

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 17 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

Far out to sea the Rotterdam Ferry crawled along the horizon, slow but determined. Gulls circled with intent: crows perched expectantly as people munched fish and chips. From out of the harbour a motor launch unzipped the sea in a mass of foam and made for the middle distance. The bow sank as the engine was cut and the fisherman began locating and hauling in his pots. A biblical scene! It made me think about this week's gospel.

Our life is the ocean, our conscience the fisherman separating out good from bad. We are the treasure buried in the field of our own life, the pearl of great price... what must we sell to buy it? It's not so much that the kingdom of the heaven is within as that we are the kingdom of heaven; what stops us from recognising it? When we have discarded everything that we are not perhaps what remains is what we truly are. This is the kingdom of the heaven where there is only God: where we experience ourselves as God and God as us... yet He is always greater. A great mystery and one that is open to misinterpretation and error; yet one that we must embrace at some stage.

Armed with humility and a sense that the servant is not greater than the Master we must delve into the storeroom of our life; we are the masters of our own household. Here we find habitual memories, thought structures, belief systems, intellectual processes, emotional rhythms, natural intelligence, basic instincts, conditioned responses, novel ideas and so on. From this storeroom we must pull it all out both new and old. Notice... both new and old. Not one or the other. Pull it all out and lay it before God because, compared to Him, it's all useless; it is the problem not the solution because it is not Him. He replaces it all with Himself neither new or old: eternally now, unmoved, unmovable, beyond good, bad or any other concept, label or assessment... simply God.

How do we do this? Not by looking at it because we are it... how can an eye look at itself? But, we can see ourselves through the eyes of God... if we are one with Him: and through the eyes of others whom we love and trust who are also one with Him and therefore one with us too.



PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

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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](#)

ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which seeks to legalise assisted suicide, returns to the House of Commons for its Second Reading and vote on 11 September 2026. Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, has urged Catholics to contact their MPs and ask them to vote against the Bill, describing it as "wrong in principle" and warning that it could put vulnerable people at risk and create serious challenges for healthcare staff, hospices, and care homes.

Please make your voice heard by writing to your MP as soon as possible, even if you have contacted them before. For more information and to access the Right to Life UK online tool, simply click the ['Assisted Suicide'](#) button on our homepage. It only takes a few minutes—enter your postcode, review the suggested message, and send it directly to your MP.

MARCH FOR LIFE UK (LONDON) – SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

Join over 10,000 people from across the UK for the largest annual public witness to the dignity of every human life. The day includes Mass, inspiring speakers, music, stalls, a youth programme, and a peaceful march through central London. Whether you have attended before or would simply like to learn more about the Church's pro-life mission, it is a joyful, hope-filled opportunity to stand alongside others in defending the most vulnerable and to witness publicly to the Gospel of Life. Last year's event was the largest in the history of the march, and our own Bishop Bosco preached at the opening Mass. Interested? Please visit the ['March for Life'](#) website for much more information.

Please contact the parish office. If there is sufficient interest, we hope to organise a group to travel together.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO GLASTONBURY 6 SEPTEMBER

This year's pilgrimage will take place on Sunday, 6 September 2025 and will be centered around the theme of 'Mary - Mother of the Faithful'. A 37-seat coach has been booked; however, we are awaiting further information from the Diocese before we can confirm the cost. Once this information is available, sign-up sheets will be placed in the church porches. A small increase on last year's cost is expected. If you would like to go but finance is a problem, you can speak confidentially to our clergy. Latest information can be found by clicking on the image in the ['Top News'](#) box.

Bishop's Charitable Fund - retiring collection this weekend 25/26 July, this is a designated diocesan collection that enables the Bishop of Clifton to respond directly to charitable causes and grassroot needs within the community.

Friday Prayer Group – Summer Recess - Our Friday Prayer Group is now taking a summer break and will resume on Friday 4th September. Thank you to everyone who has joined us over the past eight weeks for prayer, Scripture, reflection, and fellowship. A summary of all eight sessions, including Scripture, reflections and prayers, is available on the parish website ([see link](#)) and can be used throughout the summer. We wish you and your families a peaceful and blessed summer and look forward to welcoming everyone back in September. Everyone is very welcome.

International Mass Planning Meeting - An initial and short planning meeting for our International Mass to take place in September will take place immediately after the 9.00am this Sunday Mass at St Gregory's, in the hall. Everyone is warmly invited to help plan this joyful celebration of the many cultures and nationalities that enrich our parish family. For further information, please contact Daniel Wairimu on 07554 118333 or dmungai.w@gmail.com.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

Last Sunday 19 July we welcomed David Abhulimen who received the sacrament of Baptism at St Osmund. Please keep David his parents Emmanuel & Omosefe 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'.

FAMILY OF FAITH 2026-7

Family of Faith is our way of supporting families with young children grow together in their faith. Within that, it is the place where our children are prepared to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation (Confession) and Holy Communion (the Eucharist) for the first time. Please do visit our [Family of Faith](#) webpage where you will find a link to sign up and dates for the new year starting after the summer break on 13 September.

Congratulations to Kyrie, who received his First Holy Communion at St Osmund's last Saturday, and to **Raenessa**, who will make her First Holy Communion at the 9.00am Mass at St Gregory's this Sunday, 26 July.

They have prepared for this special milestone alongside their parents through our Family of Faith programme. Please keep Kyrie and Raenessa in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith, hope, and love as cherished members of our parish community.

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 as **there will be an information evening for parents & candidates on Wednesday 9 September at 6.30pm**. An invitation was sent out to Parents if you did not receive it please let us know.

There is a wonderful residential retreat for the group during the first term and so it is vital that you sign up **NOW** to receive all the information and dates that you will need. Please click on the '[Confirmation](#)' button on our homepage for the link to sign up. The Confirmation programme and Mass are a wonderful time in a young person's life and is gaining in popularity every year with our youngsters. Please sign up now to be assured of a place for next year.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Not Catholic but interested in learning more?

Our Journey in Faith group will begin meeting fortnightly again later this year, with dates to be announced soon. 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.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 17 & Psalter 1

SATURDAY 25 JULY SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE

10:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Kevin Kelly

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

SUNDAY 26 JULY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Emily & Tommy Simmons on their 25th Wedding Anniversary

09:00 St Gregory MASS Raenessa Thalakkottur on her First Holy Communion

11:00 St Osmund MASS Florence Devine RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Bernadette Moloney RIP

Monday 27 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Maureen & Barry Blunden on their 60th Wedding Anniversary

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 28 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 29 July Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus

10:00 St Gregory MASS Pauline Larnihan RIP

Thursday 30 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Wedding anniversary blessings for Ruperto & Lita Torres

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction.

Friday 31 July Saint Ignatius Loyola

18:00 St Osmund MASS Lee & John Proctor – Golden Wedding Anniversary

Saturday 1 August Saint Alphonsus Mary Liguori

10:00 St Osmund MASS John-Paul Pearson RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Damien Fleming RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

Reading this newsletter in paper copy? Please consider subscribing to the email/online.. Contact the parish office for more information if you're not sure how to subscribe and we'll help you!

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR JULY

For respect for human life.

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for St Ambrose / Diocesan Curia/ Diocesan Services

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sheila Whatley, Malcom Carver, Monica Johnson, Bridget Read and Maureen Mooney who died recently and all those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

FUNERAL - Malcolm Carver RIP

Many parishioners will remember Malcolm and his late wife Janice from the Holy Family Chapel and Alderbury. Malcolm's funeral is on Monday 3 August at 2pm in St Thomas's Church in the town centre and his family have extended an invitation to those who knew Malcolm to his funeral and afterwards at The White Hart.

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