

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



ADVENT WEEK 4 (C) & CHRISTMAS



**A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE**
CLIFTON DIOCESE

From Father Anthony

After wind and rain it was pleasant to feel the sun and smell freshness in the air. The shortest day approaches and with the birth of Jesus there is new life: spring is just around the corner. I stood outside with a mug of tea. Mrs Cat sashayed over, eyes bright... and then, darted across the lawn, scaled a tree, leapt down, ran over, cuffed my ankles and made off. Her joy matched the weather: my heart glowed. However, Spivs made noises of disapproval!

Hell; strange subject just before the birth of Jesus. Can we square it? At the end of our embodiment, life will continue in the afterlife. The quality of our afterlife will partly reflect the life we have just led. With Mary we must enter *the house of Zechariah (house of remembrance)* and do some remembering.

Remember, we are created in Love, out of Love and for Love. Love demands Freedom, otherwise it would be compulsion; and freedom implies choice. We can choose. What choices have we made and are we making? The catechism teaches that Hell is the *deliberate self-exclusion from God and communion with the blessed*. In freedom we can *choose not to Love and not to choose God*. We can choose to idolise ourselves or things. Thoughts of Hell urge us to reflect on our choices and the lives we are leading. Is life bleak? Are we trapped and ruled by the worldly drivers of money, sex and power and their fruit, resentment, envy and pride? Many are having an experience of hell now represented by the bleakness of Advent, the winterscape of life.

Into this hell Jesus is born.... to show us the way out of it. He is not only born in time but now, in our hearts, however bleak they are. Don't leave Him outside as a character from history. He never trespasses as trespass leads to compulsion: invite Him in! Let Him inhabit the elements of our lives characterised by resentment, envy and pride and anything that haunts us from the past. His presence will transform them because His presence is Heaven. He is the antidote to Hell and everything that flows from it. In and with His presence we will never have to fear Hell: better still, we can banish it from the earth now and starve its effects in the afterlife.

Knowing this our hearts will leap for joy.

PASTORAL TEAM

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Parish Office

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

**NOTICE - the parish office is closed
for Christmas until 2 January 2025**

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Caroline Williams

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Désirée Coups

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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](#)



<https://salisbury Catholics.org>



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PARISH PRIEST

In my Newsletter note to you last year, I prayed *that Our Lord would open the gates of our hearts so as to reveal how we can build and take our parish into the future as a shining beacon, proclaiming Him as our friend, brother and Saviour.* **Family in Faith** seems to be His answer, along with a new and thriving youth group and the opening of our new Parish Centre. Focusing on our young people is what you asked our clergy team to do and it seems Our Lord agrees with you; it touches parents and grandparents and therefore the whole of the parish. It also puts us in a position to be able to hand on the faith to the next generation. We have been truly blessed.

Obviously, none of this happens of its own accord: nor too, the everyday running of the parish. I am enormously grateful to all those who have given of their time and energy in order to keep our parish alive and flourishing. You do it for Jesus and He will, I trust, bless you fully.

May Our Lord also send down His special blessing on those baptised, confirmed and married in our community this year; may He hold in His arms all our loved ones whose time on earth came to an end and now continues in heaven.

If you have booked to attend our Carols on Monday night in the Parish Centre with mince pies and mulled wine, I will see you there; if not, may I wish you a Happy Christmas, with love and prayers from the whole of our team.

Fr Anthony

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE

Church	Carols	Mass	
St Gregory & the English Martyrs	16:00	16:30	Children are welcome to come dressed as their favourite nativity character.
St Osmund	17:30	18:00	
St Osmund	—	22:30	By candlelight

CHRISTMAS DAY

Church	Mass Start Time
St Gregory & the English Martyrs	09:00
St Osmund	09:00
St Osmund	11:00
St Osmund (Ordinariate Mass)	12:30

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Church	Mass Start Time
St Osmund	23:30

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BOSCO

Bishop Bosco MacDonald has recorded a special Christmas message for this Holy Season.

In his message as Bishop of Clifton, Bishop Bosco talks about the challenges we have all faced both locally and globally this year, but lets us know that the message of Christmas shines brightly; and this message is Hope. You can watch the full message by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#)

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

It is a tradition of our Church that the Christmas and Easter collections are given in gratitude for our priests. Due to an administrative change in the way that stipends are paid to priests, Christmas offerings can now be Gift-Aided. There are special Christmas Offering envelopes available now 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. Please be assured that your gift will be anonymous as all of the administration is carried out by the finance team.

If you would like to make an offering via online banking, our parish 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**. **Thank you**.



CHRISTMAS CAROLS & READINGS - 23 DECEMBER AT 7PM

As a response to feedback from parishioners, we are trying something new this year and have organised what we hope will be a relaxed sociable evening in the Parish Centre 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 & tea and coffee and good cheer! **The evening is free but you must book to attend** so that we know how many to cater for and how to set the room. To book, please click [here](#), **all bookings must be in this weekend**. Hope to see you there.

Advent Talks: - the third talk last Friday was given by Deacon Stephen Godwin on 'Judgement', the final talk is tonight Friday 20 December 7pm at our Parish Centre and will be given by Fr Anthony on 'Heaven and Hell'. Can't attend in person? Click on the Advent Talks button on our homepage or [click here](#) for all the recordings.

Advent Carol Service 17 December - A truly beautiful service followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Parish Rooms. A huge thankyou goes to all those involved in making it a wonderful evening; the choir & music, the decorating of the church and all those who helped serving and clearing up in the Parish Rooms. Afterwards. Some photos are available in the '[Photo Gallery](#)' on our website with more to follow, [click here](#).

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

The Parish Office has now closed for Christmas and will reopen Thursday 2 January. During this period there will be no one to answer telephone calls or respond to emails. If there is a an urgent matter that requires a Priest, please do visit our home page or [click here](#) for their contact details.

*From all of us in the office to all of parishioners - we wish you a very
Happy and Holy Christmas.*

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Youth Group - meet again on Wednesday 8 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 or [click here](#).

Family of Faith The first gathering in the New Year will be Sunday 12 January beginning with our morning 9am Masses continuing 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 homepage.

Young(ish) Catholic Adults Group for those in their 20s, 30s, 40s...?! We will gather again in the New Year on Tuesday 7 January 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.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith This is an ongoing programme for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics. We meet on a Sunday morning to learn about what it is Christians believe, why they believe it, and explore what it means for our own lives. The next session is this Sunday 22 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 - The first session in Term 1 is on Tuesday 14 January at 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. 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 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](#).

REGULAR PARISH GATHERINGS RETURN DATES

Parish Prayer & Praise (Alabaré) - Tuesday 7 January at 7.30pm in our Parish Centre.

Radiant - Friday 31 January 7pm in our Parish Centre.

First Friday Talks - Friday 7 February after the evening Mass in our Parish Centre.

My Generation - Wednesday 15 January at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall.

Hope and Friendship Group - Monday 6 January at 10.45am at our Parish Centre.

Parish Rosary Group - Wednesday 8 January at 2.30pm.

Coffee & Cake after the Thursday 10am Mass - The next get-together will be on Thursday 2 January.

Art and Craft Group - Monday 6 January after the 10am Mass at St Osmund's in the Parish Rooms.

Bridge Club which meets each Tuesday at 1pm will reconvene on 7 January 2025

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Advent Week 4
Psalter 4 Proper of Season

Saturday 21 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Reshma

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

09:00 St Gregory MASS Mathew Muricken RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS Sheelagh Neville

11:00 St Osmund MASS The Mooney Family and
Elizabeth Kane & Patricia Knott RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 23 December 'O Emmanuel'

10:00 St Osmund MASS For the Johnston Family

Tuesday 24 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Peter & Edna Duffy RIP

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

CHRISTMAS EVE

16:00 St Gregory Carols followed by MASS at 16:30

17:30 St Osmund Carols followed by MASS at 18:00

22:30 St Osmund MASS

22:30 Holy Redeemer Syro-Malabar MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 December

09:00 St Gregory MASS

09:00 St Osmund MASS

11:00 St Osmund MASS

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

No Evening Mass

THURSDAY 26 DECEMBER SAINT STEPHEN

10:00 St Osmund MASS

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 12 Noon

FRIDAY 27 DECEMBER SAINT JOHN, APOSTLE

10:00 St Gregory MASS Intentions of Isabel Sebastian

18:00 St Osmund MASS Birthday blessings upon Ida

SATURDAY 28 DECEMBER THE HOLY INNOCENTS

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving for Abin & Family

18:00 St Gregory MASS Frank Farley RIP

SCRIPTURE AT MASS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Bring us back, O God;
let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.

Alleluia!

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Vigil Masses 16:30 & 18:00

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 Mass 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 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 C-1 Christmas Week 1
Proper of the Feast and Weekday Psalter 2



SUNDAY 29 December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

09:00	St Gregory	MASS	People of the Parish
09:00	St Osmund	MASS	Frances Vueti RIP
11:00	St Osmund	MASS	62nd Wedding Anniversary
12:30	St Osmund	Ordinariate MASS	
18:00	St Osmund	MASS	John Tuttle RIP

Monday 30 December

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	Birthday Blessings Ida
13:00	St Gregory	Funeral Service	Florindo Carpenito RIP

Tuesday 31 December

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	Tony Broughton - Christmas Blessings
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All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00	Benediction		
23:30	St Osmund	MASS (Consecration at Midnight)	

WEDNESDAY 1 JANUARY MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10:00	St Gregory	MASS	Daniel Quirk RIP & Fr Michael Derrick RIP
18:00	St Osmund	Ordinariate Mass	

Thursday 2 January Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nanzianzen

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

Friday 3 January

10:00	St Gregory	MASS	Birthday Blessings - Peter
18:00	St Osmund	MASS	Harry Meigh RIP

Saturday 4 January

10:00	St Osmund	MASS	Thanksgiving for Abin & Family
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First Mass of Sunday

18:00	St Gregory	MASS	Julia in sickness
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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 JANUARY

For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parishes of St Dominic (Dursley) and St Joseph (Nympsfield).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Florindo Carpenito, James Herlihy, Andrée Spark, Fiona Ross and Veronica Fulton 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

1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Psalms 83

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,

that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Luke 2:41-52

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



ENCOUNTER

Parish Lent Retreat +

3RD ~ 6TH APRIL 2025

Please join us this Lent for time out from the world.

This year's theme is **Encounter**.

We will be looking at how even the smallest encounter with Jesus can change the course of a life.

We will follow some familiar Gospel friends and consider our own before-and-after stories and the ones still unfolding.

We would especially love to encourage those of you who have never made a retreat before to come and experience how the Lord always blesses us when we intentionally give Him the time and space.

+ We invite you to come and have your own encounter in the tranquil and prayerful surroundings of Ladywell Convent.

Please don't let cost prevent you from coming along - thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we are able to offer support to those who need it to make this possible.

Please check the website or call the office to book or ask for more information.

