

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 27 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

The garden glistened after a light shower. Grass is overgrown, weeds litter the borders but the original shape is there albeit a little bedraggled. Yellow Evening Primroses, pink Hollyhocks and red Roses add colour and vines are heavy with dull black grapes. Nothing is trying to be what it is not: everything gives glory to God by being what it is. I wish I could say the same of myself!

The parable of the vineyard reflects you and me. Each of us is a vineyard created by the Lord. He has given us moral and spiritual boundaries (*the fence*), not to imprison but to protect. True freedom has boundaries within which it can be experienced. Otherwise we are lost in a wilderness and prey to all sorts of attacks. Our task is to produce spiritual fruit according to our temperament, personality and particular gifts (*wine press*). We also have a conscience (*the tower*) from which we can examine our lives and search for Christ within (*the Son*); our ultimate spiritual fruit is to recognise Him, become as He is and manifest the Kingdom of Heaven from within. We have also been given an Estate in which 'we little vineyards' may cluster and grow... the Church; her laws and teachings give us protective boundaries and she feeds us through the Sacraments. The task of the Church, as with each of us, is to bear fruit by bringing Christ and the Kingdom of Heaven to earth.

Who we think we are: the image we, others and society have made of us is *the tenant*. An informed conscience shows us who we actually are. Its prophetic voice is often a variance with our worldly voice which all too often drowns out conscience and kills Christ within. We see its fruit everywhere; boundaries torn down: chaos mistaken for freedom; evil dressed up and applauded as good: social voices masquerading as Christ. Yet, the problem, as always, is not out there but... here, within.

Settle into yourself. Don't envy others nor pride yourself that you are better than them; you did not give yourself the gift that you are. The spiritual fruit that you are to become is found within yourself *as you are*. I may have been destined to be a weed and you a rose; let's be the best weed and rose; both have a place in the Kingdom; both can reflect Christ.



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](#)

**The Rosary will be prayed each Friday in October at 5.15pm before the 6pm
Mass at St Osmund**

BABY LOSS AWARENESS WEEK 9 – 15 OCTOBER

Baby Loss Awareness Week (9-15 October 2026) marks an opportunity to remember and pray for babies who died in the womb, during birth, or shortly afterwards, and to support all those who grieve their loss. In a joint statement, Archbishop John Sherrington and Bishop Bosco MacDonald affirm the dignity and uniqueness of every child, whose life is precious and God-given. Echoing the theme of Day for Life 2026, The Wonder of the Child in the Womb, they recognise the deep sorrow and regret experienced by parents, siblings, grandparents and loved ones. Recalling the Holy Father's message of hope in eternal life, they pray that bereaved families may find comfort and peace in God's love, and entrust them to the care and protection of the Holy Family. For the full statement click the image in the 'Top News' box.

On Friday 16 October, the Feast of St Gerard Majella, the 6pm Mass at St Osmund will be offered for 'Lost babies and their bereaved parents'. There is also a special prayer event in Salisbury Cathedral on at 6.30pm on Thursday 15 October, click [here](#) for more details.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 8 NOVEMBER 2026

As a parish family, we will gather on Remembrance Sunday to give thanks for all who have served our country, to remember those who have suffered in conflict, and to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace. We invite serving members of the Armed Forces who would be willing to help to lead the Act of Remembrance at one of our Saturday evening/Sunday Masses to contact the parish office as soon as possible. Many thanks.

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 next 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](#).

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Put your faith into action by supporting communities facing food and water shortages. Your donation can help children in Zimbabwe stay in school through nutritious meals, improved water access and school gardens. A retiring collection will be taken this weekend, 3/4 October, with CAFOD envelopes available in church porches. Visit our homepage and click the [CAFOD Family Fast Day](#) image to watch the promotional video.

Friday Prayer Group – Join our friendly and relaxed group each Friday, 4–5.30pm at St Gregory's. This week we explore the power of prayer, talking and listening to God. Future sessions will reflect on Scripture, the Eucharist, mercy, service and Advent preparation. Each meeting includes prayer, reflection and discussion. Everyone is welcome. Please visit our [Friday Prayer Group](#) page under [Parish Activities](#) to read summaries of previous sessions.

Men's Breakfast The next men's breakfast will be on Saturday 10 October at 8am in the Parish Centre. Graham Brown will be giving a talk on the early history of St. Osmund's. Tickets are £12 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.

FAMILY OF FAITH

The next session will take place on Sunday 11 October at the Parish Centre after the 9am Masses. While the children attend their session, parents have a separate session of their own. It is essential that at least one parent remains for the session each time. More details are on our website: <https://salisburycatholics.org/familyoffaith> If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

CONFIRMATION 2027

Our Confirmation group spent a memorable weekend at Buckfast Abbey, with prayer, talks, friendship, and plenty of adventure. On Friday evening we reflected on God's love, and each young person received a handwritten "letter from God", before a night walk round the grounds and hot chocolate before bed. On Saturday morning, there were sessions on sin, forgiveness and new life in Christ, involving a large wooden cross, singing, getting covered in mud and even dancing. That afternoon we headed onto Dartmoor. After a road closure sent the minibus along some narrow lanes, we climbed a tor and crossed the moor to celebrate Mass beneath a stone memorial cross, with a rock as our altar and the panoramic sweep of the moor as our cathedral. Afterwards we descended to the river, clambered over rocks, and paddled in the stream.

That evening, 17-year-old Harry Sadd shared his testimony of faith, before we prayed and sang before the Blessed Sacrament in the darkened Abbey church.

On Sunday, Father Abbot — or "big boss monk" to the group — showed us around the Abbey before we joined the monastic community for Mass. The weekend ended with one final adventure when the minibus was declared unsafe and our replacement train was cancelled. But thanks to our amazing volunteers, everyone eventually made it safely home. A huge thank you to all our young people and team. The next mandatory session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is Wednesday 7 October 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. For more please visit our [Confirmation page](#) by clicking on the image on our homepage. We are so grateful to St Osmund's School who always allow us to use their minibus so generously. We fear that they may have a bill to face for the minibus repairs and are hoping that insurance will cover the unexpected costs of our return journey!

YOUTH GROUP

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

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.

HANDING ON OUR FAITH

The Sacrament of Baptism - Last Sunday we welcomed Tor Leon Cassidy Dalen. Please keep Tor and his parents in your prayers.

Baptism Preparation - The next Baptism Preparation Course will take place at St Gregory's on Sunday 11 October, with sessions continuing on the following two Sundays after the 9am Mass. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to join. A full schedule of upcoming preparation courses can be found on our [Baptism](#) page under Sacraments. To request a baptism for your child please click on the [Registration](#) button on our homepage and select 'Infant Baptism Application'.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 27 & Psalter 3

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

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS John & Alessandra Grech RIP

09:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS Colin & Teresa Vanderputt RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS In thanksgiving Clay & Green families

Monday 5 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 6 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 7 October Our Lady of the Rosary

10:00 St Gregory MASS Mary Robson RIP

Thursday 8 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Anna Clarke RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

17:15 St Osmund Rosary

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Helena Lambert

Saturday 10 October

10:00 St Osmund MASS Rosalba Sassano RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Julia Comber RIP

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

*** Psssst!** Someone in our parish will be turning 70 very soon! (Fr Anthony!) and we'll be celebrating in the afternoon of 18 Oct – save the date!!

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER FOR OCTOBER

For Mental Health Ministry

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the Cathedral Church of St Peter & St Paul.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mark Wilson, 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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