

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 30 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

I sat by the window watching the rising sun extinguish the stars. Light washed over rooftops and gradually illuminated the garden. Brown Sparrows did some formation practice and Gangsters squabbled in the eaves; a dog barked. There is a great deal to love in nature. For a moment the beauty of it all took me out of myself. I let many of your faces drift across my heart, beautiful images of the Father. And finally, in the darkness that is so often the experience of God, I felt a great love and wonder for the Author if it all; our Father, the greatest Mystery.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself". We are not asked to engage in intellectual speculation, nor theologise or philosophise about God but simply love Him; let God be God in our lives. Once again, the word used for love is ἀγαπάω agapaó... difficult to translate; it includes friendship, protectiveness and intimacy but goes further. It implies including but going beyond the heart, soul and mind to experience a quality of being and perceiving which belongs to and is the other's; *preferring what they prefer.* For that to take place we must be out of ourselves; even if it is just for a moment to begin with; nothing of self must remain; no gratification, satisfaction, accumulation or satiation; that place where the heart can say, *I am fully conscious: not of myself but of you as you.*

It is easy to get caught up in and of the world. The world is important: we should never run away from nor despise it. Yet, if it seems ugly and a difficult place to be in; a place where we are fearful, unfulfilled, disappointed, stressed and annoyed: perhaps our priorities are wrong. In a society that increasingly counsels us with enticing little sound bites such as, *put yourself first, have quality 'me' time, develop your self-image and look after number one;* we must be careful. Nothing wrong with self in its right place. Jesus taught us to put God first, then others then self. A full appreciation of Self is the result of a full appreciation of God and others so that, slightly misquoting St Thomas More, we might say *I am the king's good servant, but God's first.*



PASTORAL TEAM

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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](#)



Clocks go back at 2am (before you wake) this Sunday 25 October.

A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION OF 70 YEARS!

More than 150 people from four parishes and five churches gathered at St Gregory's Church Hall on Sunday 18 October to celebrate Fr Anthony's 70th birthday, alongside fellow septuagenarians that were able to attend: Trish Noble, Greg Wall and Marie-Thérèse Tiernan.

With a celebratory toast, Bobbie Mackie's rousing bagpipes, a special book of memories presented by the children, a birthday cake and a wonderful buffet provided by parishioners, it was an afternoon full of laughter, friendship and gratitude. Fr Anthony was visibly moved by the affection shown to him and by the opportunity to celebrate with so many friends from across our parish communities.

ALL SOULS' DAY – MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER – BLESSING OF GRAVES

On All Souls' Day, the graves of your loved ones in the London Road, Devizes Road and The Avenue cemeteries may be blessed. Please gather at 3pm at one of the following locations: London Road Cemetery: by the central Cross, Devizes Road Cemetery: just inside the main gate, The Avenue Cemetery: in the car park.

All are welcome to join us in prayer as we remember and commend our departed loved ones to God's care.

GRAVE SECRETS AT ST. OSMUND'S! — PART TWO

Who exactly is buried in the graveyard at St Osmund's? In the second of our blog posts uncovering the secrets of our burial ground, we investigate how the Victorian enlargement of the church transformed the cemetery, examine the curious surviving gravestones, and discover the names and stories of some of those buried here. Read Pt 2 by clicking on [History](#) on our website.

Candle-making Volunteer Needed! Do you have a little bit of time every now and then and would be willing to spend it turning all of our waste wax into new candles? We have all the equipment required and full instruction can be given. Our current volunteer is no longer able to continue and needs to pass onto a new volunteer. It's easy-peasy and really quite satisfying!

Please note that at 10am at St Gregory's next Wednesday 28 October, the liturgy will be a Service of the Word: Fr Joseph is our deanery representative at the Council of Priests and must be in Bristol on that day.

Advance Notice: Due to cleaning work at St Osmund's, the 10am Mass on Thursday 5 November will be celebrated at St Gregory's.

Christmas Mass Times – For those who need to plan ahead, the Christmas Mass times for St Osmund's and St Gregory's are now available on our website. Please click the image in the '[Top News](#)' box.

ONE-YEAR MISSALS Good News! We are now able to order the **St Paul's 2027 Cycle B** Sunday Missals (not the CTS ones we ordered last year). We estimate the cost to be £9.50 - £10 depending on how many we order. Deadline for orders is Sunday 8 November. Because of the passing nature of these missals, we ONLY order those committed to and don't hold any 'in stock'. Please order by email to: salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

Radiant - our monthly group for women meets next Friday 30 October 7pm at the Parish Centre. We would love you to join us for prayer, scripture and friendship. Bring a small plate of something for a shared supper. Please get in touch if you need a lift. For more information, contact Xanthe 07904 589360 or [click here](#).

The Rosary is prayed each Friday during October at 5.15pm, before the 6pm Mass at St Osmund's.

We can't fit everything we do into this newsletter (and so much would just be on repeat each week!) To find out more about the wide range of activities taking place in our parish, click the button on our homepage or [click here](#).

FAMILY OF FAITH

The next session will take place on Sunday 1 November at the Parish Centre after the 9am Masses. While the children attend their session, parents have a separate session of their own. It is essential that at least one parent remains for the session each time. More details are on our website: <https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

First Holy Communion - Congratulations to Leo, who made his First Holy Communion at the 9am Mass at St Gregory's last Sunday, and to Ella, who will receive her First Holy Communion at the 10am Mass at St Osmund's tomorrow (Saturday). Both have completed our Family of Faith programme alongside their parents. We give thanks for this joyful milestone, which marks a deeper friendship with Jesus in the Eucharist.

CONFIRMATION 2027 & YOUTH GROUP

The next session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is Wednesday 4 November 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. For more please visit our [Confirmation page](#) by clicking on the image on our homepage.

The Youth Group - which meets on Wednesdays in term time at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. This group is for those in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. The group will reconvene after half term on the Wednesday 4 November.

Salisbury Cathedral Tower Tour - Youth Club trip with Father Joseph last Saturday: We all had an interesting, informative and fun tour climbing up over 300 steps to the top. One group went in the morning, were met on their return by Group 2 and we all had a picnic lunch together in the Cloisters, before they ascended.

COMING SOON for 14+: sign up for Theatre trip to Bath to see the play about St Thomas Becket and trip to Wembley OVO Arena for FLAME Youth gathering.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

This Saturday, 23 October, we are delighted to welcome Luna Matthews Padanyi as she receives the Sacrament of Baptism during the 10.00am Mass at St Osmund's. Please keep Luna, her parents, and all her family in your prayers as they celebrate this special day and begin this new stage in her journey of faith.

Baptism Preparation - The next Preparation Course begins at St Gregory's on Sunday 8 November, with sessions continuing on the following two Sundays after the 9am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join. A full schedule of upcoming preparation courses can be found on our [Baptism](#) page under Sacraments. To request a

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS – A PARISH JOURNEY

Exploring Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, Magnifica Humanitas, and its call to safeguard human dignity in the age of Artificial Intelligence. The next session, "The Common Good: Social Teaching," will take place on Tuesday 27 October from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in the Parish Centre, and will include a shared plate of finger food. Everyone is warmly welcome. For the full programme. [click the image](#) on our homepage.

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 via 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 at: salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 30 & Psalter 2

Saturday 24 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Buck RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Catherine Boundy RIP

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

09:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Robson RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Leo Tyrie RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 26 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Kathleen Quinn RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 27 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER SAINTS SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES

10:00 St Gregory **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Thursday 29 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Agnes Lambert RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

13:30 St Gregory Funeral Service Bernadette Jones RIP

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 30 October

17:15 St Osmund **Rosary**

18:00 St Osmund MASS K. C. Philip RIP

Saturday 31 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Sue Halliden RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS John Tobin RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV

Loving and merciful Father,

We entrust to your tender care our Holy Father, Pope Leo. Be close to him in his illness, strengthen him in his recovery and fill his heart with your peace.

Bless those who care for him, restore him to full and lasting health, and renew his strength for the ministry to which you have called him.

May he always know the love and prayers of your people throughout the world.

Through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, keep him safe in your loving care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parishes of Sacred Heart (Westbury on Trym) with St Bonaventure (Bishopston, Bristol) and St Anthony (Henbury).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bernadette Jones, Lisa Piago, Tom Gardner and Mark Wilson who died recently and all those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

We also pray for all those in our parish currently facing ill-health that they will be granted comfort, healing and strength.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS Please register 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@cliftondiocese.com

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