

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 26 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

It was fresh and breezy; the aroma of coffee and sticky buns wafted across the square. “*Two for two pounds mate*”, said the man serving. I was at the fruit and veg stall chatting to some parishioners. His boss shouted to him to unload some boxes of figs when he’d finished serving. “*Yeah*” said the worker, rolling his eyes and ignoring him. I paid and packed and watched as another worker went and got the figs. Almost biblical!

The parable of the two sons takes place in the context of Jesus speaking to the chief priests and the elders of the people. Both sons are sent into the vineyard; the first says he won’t go but feels remorse, has a change of heart and goes; the second says he will go but doesn’t. On the face of it the parable reveals the spiritual hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders against the spiritual integrity of the sinners. A strange and uncomfortable juxtaposition yet massively important for spiritual growth.

There is a *chief priest and elder* in most of us as well as the *sinner and transgressor* and it is important to gently identify these differences within our character. We may feel the need to fool others for various reasons, even good reasons; but it is a disaster if we try to fool ourselves; and no one fools God. Very often the fabricated self, the self-built *in our own image* triumphs over the true self, the image of God which we are; it languishes by the wayside of our life. And a world built on fabrication is hollow, meaningless and unfulfilling yet vicious and ruthless in protecting itself... maybe our present world reflects this.

In the parable the command is to go into the vineyard. This is the Kingdom of God; the sphere of our lives where we live as God lives reflecting His nature and character by the way we live and interact with others. This is not achieved by oneupmanship, keeping up with the jones or living a soap opera where we are always the hero or central character. Getting to know the fabricated, two-faced, hypocritical side of our nature is not comfortable but once we know it and can face it... we know what gently needs to go. And then perhaps we experience a homecoming to ourself, the image of God we are, and liberating transformation.



PASTORAL TEAM

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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](#)

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

This Family Fast Day, CAFOD shares the story of 12-year-old Tayla from northern Zimbabwe, where drought has led to severe food and water shortages. She often arrived at school hungry and exhausted after collecting water for her family, making it difficult to learn.

Thanks to the generosity of parishes like ours, local Caritas partners helped install a solar-powered water system at her school. Children now have safe drinking water, and the school can grow vegetables to provide nutritious meals year-round. Please support this appeal by taking a Gift Aid envelope from the porch of our churches and donating any savings from eating simply on 2 October. There will be a retiring collection next weekend 3/4 October. To watch the promotional video and find other ways to donate, please click on the [CAFOD Family Fast Day](#) image on our homepage.

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS – A PARISH JOURNEY

What does it mean to remain truly human in a rapidly changing digital world? Join us for a nine-week parish journey exploring Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, and its call to safeguard human dignity in the age of Artificial Intelligence.

Beginning on Tuesday 6 October, sessions will be from 7.30-9.30pm in the Parish Centre at 131 Exeter Street, with seven study evenings and two shared suppers. Each session includes prayer, reflection, discussion and key readings from the encyclical. Everyone is welcome, free of charge, with free parking available.

Find out more and view the full programme on our [website](#).

Bishop's Appeal for School Governors and Academy Trust Directors

On Education Sunday, Bishop Bosco launched a new appeal for parishioners to consider serving as school governors or academy trust directors. These important voluntary roles help our schools provide the best possible education for today's children while safeguarding the future of Catholic education for generations to come. In this way, they directly support the mission of the Church.

There is an urgent need for more governors and directors, and no previous experience is required. If you feel called to help our Catholic schools and respond to the Bishop's appeal, please contact Bill McEntee, Governance Officer for the Clifton Diocese, at bill.mcentee@cliftondiocese.com or 07710 094976 for further information.

To read Bishop Bosco's appeal letter, please click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' box.

Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham - As the Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham falls this week, the Ordinariate, under her patronage, will celebrate this feast at the 12.30pm Ordinariate Mass this Sunday 27 September at St Osmund's.

First Friday Talk – The next talk will take place on Friday 2 October at 7pm in the Parish Centre. Presented by Graham Brown, it is entitled '*From Chapel to Church: A History of Catholics in Salisbury c.1700–1900*'. All are welcome to attend. If you are unable to be there in person, the talk will be recorded and made available on our website over the following weekend. Please click on '[Parish Activities](#)' on our main menu and then on '[First Friday Talks](#)'.

Starting School? If you have a child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, then now is the time to apply for a school place for September 2027. You must complete the [Wiltshire Council](#) application if you are applying for a Catholic school, you must provide a copy of your child's baptism certificate. The closing date for applications is 15 January 2027. All requests for copies of baptism proof need to be made in good time to the Parish Office – please allow at least two weeks' notice.

FAMILY OF FAITH

The first full session will take this Sunday 27 September, with subsequent sessions held fortnightly during term time at the Parish Centre after the 9.00am Masses. While the children attend their session, parents will have a separate session of their own. It is essential that at least one parent remains for the full hour-long session each time.

Further details, including the registration form, can be found on our website: <https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith>
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

The Sacrament of Baptism - Last Sunday we welcomed Lily Joan Young, this Sunday 27 September at the 11am Mass we will also welcome Tor Leon Cassidy Dalen. Please keep Lily and Tor, together with their parents and families, in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation. The final session of the current course is this Sunday 27 September after the 9am Mass at St Osmund. The schedule for the following courses both at St Gregory and St Osmund will be published in the near future. To request baptism for your child please click on the [Registration](#) button on our homepage and select 'Infant Baptism Application'.

CONFIRMATION 2027

Confirmation 2026: our Group are on retreat at Buckfast Abbey (Dartmoor) this weekend and will be returning on Sunday afternoon. Please pray for them: *'Holy Spirit, instil in them the courage to embrace this experience fully. Let them be open to new friendships, activities, and most importantly, to hearing your Word'*. The next mandatory session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is Wednesday 7 October 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. For all the details of the entire programme for the year please visit our [Confirmation page](#) by clicking on the image on our homepage.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group - meets on Wednesdays in term time at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. This group is for all those in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray together.

Salisbury Cathedral Tower Tour – Saturday 17 October. Why not join Father Joseph for a climb to the top of Salisbury Cathedral's iconic tower, followed by a picnic afterwards? To sign up, please complete the [[Youth Group Tower Tour form](#)] or visit the Youth Group page under Parish Activities.

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.

Parish Retreat 2027: Join us for our annual Parish Retreat at the Franciscan Centre, Ladywell Abbey, from 15 to 18 February 2027 during Lent. Our theme is "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God." Open to everyone in our Deanery, whether you have attended before or not. To express interest, contact the parish office or Dave Blake at salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 26 & Psalter 2

Saturday 26 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Strain RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Get well intention for David Rooney

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of the Watson Family

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Emily & Ross Young in thanksgiving

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving and the private intentions of the Maramo family

Monday 28 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Bridie & Harry Clapham RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS

10:00 St Osmund MASS Alison Wyatt RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 30 September Saint Jerome

10:00 St Gregory MASS For Mary Fleming

Thursday 1 October St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

10:00 St Osmund MASS Leonard Hirst RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 2 October Holy Guardian Angels

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Francis Lambert RIP

Saturday 3 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Bob (RIP) & Philly Kimsey – Wedding Anniversary

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Bob Kimsey RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

For the Care of Water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the Parishes of St Joseph (Bridgwater) and Our Lady & the English Martyrs (Burnham on Sea).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anne Beale, Sally Power, Catherine Reid, Michael O'Sullivan and Sheila Whatley 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.

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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