

# PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

## LENT WEEK 4(C)

### LAETARE SUNDAY



#### From Father Anthony

It was a glorious day; sun, nectar and a gentle breeze. Blue sky reflected off ripples dancing to the echo of birdsong across the lake. A train provided rhythm with its clickety clack. The only disturbance was a young pup barking and chasing its tail. Any moment now, I thought, he will stop and bump into himself! With a howl something like that happened!

Often, when asked, *'what made you what you are'*, the answer will be *'I went through a really hard time'* - not, something fun or pleasurable but, something heavy, dark and terrible: losing a loved one, losing a job, failing at something longed for. Hard times can bring us home to ourselves with a bump. In the story of the prodigal son this coming home to *'self'* is translated as *'he came to his senses'*. The word translated as *senses* is the reflexive pronoun ἐαυτοῦ heautou, meaning *himself, herself, itself*: i.e. the subject of the verb is also the object... the action is on oneself.

It is through knowing and acting on ourselves that we come to know God, others and *what we have been given*. We have been given freedom to separate (*incarnation*); to leave the spiritual realm for the physical and go our own way; we have become little less than god's (Psalm 8.5). But, being *less* than God we get it wrong. We behave prodigally: we act without control, indulging in the variants of sex, money and power... just look at the world! We become blind to our origin, forget who and what we really are and, consequently, miss the mark (*sin*); *where the mark is to live as God lives*. Awareness of sin has the potential to bring us *to ourselves*.

Understanding sin for what it is can be the agency that wakes us up to the freedom God has given us. The alternative to our earthly journey would have been to stay behind like the older son: the price for that would have been a missed opportunity to know God, ourselves and all we have been given in freedom (*remember, the Father had to tell the older son that all He (God) had was his... the son did not know it!*)

Let's stop chasing our tails, bump into ourselves, wake up and remember God. Let's reverse the journey away from God and use our freedom to journey towards Him... and Love.

#### PASTORAL TEAM

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#### Parish Office

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

**Wednesday CLOSED**

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

**01722 562703**

**Caroline Williams**

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**Désirée Coups**

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#### 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](#)

**Priests' Retirement Fund** - This weekend we have a retiring collection for the Priests' Retirement Fund. This annual collection helps support our sick and retired priests. It allows the diocese to help retired priests living on their own, and if needed care home fees. Special gift aid envelopes will be available in all our churches.

**Choir for the Easter Triduum in St Gregory's & St Osmund's.** With the one Triduum occurring across both churches members from both are warmly invited to form one choir. **The next session will be next Tuesday 1 April at St Gregory's** followed by further rehearsals on 8 April & 15 April in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund at 6.30pm. Please do let the Parish Office know if you are able to attend.

**Radiant** A group for women looking to deepen their prayer life, build supportive friendships and grow in faith. We meet again **this evening Friday 28 March**. Join us for Mass at 6pm (St Osmund) followed by food, conversation and faith sharing till 9.30pm in the comfortable setting of our Parish Centre. For more contact Xanthe on 07904 589360 or click on 'Radiant' on our homepage, [click here](#) or just turn up.

**Magnificat Booklets for both April and Holy Week** – A kind parishioner who has found the Magnificat booklet a great spiritual help with its daily scripture and reflections has provided a free supply for others to experience. Please help yourself to a copy and if you find it beneficial then you can order it online. There is also an App available if you would find that of greater use. Copies will be available in both our churches this weekend.

**Hope & Friendship Group** – Starting Monday 14 April Hope & Friendship will meet on the second Monday of each month at the Parish Centre 10.30am to 12 noon.

**First Friday Talks** - Our 1<sup>st</sup> Friday talks are about to change and become a Catholic Q & A Café style in the Parish Centre after the Friday evening Mass. Starting next Friday 4 April Fr. Joseph and Fr Jonathan will be the panel answering any questions on faith or doctrine you might like to ask. Questions like Why can't I receive communion in an Anglican service? We hope to see you there, □

**Cinema Trip: 'The Last Supper'** - You may have heard of *The Chosen*, a Netflix-style retelling of the Life of Christ, which is the largest crowd-funded TV production in history. The first two episodes of Season 5 (depicting the Last Supper) are being released in cinemas, showing in Salisbury on Thursday 10 April at 19.45, and Sunday 13th (Palm Sunday) at 12.15. We've bought 20 youth & 20 adult tickets to the Thursday screening, Please contact the Office if you would like a ticket at £12.50. You can view the trailer here

<https://youtu.be/5CVj41dtkIA?si=XYNTSCNvrl5o Bpx>.

**Easter Egg Donations please!** We are delighted to announce that we will once again be able to host an Easter Egg hunt for children after the morning Masses on Easter Sunday at both St Osmund and St Gregory. Donations of (individually-wrapped little ones, not full-size!) Easter Eggs will be gratefully received in your chosen church. Please hand your eggs into the welcomers at each of our Churches or to the Parish Office during the week.

**Diocesan Jubilee Celebration of Hope 19 July Downside School & Abbey** – There will be keynote speakers for the adults as well as a children's & young people's programme throughout the day. For all the details and how to book click on the image in the Top News box or [click here](#). Tickets are beginning to run out, so do hurry.

**Justice & Peace Group** will meet at 7.30pm 31 March in the Parish Centre. They will be discussing 'A Meal for CAFOD', a 'Clothing Day' and a new Rosary Group for young families. All are welcome.

**St Joseph's School** - As part of our close working relationship with our Catholic schools, we are delighted to have a weekly update from the headteacher of activity at St Joseph's Catholic Secondary school.

<https://sjcs.org.uk/communications/>

## PRESENTATION OF THE CREED & SECOND SCRUTINY FOR THE ELECT

The Elect are those in the final stage of their journey to become fully incorporated into the Catholic Church at Easter through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The Rites taking place this weekend are embedded in our Year A Scripture with its focus upon turning away from darkness and towards Christ who is The Light. This Friday's evening Mass, the Elect will be presented with The Creed so that they, like the Man Born Blind, will be ready to state 'I believe' as they turn away from darkness and towards the light. Our second reading from St Paul reminds us that we are in darkness no more but that we now *are* light in the Lord and that this light must shine through our goodness, right-living and truth. The second scrutiny will take place at the 9am Mass at St Osmund, this is an important occasion in the life of the whole parish and so the Year A scripture will be adopted at all Masses.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ELECT OF OUR PARISH

*Sandy, Tom, Isabelle, Angela, Jody, Selina and Josh*

## FOR THE YOUNG

**Big Sleep Tonight Friday 28 March** - Father Joseph and a few members of the Youth Group are giving up their warm beds for the night and joining the BIG Sleep at Salisbury Cathedral, sleeping on the cold stone floor while raising funds and awareness for Alabaré's work with homeless. Please dig deep and sponsor by clicking on the link here [St Osmund's Parish is fundraising for Alabaré](#) or click on the 'Big Sleep' image in the 'Top News' box.

**Youth Group** - Wednesdays in term time 6.30 - 8pm in the Parish Centre.

## SHARING OUR FAITH

**Family of Faith** the next session is on the Second Sunday of Easter 27 April beginning at our morning 9am Masses continuing afterwards at our Parish Centre. For all the dates click on the '[Family of Faith](#)' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

**Journey in Faith** - Our ongoing programme for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics. The last session in this series is this Sunday 30 March at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. A new programme will start in the Autumn. Contact Dave Blake [salisbury.journeyinfaith@clifftondiocese.com](mailto:salisbury.journeyinfaith@clifftondiocese.com) if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

**Confirmation** - The Confirmation group will next meet on Palm Sunday (13 April) but are warmly invited to join with the Youth Group in the interim. Please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#) for more information.

## EXPAND OUR PARISH COMMUNITY – START YOUR OWN GROUP!

Did you know our Parish Centre is available **free of charge** for parishioners of St Gregory's and St Osmund's to host activities? We already have a vibrant mix of groups—from the Family of Faith group, Hope & Friendship group, Bridge Club, Men's Breakfast and Radiant Women's Group to children's activities, prayer evenings, and more—but we'd love to grow even further!

Do you have an idea for a new group? Whether it's a toddler meet-up, a silent disco, a Knit & Natter group, keep-fit sessions, a choir, a book club, photography group, exercise activities, or anything else that aligns with our parish ethos, we'd love to hear from you. The possibilities are endless, and there's space in our weekly calendar waiting to be filled.

This is your chance to bring people together, share your passions, and strengthen our community. If you'd like to run a group or need more information, contact Deacon Steve, [Stephen.godwin@clifftondiocese.com](mailto:Stephen.godwin@clifftondiocese.com)

## LITURGY THIS WEEK

.Year C-1 Lent Week 4 & Psalter 4

### Saturday 29 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jessica & Thomas

### First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Doris & Nicholas Phelan RIP

### SUNDAY 30 MARCH LAETARE SUNDAY

09:00 St Gregory MASS Get well wishes

09:00 St Osmund MASS For all Parishioners in thanksgiving  
from the Allen family

11:00 St Osmund MASS Private Intentions

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

### Monday 31 March

10:00 St Osmund Requiem MASS Andrew Scarfe RIP

### Tuesday 1 April

10:00 St Osmund MASS Sylvia Weston RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

### Wednesday 2 April

10:00 St Gregory MASS (G) Emilia Kerley RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

### Thursday 3 April

10:00 St Osmund MASS Christina Harty RIP

11.30 St Osmund Funeral Service Leslie Dodd RIP

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow.

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

### Friday 4 April

10:00 St Gregory MASS John Brook RIP

17:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

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

### Saturday 29 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Arthur Buck RIP

### First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Leonard Hirst RIP

### RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after the 10am Mass & Saturdays 5.30pm until  
Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays after the 10am Mass until 12 noon

## PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

### POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR APRIL

**For the use of the new technologies.** Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.. [Click here](#).

**CLIFTON DIOCESE** - We pray this week for the parishes of Holy Rood & St Peter (Swindon) and Sacred Heart (Royal Wootton Bassett).

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Andrew Scarfe, Sylvia Weston, Leslie Dodd, Kathleen Stacey, Norman Meech and Julie Gray 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.

### SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Year A Readings Lent Wk 4

#### Psalm Response

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

#### Gospel Acclamation

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

## 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 is coming to Mass regularly, for whom preparation for First Communion may be appropriate, please use our online form to register your interest in our Family of Faith programme. [Click here](#)

**CONFIRMATION** If you have a child who will be in Year 9 or above from Sept 2025, please use our online form to apply to join our preparation programme for 2026. [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 Désirée for more details: [office@salisburycatholics.org](mailto:office@salisburycatholics.org)

## LAETARE SUNDAY 30 MARCH

Laetare means rejoice, and this Sunday is marked by a relaxation of the penitential character of the Lenten season. On this Sunday, we look with expectation to the great Solemnity of Easter for which we have been preparing ourselves as a Church during the Lenten season. By its anticipation of the joy of Easter, Laetare Sunday is meant to give us hope and encouragement as we slowly progress towards the Paschal Feast. Priests used to wear pink rose vestments on this Sunday as a sign of joy. The use of rose vestments probably stems from an ancient papal tradition of blessing golden roses which would be sent to Catholic heads of state in Europe on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

## LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

**Stations of the Cross** Every Friday during Lent 5.20pm at St Osmund until 22 March.

### HOLY THURSDAY 17 APRIL

**Morning Prayer** 9am St Osmund

**Mass of the Lord's Supper:** 7pm St Gregory

### GOOD FRIDAY 18 APRIL

**Morning Prayer** 9am St Osmund

**Stations of the Cross** 10am St Osmund

**Stations of the Cross** 10am St Gregory

**The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 3pm St Gregory & St Osmund

**Ecumenical Walk of Witness** 11am Starting at Salisbury Cathedral (West Door)

### HOLY SATURDAY 19 APRIL

**Morning Prayer** 9am St Osmund

**Easter Vigil** 9pm St Osmund

### EASTER SUNDAY 20 APRIL

Masses on Easter Sunday will be held at our normal Sunday Mass times and locations.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt following each of the 9am Masses.

## FOR LENT

**Lent Resources** - Please click on the 'Lent' button on our homepage or [click here](#) for all of the following:

**Doors onto Salvation:** - daily reflections on images, Bible texts, and action points, leading up to Christ's death.

**Lent** - A reflection on Lent by Bishop Robert Barron.

**Confession** - In a short video Fr. Alek walks us through how to make a good confession.

**The Way of the Cross** - Cardinal Nichols invites us to follow him through the Stations of the Cross.

**Paschal Triduum** - Canon Christopher Whitehead talks us through the 7 days of Holy Week.