

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

EASTER WEEK 5(A)



From Father Anthony

I sat out in the midday sun enjoying the blazing heat, wishing for more hair, eating a sandwich and sipping cold tea. Gangsters squabbled around the church eaves; Mrs Cat sprawled languidly along the wall, flicking her tail, ignoring me and glaring at the black, flapping wings. I watched as a newly fledged baby attempted to land on the school roof. It bounced, slipped, fluttered and ended up in the gutter looking bewildered and quite put out. As I watched this beautiful creature, I wondered what I really knew about it. I exhausted all the concepts, names and ideas that came to mind and still found that I really knew nothing at all.

"Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? It is quite salutary to realise how little we know of one another, the world, the universe... and of course our self! When we have exhausted all the names and concepts, what are we left with? Very often we see the world, others and ourselves through an idea or mental image, mistaking the image for the person or thing... we even image sensations and emotions! Rarely do we encounter *It* in itself. Do we not do this with God too? Is it God we pray to and worship or a mental image? God is fully manifested in Jesus and yet his close friends and disciples did not really know Him.

If we can get behind the images, we may come across something like character, feel or Essence: the Divine behind everything. It resists description. We connect with Essence *in the moment before forming* the idea of it; it is immediate, raw and slightly outside of time; as if we have captured something by letting it go. Jesus clearly states that He and the Father are one; to have experienced Him is to have experienced the Father. He then goes on to say that *we* will do greater things than He; the implication being that if it is not Him but the Father working in Him; and if we are to do greater things than He: it must be the Father working in us too! Therefore, the Essence of all we encounter in others is Him... whom we call Father. Not to encounter this is to be spiritually blind. Perhaps that blindness is at the root of all our ills?

PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600
Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600
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salisbury.catholic@cliftondiocese.com

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](#)

Please note that the Parish Office will be closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday 4 May.

SCOTT HAHN COMING TO THE CLIFTON DIOCESE

Dr Scott Hahn, Catholic writer, author, broadcaster and teacher is coming to this country in May and will be speaking at **St John the Evangelist, Bath, on Tuesday 26 May at 7pm**. It is a limited number, ticketed event only. (£20) This is a truly great opportunity and tickets are now on sale [here](#). Following last week's notice about this, we have received sufficient interest to warrant arranging group transport. If you would like to join fellow parishioners attending, please contact the parish office know **after** you have bought a ticket and we will happily add you the list to travel with Fr Joseph on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't wait, book now if you want to go!

ASSISTED DYING

The Terminally Ill Adults Bill did not progress, as it ran out of time before a vote could be taken in the House of Lords. Archbishop John Sherrington and many others opposed the Bill, highlighting serious concerns. Thanks were expressed to all who supported parliamentarians through lobbying, work, prayer, and correspondence. The debates have refocused attention on the needs of vulnerable people at the end of life, stressing that true compassion lies in care, accompaniment, and hope, and underlining the urgent need for better access to high-quality palliative care. For the full statement from Archbishop John Sherrington, click on the '[Assisted Suicide](#)' button on our homepage.

NEW PRESIDENT ELECTED FOR THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

The Bishops of England and Wales have elected Archbishop Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster, as President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He succeeds Cardinal Vincent Nichols, his predecessor in Westminster, who served as President from April 2009.

In a new video and accompanying text, Archbishop Moth reflects on the growth in baptisms and receptions into the Church and considers how the Church can continue to bring the message of the Gospel to the world today. Please select the image in the '[Top News](#)' box

Bishop Bosco MacDonald's Pastoral Letter for last Sunday, click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' box.

Radiant - Monthly group for women. The meeting that was scheduled for Thursday of this week has been postponed to next Thursday 7 May 7pm at the Parish Centre. We would love you to join us for prayer, scripture and friendship. Bring a small plate of something for a shared supper. For information Xanthe 07904 589360 or click [here](#).

Encounter 2026 – From Eastertide to Pentecost, exploring the Holy Spirit. We are screening a set of talks from Clifton Cathedral at the Parish Centre each Tuesday from 7-9 pm. The third talk next Tuesday 5 May April, is 'Building the Church together', given by Fr Stephen Corrigan. Youtube versions of the previous talks are placed on our website as they become available. Click on '[Encounter 2026](#)' in our 'Top News' box

SCORE – There will be a retiring collection for SCORE Home Projects next weekend 9/10 May

SPUC Salisbury Branch are planning to hold their Annual Pro-Life Chain on Saturday 11 May at 11am to 1pm, in remembrance of the Abortion Law coming into force in 1967. If you wish to take part, please let Alison know (for numbers). For further details contact Alison on 01722 741681.

First Friday Talk – On Friday 1 May after the 6pm Mass there will be a talk by Xanthe Vanderputt on 'Our Lady Queen of Peace'. All are welcome and the talk will be recorded and should be available over the weekend by clicking on the '[First Friday Talks](#)' button on our homepage.

PASTORAL AREA RETREAT MONDAY - THURSDAY 18-21 MAY

This year, our popular residential Retreat to Ladywell Abbey is taking place during Eastertide rather than Lent and we plan to reflect upon how we respond to the exhortation at the end of Mass to 'go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!' We will focus therefore upon mission and discipleship – living our faith. Never been on a retreat before? Not sure if it is for you...? Why not give us a ring to talk it through? Retreats are not just for the super-Holy (far from it!) or the super-religious! A Residential Retreat can provide a short break for thought and prayer for those who need a bit of a 'reset' or for those who maybe need a break from their routine to focus upon matters of the heart and reconnect with their faith in a beautiful rural setting. For further details see below or go to our [website](#). To book a place, click [here](#)



FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith: Next session is Sunday 10 May after the 9am Masses at the Parish Centre on Exeter Street.

The [Family of Faith](#) webpage includes helpful 'signs of readiness' documents for parents discerning their child's readiness for the Sacraments. Online forms for both sacraments are also available.

Bible Study with the Fathers of the Church - Fr Joseph's group for Young(ish) adults (open to all in their 20s & 30s) meets on alternate Tuesdays at 8pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms, also available to join online via Zoom. Please email Fr Joseph to be added to the WhatsApp group for notifications. joseph.meigh@cliftodiocese.com

Youth Group (Wednesdays in term time) at the Parish Centre at 6.30pm. Do you want to join? This is for anyone in Years 8-11 to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. For more, just click on [Youth Group](#) on our home page.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Confirmation 2026 - The next key [Confirmation](#) session is next Wednesday 6 May at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre. This session will be followed by 1 to 1 readiness sessions on 13 & 14 May. If you have child that will be in Year 9 or above in the next school year and wishes to be confirmed, you can sign up for the 2027 programme by visiting our [Confirmation](#) page.

Baptism Preparation. The next course will run for three consecutive Sundays starting this Sunday 3 May after the 9am Mass at St Gregory, please contact the Parish Office to join or click the '[Registration](#)' button on our homepage.

My Generation will be meeting next Wednesday 6 May 2026 for Hoy Bingo at 2.00pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Men's Breakfast The next men's breakfast will be on Saturday 9 May at 8am in the Parish Centre. Come along for a time of prayer, food and fellowship, the speaker TBA. Tickets are £10 each. Payment can be made on the day in cash or direct to Deacon John Proctor. To book your place please click on the image in the '[Top News](#)' box.

From the Parish Archive - Attendance at Mass in Salisbury on Easter Sunday this year was 986. Our parish archive shows how significantly these numbers have grown over time. In the early 1860s, there were on average just 78 communicants at Easter. By 1899, thirty years later, this figure had more than trebled to 277 (197 from St Osmund's and 80 from the Convent/Industrial School). This growth was largely due to the establishment of the Convent, as well as an increase in the number of converts. More details will feature in an upcoming Parish History blog.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Easter Week 5 Psalter 1 & Proper of Season

Saturday 2 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS Elizabeth & William Connors RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Buck RIP

SUNDAY 3 MAY

09:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

09:00 St Gregory MASS Gerry Kinsella RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Tony Broughton RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Ryan RIP

MONDAY 4 MAY

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

Tuesday 5 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Wednesday 6 May

10:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Robson RIP

Thursday 7 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS Leonard Hirst RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 8 May

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

Saturday 9 May

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jancy Joy RIP 1st Anniversary

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Joan Brady RIP

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

POPE LEO'S INTENTION FOR MAY

That everyone might have food.

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parishes of Immaculate Conception (Stroud, with Brownhill, Painswick and More Hall).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Philip Potter, Bob Kimsey, Tony Broughton and Carlo Zaccariello 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 request 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



PASTORAL AREA RETREAT

Glorify the Lord by your life: living our faith every day.

Monday May 18th – Thursday May 21st

This year, our popular residential Retreat to Ladywell Abbey is taking place during Eastertide rather than Lent and we plan to reflect upon how we respond to the exhortation at the end of Mass to 'go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!' We will focus therefore upon mission and discipleship – living our faith.

To maximise participation by both laity and clergy from our pastoral area we are going during the week this time, rather than over a weekend and we hope this will mean that some who have previously not been able to attend may be able to do so.

Speakers: Sister Magdalene Cletus, a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood (the resident community) and Father Tomas Krejci, priest in residence at Tisbury. We have organised the schedule this year to allow more time for reflection, quiet prayer and contemplation than in previous years as a result of our experience and feedback from you.

Travel: last year we all managed to give lifts to those who needed them, so we will do the same again, rather than try to take bus mid-week in term time.

Accommodation: Ladywell offers us full board – breakfast, lunch and dinner with unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits in between. All the rooms are *en suite* and some have accessible bathrooms or are situated on the ground floor. There are lifts for those who find stairs a challenge. There are single rooms and double rooms for couples, but you can also opt to share a twin room with a friend for a reduced cost.

Worship: we will join the community for Mass every day and there will be opportunity for confession. We will begin the day with prayers and end with Compline.

Activities: the afternoons will be free, but we will have some optional walks, reflections and times when you can seek spiritual guidance or request confession. The important thing at Ladywell is to allow yourself to relax into the spirituality of the place and its beautiful surroundings.

Cost: £300 per person, single. £600 for a couple in a double room. £270 per person, friendly sharing in a twin room.

Financial Assistance: if you would like to attend the retreat but would have difficulty affording it, please speak confidentially to one of our clergy, or call the St Osmund's Parish Office and speak to Dezi or Caroline.

Offering: if you would like to make a financial offering so that other people could go on retreat who might not otherwise be able to afford it, then please contact the St Osmund's Parish Office.

Book online [here](#):

