

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 14 - YEAR A

From Father Anthony

Secateurs in hand and melting in the evening heat I cut back some dense foliage. Light poured through the uncovered spaces and there, nestling underneath, were some beautiful little pink flowers. *Nothing hidden that will not be revealed*, I chuckled to myself. The cut back bush is doing fine and the pink flowers are now displaying their delicate beauty.

"I thank you Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you hid these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little ones. The word translated as *revealed* (ἀποκαλύπτω, apokaluptó, from which we get apocalypse) properly means to *uncover*. When we were infants we experienced life as uncovered: a mass of sights, sounds, colours, movements and so on. An infant will try and grasp that yellow disk in the sky; will stare for ages and shriek with laughter at a furry mass hopping about. And then it is filled with words and concepts. That disk is *the sun*, it is *far away*; that furry mass, *a bird*. Both become labels, mystery gone, easily passed over. A sense of self and separation sets in. *'That's Robert's one'* (*third person*) becomes, *'that's mine'* (*first person*). What was once a great picture is now separated into pieces, like a jigsaw puzzle. Knowing all the pieces and how they fit together (*being yoked to them like oxen in the field*) gives us a sense of self, wisdom and learnedness but also defines the boundaries, and therefore limitations, we live by. Instead of seeing what is there we see through the accepted concepts that tell us what is there. We have become wise and learned; can argue over concepts for eternity while never really seeing or understanding anything!

The spiritual art is to use wisdom and learning to uncover what wisdom and learning covered in the first place! Having separated the picture into pieces we must put it together again... see it as a *whole*: sit before it and allow *it* to reach out to us. As the sense of separation diminishes; as we realise we are one with it, the omnipresent God *resident in everything* reveals Itself. The burden of understanding gives way to the ease of knowing. Once we were childish; now through wisdom and learning we can become childlike and, with Meister Eckart experience, *the eye with which I look at God is the eye with which God looks at me.*

Reminder: Wednesday 8 July, there will be no 10am Mass at St Gregory's. There will be a Service of the Word led by Deacon John Proctor.



PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

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PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1230

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1230

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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](#)

BENEDICTION AT ST OSMUND'S CHURCH

Benediction has now returned to **6pm every Tuesday and Thursday** and will continue throughout the summer.

The Blessed Sacrament will continue to be exposed after morning Mass on both days for private prayer and adoration through the day, concluding with Benediction at 6pm (approximately 15–20 minutes).

As attendance and online viewing at Benediction have declined in recent months, these arrangements will be reviewed again in September. If you have never experienced Benediction, please do come along. If you value this devotion, we warmly encourage your regular support so it can remain an active part of our parish prayer life.

PILGRIMS, PROGRESS & PUNCTURES - TONIGHT!

This evening (Friday 3 July) 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Centre is our much-awaited evening led by parishioners who have travelled the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage - walking or cycling. They will be recalling their experiences of grace and grief on the famous "Camino." All are welcome, do come along if you can but if you cannot attend, the evening will be recorded and available on our website over this weekend. Please click on ['Parish Activities'](#) on our main menu and then on ['First Friday Talks'](#).

Men's Breakfast The next men's breakfast will be on Saturday 11 July 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.

Safeguarding Matters. All holders of a DBS with the Clifton Diocese must now complete the safeguarding training which is a mandatory requirement for the Catholic Church in England and Wales. Clifton Diocese provides free online training to all volunteers. You will shortly receive further details with a link to this training. If you have any questions, speak to Deacon John Proctor, our Parish Safeguarding Representative. Many thanks.

OUR NEW ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER

Following his appointment in February of this year, Archbishop Richard Moth received the Pallium from Pope Leo XIV during Mass at St Peter's Basilica in Rome on the Feast of St Peter and Paul last week. The Pallium, a simple band of white wool worn around the shoulders and marked with crosses represents the Archbishop's call to care for the faithful, seek out those who are lost, and bring back those who have strayed, following the example of Christ the Good Shepherd. In a short video on our [website](#) Archbishop Moth explains some of the rich symbolism of the garment.

SEA SUNDAY - 12 JULY

Stella Maris (formerly 'Apostleship of the Sea') is a Catholic charity who work to improve the lives of seafarers and their families both in the UK and around the world through their network of local chaplains and seafarer centres. They provide expert information, advocacy, and spiritual support to all those who provide us with the food we eat and the goods we need. These seafarers are sometimes away from their families for months and even years. **There will be a retiring collection at all the Sunday Masses next weekend 11/12 July**, gift aid envelopes are available to take away today. We have both a short video and this year's booklet on our [website](#) if you would like to learn more.

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 during the first few days of September.**

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 again later this year, with dates to be announced soon. 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 return to its usual place in the liturgical calendar in Lent next year. We will once again be at beautiful 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@clifftondiocese.com.

FAMILY OF FAITH 2026-7

The last session for the Year 2025-26 is this Sunday after the 9am Masses at the Parish Centre. 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, dates for the new year starting after the summer break on 13 September.

Congratulations to Levi, who received his First Holy Communion at St Gregory's last Sunday,

Advance Notice - Alba and Alicia from our Family of Faith group will be making their **First Holy Communion** at the 9am Mass at St Osmund next Sunday 12 July. They have prepared for this special moment alongside their parents in our Family of Faith programme. Please keep these children in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith, hope, and love as cherished members of our parish community.

This Sunday at the 11am Mass we will welcome Daniel Graham Quirk who will receive the sacrament of Baptism at St Osmund. Please keep Daniel, his parents Michael & Katy and the Godparents in your prayers.

Youth Group (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. For more, click on [Youth Group](#) on our home page.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Ordinary Time Week 13 Week Proper of Solemnity

Saturday 4 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving – Jacob family

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Gina Mizzi RIP

SUNDAY 5 JULY

09:00 St Osmund MASS Joy Sebastian RIP (3rd Anniversary)

09:00 St Gregory MASS Steven, Jane and Family

11:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS.

18:00 St Osmund MASS Intentions of Sebastian and Family

Monday 6 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Tuesday 7 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 8 July

10:00 St Gregory **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

Thursday 9 July

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 10 July

18:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Thomas Loaring RIP

SATURDAY 11 JULY SAINT BENEDICT

10:00 St Osmund MASS Robin Turvey RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Intentions of Benny and Family

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 version to help us to keep our costs down, cut waste and to protect the environment. 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 JULY

For respect for human life.

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God..

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parishes of Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Lourdes & St Joseph (Weston-super-Mare).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Monica Johnson, Bridget Read, Maureen Mooney, Bill Allen, John Wilson, Philip Potter, and Bob Kimsey 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