

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ADVENT WEEK 4 (A)

&

CHRISTMAS



From Father Anthony.

It has been busy recently: I've found myself immersed in church business and worldly things; no time for the garden and that cup of tea. So it was lovely to sit out early one morning, tea in hand, and connect with my shorn, bedraggled friend. The Gunslinger made an appearance and Gangsters danced on the lawn as if they were going to 'do me over'! And, as the sun came up, my mind began to clear like a small awakening, and I felt a little sorrow for all the things I had neglected.

"When Joseph awoke", The word translated as 'awoke' is *egeiró* (ἐγείρω): it has a root that includes 'to collect one's faculties', and possibly, 'to come to one's senses'. A question that we may have to ask ourselves and a question the world in general must ask of itself is... are we in our right mind, our right senses? Are we 'collected', using our faculties correctly? It is a tough question to get to grips with because it can expose ignorance, cowardice, selfishness, stupidity, a tendency to run with the crowd and hide behind useless human laws and conventions and much more. It exposes the extent to which we are truly self-aware or still slumbering and asleep, confusing effect or appearance for cause; in short how we trade off the Divine Law and Will for us, for self-protection, self-promotion and crowd thinking. No wonder we run from it!

If we don't run, we might find ourselves in Saint Joseph's predicament... torn between doing the right thing or bending to human norms? He exercises compassion; he listens beyond the sterile noise and norms of society. This readys his heart for exposure to the Divine in the form of an angel and then to follow what he is commanded to do. This command is not only about taking Mary, the person, as his wife but also, taking on and protecting in himself the quality which she represents... to rebel against and push away all that is not of God so that the Divine may be born through her and in him too.

This Christmas and always Our Lord is longing to be born again in you and me. Unless He is the world will continue as it is: reducing intelligence to the artificial and human beings to lifeless obedient machines. Let's awaken, listen, love and choose His Life over death.

PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

CLOSED UNTIL 5 JANUARY

01722 562703

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](#)

No Exposition or Benediction at St Osmund on December 23rd or 25th

Retiring collection this weekend (20 & 21 December) for SCORE Home Projects.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST



Gosh, it's Christmas again. The year has flown by! It's been a busy year and a bit of a stretch, to say the least... but well worth it. Our congregations are growing – alarmingly - and we have two new priests in the Pastoral Area which eases things considerably. All growth begins with birth, and this is the season when we celebrate the Birth of Him who is Cause of all. It seems our individual and collective faith in Him as Cause, has brought about the considerable transformation and growth we have experienced as a Parish: that what we celebrate externally on Christmas Day has, in fact, been taking place interiorly in our hearts all through the year. Your active faith has brought it all about. So, this Christmas lets gather around Him who is Lord of all and thank Him for coming into our lives and touching our community with such gentle force, elegance and grace.

A very special thank you to those who give so much of their time and expertise towards the smooth and continued running of the parish; it's very difficult to convey the massive amounts that you do and the thanks you deserve; but, thank you.

Fr Joseph and I wish you every possible material and spiritual blessing this Christmas and for the New Year. Love and prayers,

Anthony

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES

As our Christmas Mass times are slightly different this year, we've tried to give a sense of what to expect at each of them. ALL Masses are family-friendly and 'traditional', of course, but we hope you'll understand what we mean!

CHRISTMAS EVE

St Gregory	16:00	Family-friendly, begins with carols.
St Osmund	17:00	Family-friendly, with children's procession.
St Osmund	22:30	Traditional, *organ, by candlelight.

CHRISTMAS DAY

St Osmund	08:00	A quiet, peaceful Mass at dawn.
St Gregory	09:00	Christmas morning celebration Mass
St Osmund	10:00	*Organ, as at 9am but NB later time.
St Gregory	11:00	Traditional, organ
St Osmund	13:00	Ordinariate Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE 23:30 St Osmund (with consecration occurring at midnight)

*Please note – the Organ at St Osmund's is due to have the re-leathered bellows returned on Dec 22nd & 23rd, we are hoping and praying that all will go to plan so that we can (literally) pull out all the stops for Christmas!

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

It is a tradition of our Church that the Christmas and Easter collections are for our priests. Christmas offerings can now be Gift-Aided. There are special Christmas Offering envelopes that are available in our churches - if you are a UK taxpayer **please** take a moment to complete your details on the envelope as this increases the value of your donation by 25% **at no extra cost to you**. If you make your offering at the machines in the church porch or using the QR code shown here, please select the Gift Aid option.

If you would like to make an offering via online banking, the account details are:

Name: **Clifton Diocese re Parish of St Osmund** Sort Code: **52-10-03** No: **66287111** Please quote the reference **CHRISTMAS** or, if you are already registered for Gift Aid with the parish, please use reference **GAD CHRISTMAS**.



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

CHRISTMAS CAROLS & READINGS – MONDAY 22 DECEMBER AT 7PM

A relaxed sociable evening in the Parish Centre hosted by Fr Anthony & Fr Joseph featuring some of the readings and Carols of Christmas. Depending upon how many people book to attend, this will either feel like an intimate ‘around the piano’ evening or a larger gathering... we shall wait and see! Either way, there will be mulled wine, mince pies, soft drinks and good cheer! **Booking is essential** so that we know how many to cater for and how to set the room. To book, [click here](#) by Sunday 10am at the latest. Book your place, bring some nibbles and drinks to share, put on some sparkle (or a Christmas jumper) and get ready for a festive evening together. See you there!

Christmas Eve Flower Arranging: Each year, Xanthe and volunteers meet in St Osmund's church on Christmas Eve to make it look beautiful for Christmas. It's always a wonderful, friendly, festive time and only takes a couple of hours. If you'd like to join in, bring an apron and a pair of secateurs. Not a flower-arranger? You'll still be welcome! There's always, sweeping, tidying, getting out the crib etc. Come along at 10.30am on Wednesday 24 December. We hope to be finished by midday leaving you plenty of time to go home and put out your stocking!

Flower Contributions: If you would like to contribute towards Christmas flowers, please place your donation in an envelope marked 'Flowers' in the normal offertory basket at a Sunday Mass or in the wall box in the church.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

The Parish Office has now closed for Christmas and will reopen Monday 5 January. If there is an urgent matter that requires a priest, please ring 01722 333581 or visit our home page or [click here](#) for further contact details.

Thank you so much for all your kind words, cards, biscuits and goodies – from all of our staff and volunteers in the office, we wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - TUESDAY 6 JANUARY

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Vigil Mass of the Epiphany Monday 5 January **6pm** St Osmund (Ordinariate Mass)

6 January **10am*** St Osmund **12 noon** St Osmund **7pm** St Gregory

*The Mass at 10am will be attended by all St Osmund's School pupils so space will be limited and we may have to use the overflow in the Parish Rooms.

PASTORAL AREA NEW YEAR RETREAT

THE HOLY TRINITY – LIVING AS GOD'S PEOPLE - 24 & 25 JANUARY

On 24 & 25 January, we will welcome Sisters Carino and Amata, Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, to our Parish Centre. They will lead a weekend of reflection and formation to help us live out our faith in the Gospel in our daily lives.

The Trinity is the foundation of our faith, professed in the Creed we say together each Sunday. But how can we understand the Trinity in a way that helps us truly “glorify the Lord by our lives”?

There will be four sessions over two days. You are welcome to attend any or all of them, but the programme is designed to offer the greatest benefit if you can join all four. For more information and to sign up, please click on the [Holy Trinity](#) image in the Top News box.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Advent Week 4

Psalter 4 & Proper of Season

Saturday 20 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jane, Hannah & Sophie Tucker

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Our Blessed Mother and St Jude

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Daisy & Christian Inglese on their 1st
Wedding Anniversary

11:00 St Gregory MASS Carol & Breda RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 22 December O Rex Gentium

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 23 December O Emmanuel

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

No Exposition or Benediction on December 23rd or 25th

Wednesday 24 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS Mathew Muricken RIP

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE VIGIL

16:00 St Gregory MASS

17:00 St Osmund MASS

22:30 St Osmund MASS

22:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

08:00 St Osmund MASS

09:00 St Gregory MASS

10:00 St Osmund MASS

11:00 St Gregory MASS

13:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

No Evening Mass

FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER SAINT STEPHEN

10:00 St Gregory Rosary, Service of the Word,
Adoration & Benediction

18:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving

SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE

10:00 St Osmund MASS Estevan Family RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Tony Broughton

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parishes of Sacred Heart Chew Magna) & St Pius X (Withywood).

SCRIPTURE AT MASS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel-which means, God with us.

Alleluia!

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Vigil Masses 16:00 & 17:00

I will sing for ever of your mercies, O Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Tomorrow the wickedness of the earth will be destroyed; the Saviour of the world will reign over us.

Alleluia!

Mass during the Night 22:30

Today a saviour has been born to us; who is Christ the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you good news of great joy: for unto us is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

Christmas Day

Dawn Masses 08:00 & 09:00

Today a light will shine upon us;
for the Lord is born for us.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.

Alleluia!

Mass during the Day 10:00 & 11:00

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God

Alleluia, alleluia!

A hallowed day has shone upon us.

Come, O nations, and adore the Lord;

for today a great light has come down to earth.

Alleluia!

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Christmas Week 1
& Proper of the Feast

SUNDAY 28 December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

09:00 St Osmund MASS Jose Thattil Mandi
11:00 St Gregory MASS Nithin & Reshma 9th Wedding Anniversary
12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS
18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

MONDAY 29 DECEMBER SAINT THOMAS BECKET

10:00 St Osmund MASS
18:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving

Tuesday 30 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Sebastian & Shybi
All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
18:00 Benediction

Wednesday 31 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS
23:30 St Osmund MASS (Consecration at Midnight)

2026

THURSDAY 1 JANUARY MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10:00 St Osmund MASS Daniel Quirk RIP
All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 2 January Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

10:00 St Gregory Rosary, Service of the Word, Adoration & Benediction
18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Henry Coope & his housekeeper RIP

Saturday 3 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS For Raiiti Lee & family

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Carl Broadbent RIP

RECONCILIATION THIS WEEK

St Gregory: Saturday 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturday 3rd January - after the morning Mass



PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parishes of St Catharine (Chipping Campden), Our Lady & St Kenelm (Stow-on-the-Wold with Bourton-on-the-Water).

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE:

Psalm Response

Blessed are all who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;
let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

Alleluia.

REST IN PEACE

Monte Little

Requiem Mass on Wednesday 14 January 10am
at St Gregory & the English Martyrs. **All welcome**

Mary Conaway

Requiem Mass on Thursday 15 January 10am
at St Osmund. **All welcome.**

Please keep our departed loved ones and their families
in your prayers - may they rest in peace and rise in glory
with the Lord.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Christmas Week 2 & Proper of the Season

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 4 JANUARY

09:00	St Osmund	MASS	Natasa Medvedic RIP
11:00	St Gregory	MASS	People of the Parish
12:30	St Osmund	Ordinariate MASS	
18:00	St Osmund	MASS	Nonie & Harry Fleming RIP

Monday 5 January

Vigil Mass of the Epiphany

18:00	St Osmund	Ordinariate MASS
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TUESDAY 6 JANUARY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	George & Monica Pickford RIP
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This Mass will be attended by St Osmund's School

12:00	St Osmund	MASS
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Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00	Benediction
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19:00	St Gregory	MASS
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Wednesday 7 January

10:00	St Gregory	MASS	Joseph Chacko RIP
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Thursday 8 January

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	Yamatsy Puahi
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All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00	St Osmund	Benediction
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Friday 9 January

10:00	St Gregory	Rosary, Service of the Word, Adoration & Benediction
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18:00	St Osmund	MASS	(G) Charles Connor RIP
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Saturday 10 January

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	Isabel Sebastian
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First Mass of Sunday

17:00	St Gregory	MASS	Mary Totterdill RIP
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RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturday 10th - 9.30am until 12 noon
and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY

[For Prayer with The Word Of God](#)

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parishes of St Peter (Cirencester), St Aldhelm (Malmesbury) & St Michael (Tetbury).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Michael Keegan, Fr Vincent Ryan, Bernard (Monte) Little, Mary Conaway, Anne Weston William Coughlan, Ruth Healy, John Tobin, Sue Halliden, Robert Fitz and Shiny Mathew, 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

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations.
Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world.
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 2026 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

REGULAR PARISH GATHERINGS RETURN DATES

Parish Prayer & Praise (Alabaré) - Tuesday 6 January at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Men's Breakfast – The next Men's Breakfast is on Saturday the 10 January at 8am in the Parish Centre. The theme will be 'Fatherhood'. Please book by [following this link](#) and completing the form. The cost is £10 per head, payable on the day.

Radiant – Thursday 29 January 7pm in our Parish Centre.

First Friday Talks - Friday 6 February after the evening Mass in the Parish Centre.

My Generation - Wednesday 21 January at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall.

Hope and Friendship Group - Monday 12 January at 10.30am at the Parish Centre.

Parish Rosary Group - Wednesday 7 January at 2.30pm.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith (2025-6) 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. The [Family of Faith](#) webpage includes helpful 'signs of readiness' documents for parents discerning their child's readiness for the Sacraments. Online forms for both sacraments are also available. The first session in the New Year is on **Sunday 11 January at St Gregory's** at 9am for a 9.15am start, followed by the 11am Mass

Youth Group – will reconvene on Wednesday 7 January at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. Do you want to join? This is for anyone in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. Know a young person that may like to come? Give them a nudge. All the dates are on our website, just click on [Youth Group](#) on our home page.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Confirmation 2026: The next mandatory session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is Wednesday 14 January 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. To find out more, click on the button '[Confirmation](#)' on our homepage.

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 next Sunday 28 December 10.30am at the Parish Centre. 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.

Congratulations and welcome to Natalie McCook who will receive the sacrament of Baptism at St Gregory this Saturday 20 December . Please keep Natalie and her parents Daria & Natashane and godparents in your prayers.

Congratulations to Helena Butler who will make her First Holy Communion at the 9am Mass at St Osmund next Sunday 28 December.

Baptism Preparation – The next course commences on 1 February 2026 after the 9am Mass at St Osmund, please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage.

What is Prayer? - The diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering an online session entitled 'What is Prayer?' on Friday 9 January 2026, 7pm-8pm. For this session we will discover what prayer is, how to pray, and why it is important to pray. [To sign up click on the image in the 'Top News' box.](#)