

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

LENT WEEK 5(A)

From Father Anthony

Being of a certain age I awoke in the very early hours needing to pay a visit to the little boy's room. Grumpy and groggy, I shivered in the dark, tripped over a chair, bashed my toe, uttered words and... I'll leave the rest to you! Refreshed and fully awake I stood for a moment by the open window. The air was chilly, the silence deep, the night mysterious and full of shadows. I went back to bed nursing a sore toe, Jesus' words ringing in my ear... *'but if one walks at night, he stumbles because the light is not in him'*

One reason to spend time in the desert with Jesus during Lent is to realise that life lived exclusively through the senses and rational brain is like stumbling in the dark; it is to live in a world of *appearance* or *effect* mistaking them for *Cause*; a life of the night without the illumination of Spirit. Like Lazarus we might be living our life asleep, as if we were dead. Only life lived in and from the awareness of Spirit will ultimately complete and satisfy us; bring us joy, contentment, understanding and purpose. And, as with Lazarus, only Jesus can awaken us, call us out of the tomb of our life into the radiance of Spirit.

Are there not twelve hours in the day? We are to walk in the light of Spirit. If we feel we are stumbling in the night, that life is circular, dreary and unfulfilling; perhaps we need to spend more of those *twelve hours* with Christ in prayer or meditation. Come before Him with open hands, releasing whatever we think we know or believe... *this is not it; it is the darkness*. Christ cannot be contained by knowledge or intellect. In frequent, short periods of meditation enter the depth of unknowing: the profound darkness Abraham experienced when God put him into a deep sleep (*Gen 15:12*). Much is revealed here. If we feel we have not heard Christ's call and are still wrapped in the dreary suffocating bandages of the world... *thank God*. This very *awareness* is a sign that the sleep of death is being disturbed. We must embrace this darkness even if we cannot feel His Presence or hear His Voice. Don't scrabble about in mind or thought. Stay very quiet and still; nothing more. His Presence will emerge eventually.

Priests' Retirement Fund This annual diocesan collection helps support our sick and retired priests. It allows the diocese to help retired priests living on their own and, when needed, pay for care home fees. Your generosity is much appreciated. If you are a taxpayer, the value of your gift is increased by 25% if you use a gift aid envelope that can be found in the church porch.



PASTORAL TEAM

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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](#)

THIRD SCRUTINY & HANDING ON OF THE OUR FATHER TO THE ELECT

The Church leads the Elect during this final period of purification by means of the Scrutinies to consider stark contrasts: thirst and water (1st Scrutiny with the Woman at the Well) and blindness and sight (2nd Scrutiny with the Man Born Blind). The account we hear this Sunday at Mass of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-45) is the focus of the third and final Scrutiny, as our Lord enters the ultimate contrast: from death, he calls forth life. In our parish this will be celebrated at the 9am Mass this Sunday at St Gregory's. The final of these 'Minor Rites' of the RCIA process will take place at next Friday's (27 March) evening Mass when we 'hand on' The Lord's Prayer to our Elect .

Please pray for the Elect of our Parish: **Christopher, Sophie, Luisa and Jennifer.**

PREPARATION FOR EASTER

Sacrament of Reconciliation Please take advantage of our regular Saturday Confession times (mornings at St Osmund's and evenings prior to the Vigil Mass at St Gregory's). There is only **one** remaining Saturday prior to Easter after this weekend.

The **Deanery Penitential Service** at 7pm on Tuesday of Holy Week (31 March) at St Gregory & the English Martyrs will be the **FINAL opportunity to come to Confession** prior to Easter and several priests will be present to hear Confessions. On Wednesday of Holy Week our priests all travel to Bristol for the Chrism Mass and we enter into the Sacred Triduum on Holy Thursday. Please remember that we only have two priests in Salisbury and that, as well as all the liturgical preparations, there are visits to the housebound to be made during Holy Week. Please do not expect to make an appointment with a priest for Confession *after* Tuesday of Holy week. Many thanks for your support and understanding.

Easter Flowers If you would like to contribute towards flowers to decorate our churches for Easter, please simply put your donation in any envelope, mark it 'Easter Flowers' and either drop into the collection basket at Mass or into the parish office or presbytery. Donations can also be made at our contactless machines in the church porches or via the wallbox in St Osmund's. Could you help to arrange the flowers on Holy Saturday? We'd love to hear from you! Contact the parish office.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Bible Study with the Fathers of the Church - Fr Joseph's group for Young(ish) adults (open to all in their 20s & 30s) meets on alternate Tuesdays at 8pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms, also available to join online via Zoom. Please email Fr Joseph to be added to the WhatsApp group for notifications.

Family of Faith: Next session is after the Easter break on Sunday 12 April after the 9am Masses at the Parish Centre on Exeter Street.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith – The next session is this Sunday 22 March 10.30am at the Parish Centre on Exeter Street. For more including the timetable click on the '[Journey in Faith](#)' button on our home page.

Confirmation 2026 - The next key [Confirmation](#) session is Wednesday 6 May at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Baptism Preparation. The next course starts Sunday 12 April after the 9am Mass at St Osmund for three consecutive Sundays, contact the Parish Office to join or click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage.

LIFE MATTERS & FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION MASS

Jersey's Elected Parliament has passed a bill to legalise assisted suicide. Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth said the decision shows "a woeful lack of interest in protecting the most vulnerable people in our society".

The Scottish Parliament has this week voted **against** legalising assisted dying for terminally ill adults (69–57). Bishop John Keenan, President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, stated that the vote "serves to protect some of Scotland's most vulnerable individuals." Praise be.

England & Wales – The Terminally Ill (Adults) End of Life Bill, having passed the Commons, is now being debated in the House of Lords. It must pass both chambers by mid-May or it will fail. Guidance on writing to a Peer to oppose the Bill is available via this link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/contact-peers/>

Archbishop Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, is urging Catholics to pray for parliamentarians considering the Bill, and to focus prayer especially on those nearing the end of life and those who care for them.

Click on the '[Assisted Suicide](#)' button on our homepage for the complete statements from all the concerned Bishops

Decriminalisation of Abortion. The House of Lords is debating an extreme amendment to the Government Crime & Policing Bill, which would allow women to self-induce an abortion at any stage. The third and final reading is expected next Wednesday 25 March. Please act to stop this proposal by using the SPUC's tool to write to members of the Lords <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation>

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION On Wednesday evening (25th), Fr Joseph will be celebrating an additional parish Mass at 6.30pm for the Feast of the Annunciation in St Osmund's Church to which all are warmly invited. Our Confirmation Candidates & Youth Group will be present at this Mass which will serve as the first part of their time together. All parishioners are very warmly invited to join with them in prayer for respect for the Sanctity of all life from conception to natural death. Additionally at the beginning of this Mass our new 'Marian' (White/Blue) vestments will be blessed and brought into service. For more on this Feast, click in the '[Top News](#)' box.

CHRISM MASS in Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday 1 April. The coach is now fully booked. Timings and pick-up details will be communicated to those who have booked in the coming days.

Vigil Mass in Czech and Slovak – this Saturday 21 March 6pm at St Osmund Fr Tomas Krejci will hear Confessions from 5pm in English and Czech/Slovak followed by the Mass and refreshments in the Parish Rooms after Mass.

Parish Centre To see all the activities happening in the [Parish Centre](#), click on the button on our homepage. Due to essential electrical work, the centre will be temporarily unavailable for daytime/weekday use (8am–6pm) from Wednesday 25 March to Tuesday 31 March. Evening groups will not be affected. The groups impacted are: The Book Club (Thursday 26) and the Bridge Club (Tuesday 30)

Lenten Talks Join us for a thoughtful series of [talks](#) inspired by the popular reflections of Fr Stephen Wang. **Every Tuesday in Lent from 7.30–9.30pm** at the Parish Centre beginning with light refreshments. There is plenty of parking, no booking is required — simply come along and take part.

Choir for the Easter Triduum in St Gregory's & St Osmund's. Join us in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund at 6pm this Wednesday 25 March. Recordings of the music to learn at home are available for those who don't read music. Contact the parish office if you're interested or just turn up!

Easter Egg Donations! As yet we have received very few Easter Egg donations for our children's Easter Egg hunts for children after the 9am Masses on Easter Sunday at both St Osmund and St Gregory. Donations (individually-wrapped little ones, not full-size!) will be gratefully received in both churches. Please hand your eggs into the welcomers at Mass or to the Parish Office during the week, or the presbytery (if you trust the priests not eat them!).

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 1st April 2026 for Bingo at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Lent Week 5 & Psalter 1

Saturday 21 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mrs Ann Brookes RIP

First Mass of Sunday

16:00 St Osmund Polish MASS **NB – Earlier time than usual.**

17:00 St Gregory MASS Tony Brady RIP

18:00 St Osmund Czech/Slovak MASS
with Confessions prior to Mass from 5pm.

SUNDAY 22 MARCH

09:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Conaway RIP

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Joshua Sebastian – Birthday Intention

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Loretta Jacques in sickness

Monday 23 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS M in sickness

Tuesday 24 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Isabel's private intentions

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

10:00 St Gregory MASS Arthur Buck RIP

18:30 St Osmund MASS **For the Sanctity of Life**
with Youth Group & Confirmation candidates.
All welcome.

Thursday 26 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mariana Carnerio Rosa Malho Rodrigues

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 27 March

17:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Maria Vandenhoff RIP

Saturday 28 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Charlotte Barton belated birthday blessings

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

Final Opportunity for Confession prior to Easter

Tuesday of Holy Week – Deanery Penitential Service

7pm St Gregory's Church 31 March

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parishes of St Augustine of Canterbury (Matson) & English Martyrs (Tuffley),

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Christopher Turner, Beth Newman, Darren Barnes, Anthony Scouller and Orlando Saraze 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

With the Lord there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
Everyone who believes in me shall never die.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

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@clifftondiocese.com

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of peace, Father of all, in this hour of fear and violence draw near to every family living under threat.

Protect the innocent, shelter the displaced, comfort the grieving, heal the wounded, and strengthen all who bring relief and care.

Turn the hearts of leaders from pride and anger. Give them wisdom, restraint, and courage, that the weapons may fall silent and honest negotiation may begin.

Save the peoples of the Middle East from a widening war. Guard Christians and all religious minorities, and keep hatred from hardening into lasting division.

Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, make us peacemakers in our homes, our schools, and our communities. Bless our Lenten prayers and sacrifices, and let them bear fruit in mercy, justice, and reconciliation.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, protector of families, pray for us.

Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us. Amen.

Our Bishop, Bosco MacDonald is calling the whole of the Clifton Diocese to prayer for peace in the Middle East. He has issued a statement which you can read online [here](#) or on our church noticeboards if you do not have access to the internet.

LENT & HOLY WEEK LITURGY

Stations of the Cross - Fridays during Lent 5.20pm at St Osmund prior to the 6pm Mass.

TUESDAY 31 MARCH

Deanery Penitential Service 7pm St Gregory with several priests for Confessions.

This will be the final opportunity for Confession prior to Easter.

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL

Chrism Mass 11am Clifton Cathedral

Coach is now FULL

HOLY THURSDAY 2 APRIL

Tenebrae 10am St Osmund

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm St Gregory

GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

Stations of the Cross 9am St Gregory

Tenebrae 10am St Osmund

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ 3pm St Gregory & St Osmund

Stations of the Cross 6pm St Osmund

Ecumenical Walk of Witness 10.30am Starting at Salisbury Cathedral (West Door)

HOLY SATURDAY 4 APRIL

Tenebrae 10am St Osmund

Easter Vigil 9pm St Osmund