

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 18 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

Accompanied by Starlings and loitering Gulls we meandered along the promenade sharing a bag of chips. Children laughed and shrieked; a Lifeguard paddled along the waterline, keeping watch. The sun, high and hot, peeped from behind fluffy white clouds drifting lazily across a vast blue emptiness: a flagpole clinked in the breeze. After weeks of slow roasting the once green clifftops were now golden brown: families lounged and picnicked.

And He urged the crowds to sit on the grass. In scripture, grass (χόρτος, chortos) is often used as a metaphor for time... it withers and fades. Jesus urges us to sit down in time; to spend time away from internal and external noise and confusion; constant distractions; the TV or radio always on; glued to the phone: always chatting to someone... not to mention the constant noise and chatter of the mind. The importance of this cannot be over emphasised. (NB, if you cannot find quiet: if you cannot do without noise: don't worry, berate yourself or strain. It might not yet be your time to find this quality of stillness; hold it as a desire, or a future possibility; attempt to understand, at least intellectually, the sense, necessity and desirability of it).

Why sit in time? The miracle of the loaves and fishes must be accomplished in us. We must afford Christ the time to break open and rearrange the interaction between our five senses (five loaves) and the upper and lower soul (two fish) dependent on them; to open us to the realm of spirit. On their own the senses are limiting, keeping our soul tied to the world. Broken apart they open us to full human spiritual development (twelve baskets left over - symbolic of the twelve metaphysical levels of human development); to become aware of and reclaim our true spiritual nature. This in turn affects our being in the world and the effect we have on it (women and children).

Our noisy, dissembling, worldly nature can kill what heralds Christ in our life (John the Baptist); relegating Christ to the lonely places of soul. Like Jesus we are urged to withdraw and seek Christ in this internal wilderness. Here the noise of our thoughts, emotions and misplaced willpower: the detritus of our lives (the crowds) will gather, hungry to be fed by His teaching and to be reconciled to Him... our origin, true meaning and ultimate fulfilment.



PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

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PARISH OFFICE

Désirée Coups
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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](#)

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD THURSDAY 6 AUGUST

In the Transfiguration Christ enjoyed for a short while that glorified state which was to be permanently His after His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The splendour of His inward Divinity and of the Beatific Vision of His soul overflowed on His body and permeated His garments so that Christ stood before Peter, James, and John in a snow-white brightness. The purpose of the Transfiguration was to encourage and strengthen the Apostles who were depressed by their Master's prediction of His own Passion and Death. For more click on the image in the [‘Top News’](#) box.

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.

ADOREMUS 2026: NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS - SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

Join Catholics from across England and Wales for Adoremus 2026, a national day of Eucharistic renewal. The programme includes Mass, talks, a keynote address by Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP, and a Eucharistic procession from St George's Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral for Benediction. Whether you are discovering the beauty of Eucharistic devotion or seeking to deepen your love for Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, this promises to be a grace-filled day of prayer, worship, and fellowship with Catholics from across the country.

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

SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP

Our Children's Liturgy Group at St Gregory's has grown significantly, welcoming more children each Sunday to explore the Gospel through age-appropriate teaching and activities. To support this growing ministry, we are hoping to replace our ageing donated printer, which has become increasingly unreliable and does not connect wirelessly.

We would like to purchase an Epson EcoTank printer, which offers a low-cost and efficient way of producing the 15–20 activity sheets needed each week. Connected via the church Wi-Fi, it would make preparing and printing resources much easier for our volunteer leaders.

We are seeking donations towards the £150 cost of the printer. If you would like to help or would like more information, please contact Deacon Steve. Thank you for supporting this valuable ministry for the children of our parish.

Caroline's fundraiser for Parkinson's UK – On Monday, 27 July, Caroline Robson began her pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago (Camino Francés) in support of Parkinson's UK. The Camino Francés is approximately 780 kilometres (485 miles) long, starting in Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port in France and ending in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. To read Caroline's story and perhaps make a donation, please visit her [‘JustGiving’](#) page by clicking on the image in the ‘Top News’ box.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

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 Raenessa, who received her First Holy Communion at St Gregory's last Sunday, 26 July. Raenessa prepared for this special milestone alongside her parents through our Family of Faith programme. Please keep Raenessa in your prayers as she continues to grow in faith, hope, and love as a cherished member 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 from the 29 November, all the dates are now on our website just click on 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- 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.

ST OSMUND'S ARCHIVES - Fr Dominic Hubert served St Osmund's from 1891 to 1896. In our latest blog post, our archivist describes the tenure of this gifted preacher and energetic evangelist, how he drew converts, filled the church, published devotional works, and oversaw major extensions, chapels, furnishings and stained glass. Discover how our church still bears his legacy today! Please click on '[History](#)' on the main menu of our website.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 18 & Psalter 2

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

SUNDAY 2 AUGUST

09:00 St Osmund MASS Paulina in thanksgiving

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Jim Rolleston RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Gill Sullivan RIP

Monday 3 August

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving – Jacob Family

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 4 August Saint John Mary Vianney

10:00 St Osmund MASS John & Lee Proctor on their Golden
Wedding Anniversary

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 5 August

10:00 St Gregory MASS John-Paul Pearson RIP

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 7 August

18:00 St Osmund MASS Richard Sheehan RIP

Saturday 8 August Saint Dominic

10:00 St Osmund MASS Cecilia Laughton RIP - 100th Birthday

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Jack Patterson 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 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.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for University / College / School Chaplaincies

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Michael O'Sullivan, Sheila Whatley, Malcom Carver and Monica Johnson 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 next 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 Malcom 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