

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 21 (C)

From Father Anthony

I was once part of a convoy travelling to my new base. Somewhere along the secure and cleared route the lead vehicle took a wrong turn. The road became a hedged track, twisting, turning and ascending into snow. We were now in *uncleared* territory with the ever-present danger of land mines hidden beneath the compacted snow. Lost and wary, the soldiers reminded me that I was the senior rank! I never felt so useless... hopefully, I did not show it. Doing nothing was not an option and there was not enough safe room to turn round. I directed that we continue cautiously to the top. There, thankfully, we found friendly forces, who laughingly directed us, via a safe track, to the main route... urging us to learn how to read a map! I never felt so grateful for their sarcasm and humour.

Enter by the narrow door. The word translated as *narrow* also means *strait* - a *narrow passage connecting two larger bodies*. One body is the Kingdom of the World. The other is the Kingdom of Heaven. Living in the Kingdom World is like living in a cull-de-sac of the senses - going nowhere. Living in the Kingdom of Heaven is living in the spiritual body (*Mind*) from which everything flows and returns... it is found *within* not *without*. If we do not *live from within*, we feel lost, locked out, living in a world of effects never knowing the cause. The Gospel asks us to pause and review how we operate daily. Is it solely through our senses? Or is there an awareness of something back of the senses; spirit? In spirit, we realise that the starting point is also the destination. We emerged from God only to return to Him. He is Cause, we the effect. To confuse effect for Cause is to live in a land of *weeping and gnashing of teeth*.

To navigate the world, we concentrate consciousness on sensation and rational thought. To navigate God we '*decentre*' consciousness allowing our mind to expand, feeling God as Centre and Cause. This *feeling* is like *converging* on Him (*coming from east, west, south, north*). The journey of life (*villages and cities*) becomes an inward, gentle movement towards the Father and Peace (*Jerusalem*). Reflecting this Peace into the world we offer it a sense of *salvation*: a sure and loving route out of the cul-de-sacs of misery.



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Parish Office

Closed Bank Holiday Monday 25/8

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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](#)

Curate from St Osmund's being proposed for Sainthood?! - No, not Fr Joseph—not yet anyway! Our parish archivist, Graham Brown, has written a short post to inaugurate our new parish history blog, The Osmund Archive: Gleanings from the history of St Osmund's church, Salisbury. We intend to post short nuggets of interest from the fascinating history of our parish, and the Catholic presence in South Wiltshire. The first article is about Fr Patrick Reilly, who served in St Osmund's, but was shot dead in Korea as a martyr, 75 years ago this Friday. To read it, please click on 'History' in the main menu or [click here](#).

Advance Notice: Due to decorating work in the Sanctuary at St Osmund's, the 10am Masses on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd September will be celebrated in St Osmund's Parish Hall. The services will still be livestreamed during this time. Please select the 'St Osmund's Hall' tab when accessing the livestream on these days.

The Ordinariate Mass this Sunday 24 August will be at 1pm not the usual 12.30pm.

Supporting our Young People - Dominic Layet is setting off in a month's time to Malawi in his gap year to teach primary school age children in English and Maths. He will be there for just under a year. If you can support him please visit his 'Just Giving' page <https://www.justgiving.com/page/dominic-layet>

New Parish Book Club – We're launching a new Parish Book Club in the Parish Centre this September — a friendly and relaxed space to enjoy books, share ideas, and build community. Each gathering will include refreshments and plenty of opportunity for conversation and friendship. Contact Steve at stephen.godwin@cliftondiocese.com if you are interested in joining. Watch this space for further details and meeting times.

Chideock Pilgrimage - Fr Joseph is inviting our young people (of secondary school age) to come on an end-of-summer pilgrimage to Chideock, on the south coast. We'll have Mass at the very historic chapel (complete with a secret Reformation-era hideaway for priests!), followed by a short ramble down to the beach. Saturday 30 August. £10 per family. Contact the parish office to reserve a place.

Men's Breakfast - The next men's breakfast will be on Saturday 13 September at 8.00am in the Parish Centre. Tickets are £10 each. Payment can be made on the day in cash or direct to Deacon John Proctor. To book your place please [click here](#) or for the QR code [click here](#) .

Downton Mass, Thursday 28th August, 6.30pm. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd was blessed in 1950 and so this mass celebrates the 75th anniversary. We will also celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 'Queen of Poland' whose Icon is on display. The Nelson family, bequeathed the chapel, along with the Icon, to the Downton Catholic community when they left Trafalgar House in 1948. The then 4th Earl Nelson had commissioned a Polish copy of the icon, in 1927, for Standlynch Chapel in the grounds of Trafalgar House. It now hangs in our chapel. All will be welcome to a gathering after Mass for refreshments close by the Chapel with easy parking.

SCORE grants. If you are involved in a charitable project here or overseas, you may wish to apply for a grant from SCORE. Applications will be considered at the next committee meeting on 8 September. Guidelines and an application form can be found on the parish website ('Parish Life' then 'SCORE'), or [click here](#).

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 3 September for an afternoon of Music from a Ukelele Band at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Justice & Peace Group - 'Autumn' soup meal will be a simple soup meal in support of Encircles, a local charity that distributes food to the homeless and anyone experiencing hunger in our area. It will take place on Thursday, 26 September at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Tickets, priced at £10 per person, available after the Sunday Masses.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN SALISBURY FOR 2026

The preparation of our children to receive their first Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion (the Eucharist) takes place at *Family of Faith*. All the information is below.

FAMILY OF FAITH

Family of Faith is our parish's way of helping families with young children grow together in their faith. It is also where our children are prepared to receive their First Sacraments of Reconciliation & Holy Communion. The children have some teaching and fun activities, and the adults have a separate input and discussion to support each other in nurturing faith-filled families.

Family of Faith is open to children in Year 2 to 5, with Year 3 being the normal age for children to start preparing for their First Communion. This year, we are going to try moving to a new home at St Gregory's church. We will gather from 9.15am, and then move into the 11am Family Mass.

The first session this year will be on Sunday 28th September. There is lots more information, and all the dates, and the link to sign up, on our website—[CLICK HERE](#).

CONFIRMATION 2026

Fr Joseph has published the details for this year's Confirmation programme, so if you (or your son or daughter) are in Year 9 or above and want to be confirmed, this is for you. This year, we are trying something a bit different, in that (A) the course will start in September, and (B) it will be on Wednesday nights. So if you are interested in Confirmation in 2026, please look up the details on our website, click on the '[Confirmation](#)' button on our home page or [click here](#). Please note there is an information evening on Wednesday 10 September 6.30pm for the parents in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund. The potential candidates will join with Youth Group at the Parish Centre

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith – For adults who are not confirmed Catholics and for those who are returning to the faith of their childhood. The new programme which starts in the Autumn is now on our website with the first session on 21 September 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 or [click here](#).

Congratulations to Zofia and Wojciech, who received their First Holy Communion during the 11am Mass at St Gregory's last Sunday, following the completion of our Family of Faith programme with their parents. This joyful occasion marks the beginning of a deeper friendship with Jesus in the Eucharist. May they continue to grow in faith, hope, and love as cherished members of our parish community. Please click on the 'Photo Gallery' button on our homepage or [click here](#) for the photos.

Congratulations and welcome to, Anthony Jose who received the sacrament of Baptism last Saturday 16 August at St Gregory. Please keep Anthony, his parents Joseph & Jovit and godparents in your prayers.

We will also welcome Maksymilian Sebastian Dharmarajah who will receive the sacrament of Baptism next Saturday 30 August at St Osmund. Please keep Maksymilian, his parents Anna & Norman in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation – The first course after the summer break starts on Sunday 14 September at St Gregory and will run for 3 consecutive Sundays after the 11am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the 'Registration' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Ordinary Time Week 21 & Psalter 1

Saturday 23 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS P. J. Chacko RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Keith (George) Smith RIP

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST

09:00 St Osmund MASS John-Paul Pearson RIP – (Aug 5)

11:00 St Gregory MASS Bernadette McCann for mother & baby

13:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 25 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving – Jovit Merin Vazhappilly

Tuesday 26 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Daniel Eatherley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 27 August Saint Monica

10:00 St Gregory MASS Jan Hughes (in sickness)

Thursday 28 August Saint Augustine

10:00 St Osmund MASS Rita Sheppard RIP

11:30 St Osmund Funeral Service Sally Bradley RIP

Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Feast of Our Lady of Czestochowa, 'Queen of Poland'

18:30 Downton MASS

Friday 29 August Passion of Saint John the Baptist

10:00 St Gregory MASS Janice Hudgell RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Frances Whitehead RIP

Saturday 30 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Private Intention

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Frances & Ken Rimmer 63rd Wedding Anniversary

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after 10am Mass & Saturdays 5.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST

For mutual coexistence: Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.. [Click here](#).

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray this week for the Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul (Clifton, Bristol).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sally Bradley, Ruth Gibson, Duncan Green and Terri Thomas, 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

Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

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 in our Family of Faith programme. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION 2026 For children who will be year 9 there is an information evening on Wednesday 10 September for potential candidates and their families.

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 Désirée for more details: office@salisburycatholics.org