing in us.

Do a little audit of your life; all of it. Realise that nothing in your life ever stopped God's loving gaze nor precluded you from His Grace. You only put yourself outside of it... or thought you had. Sink into this Love; it's not dependent on any quality you can manufacture other than the humble quality of accepting it. We aren't defined by what we do or have done but by God's Love for us; acceptance of that Love motivates what we do and how we are and... *pride, envy* and *resentment* gently fall away.



PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

Désirée Coups
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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](#)

A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION OF OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Our Parish International Mass held at St Gregory's Church last Sunday was a joyful celebration of faith, culture and community, with more than 20 nationalities represented. Readings, prayers and hymns in different languages reflected the rich diversity of our parish. After Mass, we prayed the Rosary and enjoyed a shared international meal featuring dishes from around the world, alongside a memorable Scottish bagpipe performance. Our Auction of Promises and raffle, together with over 100kg of donated food, raised valuable support for Salisbury Foodbank.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success. Photos and a fuller write-up are available on our [website](#).

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS – A PARISH JOURNEY

What does it mean to remain truly human in a rapidly changing digital world? Join us for a nine-week parish journey exploring Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, and its call to safeguard human dignity in the age of Artificial Intelligence.

Beginning on Tuesday 6 October, sessions will be from 7.30-9.30pm in the Parish Centre at 131 Exeter Street, with seven study evenings and two shared suppers. Each session includes prayer, reflection, discussion and key readings from the encyclical. Everyone is welcome, free of charge, with free parking available.

Find out more and view the full programme on our [website](#).

Assisted Dying Vote - Archbishop John Sherrington has thanked everyone who contacted their MP about the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, as well as disability rights groups and healthcare professionals who defended the dignity of every life. The Bill was defeated at Second Reading by 286 votes to 270. You can read the Archbishop's full statement on our website [here](#).

Home Mission Sunday, 20 September is the day when we pray for and support the Church's mission of evangelisation across England and Wales. In a message on behalf of the Bishops, Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth reminds us that many more people need to come to know "the God who made them". A retiring collection will be taken this weekend 19/20 September to support the Bishops' Conference in this work. Click the image in the '[Top News](#)' box for the video and further information.

Radiant - our monthly group for women meets next Friday 25 September 7pm at the Parish Centre. We would love you to join us for prayer, scripture and friendship. Bring a small plate of something for a shared supper. Please get in touch if you need a lift. For information Xanthe 07904 589360 or [click here](#).

Affected by Cancer? On Monday 21 September in the Parish centre from 7 to 9pm, Cancer Support Salisbury will hold their monthly social drop-in for anyone affected by cancer. Whether you have been diagnosed with cancer, are going through treatment, in remission, a carer, family member or a friend - everyone is welcome including non-parishioners. Bob Wells is a welcomer at St Osmund's Sunday 6pm Mass if you have any questions.

SCORE News: In September, three grant applications were received, and a total of £6,250 was distributed. Full details, along with other updates, can be found on the '[SCORE](#)' page under '[Parish Activities](#)'.

Starting School? If you have a child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, then now is the time to apply for a school place for September 2027. You must complete the [Wiltshire Council](#) application and if your child has been baptised and you are applying for a Catholic school, you must provide a copy of their baptism certificate. The closing date for applications is 15 January 2027. All requests for copies of baptism proof need to be made in good time to the Parish Office – please allow at least two weeks' notice.

FAMILY OF FAITH

The first full session will take place on Sunday 27 September, with subsequent sessions held fortnightly during term time at the Parish Centre after the 9.00am Masses. While the children attend their session, parents will have a separate session of their own. It is essential that at least one parent remains for the full hour-long session each time.

Further details, including the registration form, can be found on our website: <https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith>
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

This Sunday 20 September Imogen Smith will be making her First Holy Communion at St Osmund's 9am Mass. Imogen has prepared for this special moment alongside her parents in our Family of Faith programme. Please keep the whole family in your prayers.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

The Sacrament of Baptism - Last weekend we welcomed William Christopher McDonagh and Raffaele Antonio Carmelo Inglese, this Sunday 20 September at the 11am Mass we will also welcome Lily Joan Young. Please keep William, Raffaele and Lily, together with their parents and families, in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation. The next session of the current course is this Sunday 20 September and then followed by the final session the following Sunday 27 September after the 9am Mass at St Osmund. To request a baptism for your child please click on the [Registration](#) button on our homepage and select 'Infant Baptism Application'.

CONFIRMATION 2027

The next main event for our Confirmation Candidates is the '**Buckfast Residential Retreat**' Friday 25 September to Sunday 27 September. For all the details of the entire programme for the year please visit our [Confirmation page](#) by clicking on the image on our homepage.

YOUTH GROUP

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. Next week the group will visit a care home to create memory boxes for the residents.

Salisbury Cathedral Tower Tour – Saturday 17 October. Why not join Father Joseph for a climb to the top of Salisbury Cathedral's iconic tower, followed by a picnic afterwards? To sign up, please complete the [Youth Group Tower Tour form] or visit the Youth Group page under Parish Activities.

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.

Parish Retreat 2027: Join us for our annual Parish Retreat at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Abbey, from 15 to 18 February 2027 during Lent. Our theme is "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God." Open to everyone in our Deanery, whether you have attended before or not. To express interest, contact the parish office or Dave Blake at salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com.

LITURGY THIS WEEK
Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 25 & Psalter 1

Saturday 19 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Brian McGloughlin – get well wishes

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Blessings on Sharone T Roshan's birthday

09:00 St Gregory MASS Tita Maruf in thanksgiving

11:00 St Osmund MASS Julia Comber RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE

10:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intentions

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 22 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intentions

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 23 September Saint Pius Pietrelcina

10:00 St Gregory MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

10:00 St Osmund MASS The Holy Souls

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 25 September

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Emma Peniston RIP

Saturday 26 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Strain RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Get well intention for David Rooney

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

For the Care of Water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the Parish of St Mary (Bath).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anne Beale, Sally Power, Catherine Reid, Michael O'Sullivan and Sheila Whatley 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.

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

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