

SALISBURY CATHOLIC CHURCHES

HOLY REDEEMER + ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



ADVENT WEEK 1 (A)

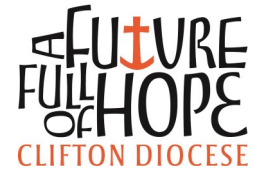
From Father Anthony

As if by an unseen hand, a corner of the dark ruffled sky was peeled back like a quilt cover. Yellows, pinks and blues, suffused by soft, brooding light, blended together and heralded a new day. The brown sparrows erupted in chorus and did a wingover: someone whistled for their dog. Then, another unseen hand pulled the cover back again and plunged the world into drab greyness... and more rain! I packed my things, wound up the jalopy and made for Tisbury, the early morning light just a memory.

At the beginning of scripture, we read that God created the heavens (הַשָּׁמַיִם haš-šā·ma·yim) and the earth (הָאָרֶץ hā-'ā·rets). Spiritually, there is a complex sense in which we can understand *heavens and earth* to refer to the inner and outer person (2 Cor 4). In the Gospel passage we read that *one will be taken, one left*. Again, a similar understanding; one left working or grinding is the outer person: the one taken (*by the angels*) is the spiritual person. Among other things, this Gospel passage reflects on these two sides of human nature indicating that we need to let them develop so as to experience them as one.

Advent is a time to pay attention to this development. It is a time to understand with the feeling of our soul that we need to wake up from being solely a *material person* to the enlightenment of being a *spiritual person*. The darkness associated with Advent, once again, points to the outer person lost in the darkness of a material world. Into this darkness there is the light of our spiritual soul represented by the light of candles increasing in number and luminosity week by week. The symbolism is lovely: the reality even better. There should be no fear of losing the material world; on the contrary, it is precisely this world we want to keep and love by infusing it with the Spirit. Far from despising it we want to heal and renew it.

In the waters of Baptism, we died to the world in order to rise with Christ to new life. Let us welcome the waters of our spiritual understanding so that it may wash over and refresh the tired, sometimes unbearable darkness of life trapped in our material world. The good news is that if we can spot the darkness... we must be standing in the light!



PASTORAL TEAM

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OUR CHURCHES

St Osmund
95 Exeter Street SP1 2SF

St Gregory & the English Martyrs
St Gregory's Ave SP2 7JP

Most Holy Redeemer
Fotherby Crescent SP1 3EG

Chapel of the Good Shepherd
Barford Lane, Downton SP5 3QA

Chapel of the Holy Family
Southampton Rd, Whaddon SP5 3EB

NEW TO THE PARISH?
We wish you a very warm welcome.
Please register online at:
<https://salisburycatholics.org>
click "Registration/update"

SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE - 30 NOVEMBER

Andrew was a fisherman from Bethsaida in Northern Israel. He lived on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, which is really a lake, where many of Jesus' miracles took place. Jesus chose mostly fishermen and small farmers to be His disciples, perhaps because in these professions a man can plan, sweat, and calculate, and still, in the end, fail. Success is not appreciated unless failure is an option. For more on this apostle, please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Other Saints this week. Click the images in the 'Top News' box or click the title below.

[St Alexander Briant 1 December](#)

[St Francis Xavier 3 December](#)

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH:

To all our volunteers your Christmas Mass Times Cards/Visits to our Parishioners and Adopt a Street packs will be available again this weekend at all our Sunday masses. If you cannot locate your pack please do let us know as it may have gone to the wrong church. Please note that if it is not convenient to pick them up at church you can always call into the Office any weekday between 9am and 4pm. Although we are distributing the packs we are asking that ideally deliveries should not take place before the 5 December. If you would like to help, either with visiting our Parishioners or Adopt a Street please contact the Office on 01722 562703 or email Tony: outreach@salisburycatholics.org

Family Christmas Lunch - we are organising a free, no strings attached, community Christmas Lunch for parishioners - individuals and families - who may be struggling or alone at Christmas. **Christmas Day at 1.30pm in St Elizabeth Hall.** Transport can be available if required, please contact the parish office to register, offer a contribution or recommend to us a parishioner or family for whom this would be suitable.

Holy Family Chapel Whaddon Mass and Christmas Lunch - On Saturday 3 December Fr Jonathan will be saying Mass at 11am in The Holy Family Chapel, Whaddon and then attending Christmas lunch as our guest in The Green Dragon Alderbury at 12.30pm. All parishioners are of course most welcome to attend Mass and/or lunch. To assist our Sacristan there will be a list for those attending Mass in Holy Redeemer porch or email Mike Huntley mh542@btinternet.com. To attend lunch as well please use the same email address and for further details. This has always been a popular, well-supported event so, to help planning and avoid disappointment please respond as soon as possible.

Christmas Bazaar - Following the successful bazaar hosted by St Gregory's last Sunday, Michael Illas has kindly provided a selection of photographs. These can be viewed in our 'Photo Gallery' on our website or just [click here](#).

Candlelight Carols & Benediction Wednesday 21 December 7pm at St Osmund's Church Fr Joseph is recruiting singers to join him and will be leading three rehearsals beforehand: 30 November, 7 & 14 December 7pm - 8pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms office@salisburycatholics.org or call 01722 562703.

Salisbury Catholics Parishioner Lunch is after the midday Mass on Thursday 8 December in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. Come and enjoy a home-cooked lunch in friendly company. There is no charge for lunch but donations are welcome to cover costs.

SCORE. The retiring collection this weekend is for SCORE overseas projects. You can also donate by clicking on the 'Donate' button on our homepage or via the contactless machine in St Osmund's Church. Applications for grants from SCORE will be considered at the next SCORE committee meeting on 5 December. Please submit any application by the end of November. A form and criteria can be found by [clicking here](#).

PARISH MERGER MASS

Our three Parishes will formally merge this Saturday the 26 November at 12 Noon at a Mass where the Decree formalising the merger will be read out. The Mass has to be celebrated in St Osmund's as this will be the Named Parish Church. This is truly an historic event in the life of our three parishes.

Everyone is invited to attend the Mass. Seating may be tight, but there will be an overflow area in St Osmund's Parish Hall where the Liturgy can be followed on television if need be.

There will then be a reception in Elizabeth Hall afterwards where we hope to see as many of our parishioners as possible. Donations of finger food will be most welcome and can be dropped into St Elizabeth Hall prior to Mass.

Please note there will be no 10am Mass on this Saturday.

Consecrating Our Homes and Families to Our Lady The rotation of the statue of Our Lady to the homes of our parishioners continues and will end on the 8 December the feast of 'The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary'. On the 8 December the statue will be processed to the altar, followed by a short blessing prior to the 10am Mass at St Osmund's. There are still vacant days in the schedule for any home that may wish to take the statue and consecrate themselves to Our Lady and her Immaculate Conception. Please contact Reshma directly on 07774 822176 or email rthachiladi@gmail.com

Ignatian Listening - The Jesuits in Britain spirituality team have upcoming events, which may be of interest. They include an online 'Ignatian Listening' weekend on 17-18 December. During this weekend, you will consider the art of listening and what you might be listening for when you listen at the service of the Holy Spirit. You can also join their online School of Prayer series: Tuesday 13 December and Thursday 19 January 2023 which introduces various types of prayer suitable for Catholics wishing to deepen their prayer life. For more on all of this and how to book please click on the image in the Top News box or [click here](#) .

Congratulations and welcome to Oscar Joseph Quinn who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Saturday 19 November in St Osmund's. Please keep Oscar and his parents Adam and Filomena in your prayers at this special time.

First Holy Communion Programme 2022/2023 Details are on our website, please click on 'Sacraments' on our main menu and then on 'Holy Communion' or [click here](#). The first session was last Saturday 19 November the next will be on 3 December at 2pm in St Gregory's Church for both parents and children. It is very important that all sessions are attended. For further information please contact Father Anthony or Deacon John Detain.

Applications please for Confirmation in 2023. For young people in school Year 9 or above please apply NOW as we will soon be finalising the programmes. To apply please click on the 'Registration/Update' button on our home page or [click here](#).

An Evening of Recollection for Men in Advent - An opportunity for all our men to attend a mini retreat on Wednesday 14 December starting at 7.30pm at St Gregory's Church with coffee and tea in the hall beforehand from 7pm. The evening will comprise of a couple of meditations by a Priest of Opus Dei, a talk by a layman, time for silent prayer/reflection and ending with Benediction. Confession will be available throughout. For more information please do contact Andrew Tucker by email: tuckerandrew1893@gmail.com or phone: 07941 993561. No need to book just come along. The flyer can be viewed by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box or by [clicking here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-1 Advent Week 1 and Psalter 1

Saturday 26 November

NO MASS AT 10:00 OR CONFESSIONS

12:00 St Osmund PARISHES MERGER MASS

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS People of the Parish

SUNDAY 27 November

09:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Tony and Family

09:00 St Osmund MASS Nick & Doris Phelan RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Joan Jackson RIP

12:15 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Betty Dirks RIP

16:30 St Gregory Syro Malabar MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Charlotte Barton
birthday blessing

Monday 28 November

10:00 St Osmund MASS Brendan Crummey RIP

Tuesday 29 November

10:00 St Osmund MASS Alfred Bowley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 30 November SAINT ANDREW, APOSTLE

10:00 Holy Redeemer MASS All relatives and friends of
Margaret Fleming

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate Mass

Thursday 1 December Saint Alexander Briant

10:00 St Osmund School Advent MASS Marian Chakkappan RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 2 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving -

Janet Jose Vazhappilly

19:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

Saturday 3 December Saint Francis Xavier

10:00 St Osmund MASS Devassy Alappat

11:00 Whaddon MASS

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 Holy Redeemer MASS Tharuthu RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory Fridays After the 10:00 Mass

St Osmund Saturdays After the 10:00 Mass

Holy Redeemer Saturdays 17:30 until Mass

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parishes of: St Joseph (Stonehouse) and Annunciation (Woodchester).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Linda Agnew, Frances Dismore, Derek Pheby, John Say and Derek Boston who died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-5

Ps 121

**I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'**

Romans 13:11-14

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

Alleluia!

Matthew 24:37-44

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 will be in Year 3 or above from September 2023, please use our online form to apply to join our next preparation programme. [Click here.](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child in Year 9 or above, please use our online form to apply to join our next preparation programme. [Click here](#)

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 Caroline for more details:

caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com