

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 21 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

It was like an oven. Cars queued in frustrated fumes, people wilted along the pavement. I melted at traffic lights, then poured myself into the market. Tourists chatted in exotic tongues, Panama's and Summer Dresses wandered around the stalls as vendors simmered gently; no 'air con' for them! I stowed fruit and veg as an argument broke out, *'no it's not'*, said a little girl, *'it's a Tangerine'*. *'It's not'* said her brother, *'it's a Satsuma'*. *Clementine's, Mandarins and Blood Oranges* were also mentioned. The argument raged on as I left, pretty sure they were Satsuma's... or were they?

Who do you say I am? This was asked of the disciples by Jesus. We are His disciples so it is asked of us too. It is worth pondering the question frequently. Who do we say He is? *'Did you hesitate or have to think about the answer'*, old Basil said, years ago. *'If so, gentlemen, the hesitation might be telling you something'*. Common answers today may not include *John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah* or *one of the Prophets* but we do hear *Ascended Master, Avatar, Wayshower, Christ Consciousness, Jeshua* and so on. There can be a tendency to reduce Jesus to *he's a nothing but* or *he's just one among many holy* or *'self-realised' persons*; just as there is a tendency to reduce the *Real Presence* in the Eucharist to a piece of bread. Our answers and the conviction behind them reveal something about ourselves, not Jesus... which is not a threat but an honest reflection of where we are in our relationship to Jesus and the Divine within the Catholic Church we are part of. Is He *the Christ the Son of the Living God*; the Second Person of the Trinity: the one to whom all living beings raise their eyes, bow their heads and bend their knees? Or?

We must come to know who He is not only for our own spiritual awakening but because this is all we actually have to pass on to and heal a world broken by the many forms of itself *masquerading as Him*: which give us nothing but misery and confusion in return. To know who He is we must bind and discard all our worldliness and loose ourselves in God... because it is not flesh and blood (*the world*) who reveals the answer to the question but our Father in Heaven.



PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

Rev Anthony B Paris VF (Parish Priest)
01722 333581 or 07544 053785
anthony.paris@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Joseph Columba Meigh
(Assistant Priest)
01722 333581
joseph.meigh@cliftondiocese.com

Rev George James
(Priest in Residence at CTK, Amesbury
& Assistant Priest)
renjith.james@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Tomas Krejci (Priest Sarum
Ordinatee & Assistant Priest)
tomas.krejci@cliftondiocese.com

SALISBURY DEACONS

Rev John Detain (Deacon)
01722 415588
john.detain@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Stephen Godwin (Deacon)
07583 254488
stephen.godwin@cliftondiocese.com

Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
07802 631968
john.proctor@cliftondiocese.com

PARISH OFFICE

Désirée Coups
salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

01722 562703
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](#)

ST GREGORY'S CHURCH; 9AM MASS SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2026

We warmly welcome **Fr Peter Coxe, who will be celebrating the 9.00am Mass at St Gregory's this Sunday.** He will also be celebrating the 5.00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday at St Gregory's, providing valuable support to our parish. Fr Peter, a priest of the Diocese of Plymouth who resides in Bognor Regis, currently serves as Chaplain to the local L'Arche Community while also assisting the local parish and wider community.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY 6 SEPTEMBER

Due to insufficient numbers, we have had to cancel the coach. However, minibuses will be available. If you would like to travel as a group, please continue to use the sign-up sheets in both churches and ensure you include your contact details when booking. For more information click on the image in the ['Top News'](#) box.

DEFIBRILLATORS

Thanks to very generous personal donations, we have been able to provide additional defibrillators at St Gregory's and St Elizabeth House, in addition to the one already at St Osmund's. The defibrillators are extremely easy to use and require no training – the machine tells you what to do. We are displaying the combination code on the cabinet for immediate access. The code is C159X. Please check their location on your next visit. For more information visit our ['Defibrillator'](#) page (button at the bottom of the home page) for the location at each site and some instructional videos.

INTERNATIONAL MASS – SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

We are delighted to announce that our International Mass will take place at 9am on Sunday, 13 September, at St Gregory's Church. This joyful celebration will reflect the rich diversity of our parish, with Scripture readings and the Prayers of the Faithful in different languages, an international choir, and a celebration with food and refreshments after Mass. Everyone is warmly invited. [Please click on the image in the 'Top News' for the full details.](#) If you would like to represent your country or culture by taking part in the liturgy, music, traditional dress, or refreshments, we would be delighted to hear from you. For more information please contact Daniel Wairimu 07554 118333 or email: dmungai.w@gmail.com

The Friday Prayer Group at St Gregory's resumes on Friday 4 September, following the summer break. We have an exciting 15-week programme planned, running right up to Christmas, and everyone is warmly invited to join us. The group meets on Fridays from 4.00pm to 5.30pm in a relaxed and friendly setting, beginning with refreshments. Whether you are a regular attendee or coming for the first time, you will be most welcome. Please visit ['Friday Prayer Group'](#) under 'Parish Activities' to see the full programme

The Justice & Peace group are screening the film 'National Emergency Briefing' on Friday 11 September 7.30pm at the Parish Centre. This is a powerful film about climate change and the implications of continuing to burn fossil fuels. Warning: this film spells out the impacts on the future of our choices today. It is not suitable for under 16s.

SCORE grants. Applications for a grant will be considered at the September committee meeting. If you are involved in a charity working locally or overseas it may be eligible for a grant. Please visit the [SCORE](#) page under Parish Activities for more details and an application form which should be submitted by the end of August. Thank you.

FAMILY OF FAITH

If you have a child who has not yet made their First Holy Communion, and is in Year 3 or above, our Family of Faith programme will begin again next month, so it's time to sign up via the Parish Website! There will be a short information session for parents after Mass on Sunday 6th September, and the first proper session will be Sunday 27th September. Sessions are fortnightly during term time, after the 9am Masses, at the Parish Centre. Parents have their own session whilst the children have theirs, and it is essential that at least one parent stays for the whole session, which will last 1 hour. Lots more information is on the website (<https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith>), and if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

HELP NEEDED particularly for these Family of Faith sessions, either with the parents or the children, even if it is not possible to commit to every time. In particular, it would be wonderful if somebody could offer to manage a "crèche" for younger siblings so that parents can bring them along and not be too distracted from the sessions!

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

Tomorrow Saturday 22 August we will welcome Evelyn Rosa Sexton Bartlett who will receive the sacrament of Baptism at St Osmund. Please keep Evelyn Rosa and her parents Jane & James and the godparents in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation. The next preparation course starts Sunday 13 September after the 9am Mass at St Osmund for three consecutive Sundays, please do contact the Parish Office to join. To apply for a baptism for your child please click on the [Registration](#) button on our homepage and select 'Infant Baptism Application'.

Marriage Preparation – Our next preparation for those wishing to get married next year will be on Friday 18 & Saturday 19 September. Please register with the Parish Office

CONFIRMATION 2027

If you have a child who will be in Year 9 or above from September, please use our [online form](#) to apply to join our preparation programme for 2027. **There will be an information evening for parents & candidates on Wednesday 9 September at 6.30pm.**

The Confirmation programme includes a wonderful residential retreat in the first term, so it is important to sign up now to receive all the key dates and information. Simply click the '[Confirmation](#)' button on our homepage to register.

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 just click on 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- The annual Parish Retreat will take place during Lent at The Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Abbey Monday 15th February - Thursday 18th February 2027. Our theme will be 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God'. Please consider coming if you have not been before, it is open to everyone in the Pastoral Area of St Edith. There will be more details to come nearer the date, but if you are interested, then put the dates in your diary and contact either the parish office or Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com.

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 21 & Psalter 1

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

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