

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ADVENT WEEK 2 (A)



From Father Anthony

I parked up and looked out across the Chase. Green velvet hills rolled athletically into the distance under a mantle of blue. The sun smiled a reminder of summer. Woodsmoke curled seductively up and along the valley interrupting a furious row! Flapping like black and white rags, Gangsters did battle against Seagulls: somewhere a change of mind or heart was needed.

It made me think of *Repentance*. The word is used so often in church that we may have become dulled by it or lost touch with its original meaning through *semantic drift*. We might need a reset! The word most often translated as repentance is *metanoëó* (μετανοέω). Simply, it means *to think differently afterwards: a change of mind or heart* rather than *expressing feelings of regret and asking forgiveness*. It means recognising that *I see the world and others as I am not as it is or they are*. If change is necessary; if the world is a mess and I don't like it or others... *perhaps there is something wrong with me!* And like the warring crows and gulls this *recognition* can cause interior tension. Repentance is Spiritual Work: we must be brave, gentle in approach, and trust the Divine will assist us.

We were often given this spiritual exercise. Find all the negative adjectives you can apply to yourself; notice all your vicious, hateful, violent, unkind, sneering, negative thoughts and... smile at them. They are not you. They come from what you think you are or have made of yourself or have let others make of you; they are not you. Look in a mirror and see what you are not: you are something *much, much more*. Attempt to look beyond the rotten, desultory, inimical thoughts that flow from envy, resentment and pride and all the anger, pain and sadness they bring. Find the Pharisee and Sadducee within you and their thought system. If you don't like what you see and experience... then *think differently afterward (Repent)*. Consign these thoughts, like chaff, to the flames of Love; let them burn like woodsmoke. You don't want them: you don't need them.

This change or transformation is a real baptism. Go deep within yourself beyond the jetsam and flotsam of the life you are leading to the clearer waters of Spirit (*make a straight path*). Rise in this clarity and bring your repentance to the world. It needs it.



PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday CLOSED

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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](#)

ADVENT - A TIME OF PREPARATION

Advent Talks - Unfortunately, the recording of the second talk in our Advent series, given by Rev Rob Taylor on "Isaiah & John the Baptist – Prophets of Promise", failed. To avoid this happening again, a backup camera will be used for the next session on Tuesday, 9 December at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre. This talk, titled "Mary – Radical Hope", will be given by Deacon Steve Godwin. Can't attend in person? Visit our website and click ['Advent Talks'](#) on our homepage.

Advent Calendar Reflections - starting on the first Sunday of Advent, we have from the Bishops Conference 25 short reflections for the season - one a day - as contributors share a moment in 2025 that has led them to a place of hope. Please click on ['Advent Reflections'](#) button on our homepage.

The Gospel According to St Matthew - In Liturgical Cycle A, the focus falls on St Matthew. Our Gospel readings at Sunday Mass are predominantly taken from Matthew. You can listen to the whole of St Matthew's Gospel in audio by clicking on the button ['St Matthew's Gospel'](#) on our homepage.

Advent Penitential Service in St Gregory's Wednesday 17 December at 7pm. There will be a short service followed by the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be multiple priests available to hear individual Confessions.

St Joseph's School Christmas Carol Service – at St Osmund's 6pm Thursday 18 December all parishioners warmly invited, parking will be available at St Osmund's School, mulled wine and mince pies from 5.30pm.

An Advent Podcast 2025 Deacon Steve Godwin has written and recorded a short podcast ahead of the season, in the hope that it might offer a moment of quiet reflection during this busy time. To listen or read please click on the ['Advent Podcast'](#)

Evening of Christmas Carols and Readings - Monday 22 December 7pm at the Parish Centre with shared drinks, nibbles and festivity. This event will be free but spaces are limited to 70 so you will need to book your place. Please [click here](#) to book or call the parish office.

Parish Christmas Bazaar Update - Our Parish Christmas Bazaar, held last Sunday (30 November), raised an amazing £1,121.50! Considering this was achieved entirely through donated items, it's a fantastic result and a real testament to the generosity of our community. The event was very well attended and supported by parishioners from both churches and all Masses. It was truly a joint effort, made possible by the hard work and dedication of many volunteers. [For more please visit our 'Blog'](#).

Christmas Prayer Chain & Tree Decorations at St Gregory's - On Sunday, 14 December, parishioners are invited to write prayers in the porch before Mass for the Christmas Prayer Chain, which will be displayed on the Christmas tree. After Mass, during tea and coffee, we would love for the children to join in some festive fun by preparing decorations for the Christmas tree. The tree will be decorated during the Christmas Eve Mass.

PARISH RETREAT: The Holy Trinity - Living as God's People. Put the dates in your diary now! 24 & 25 January. Saturday 11am to 4 pm; Sunday 10.30am to 4pm at the Parish Centre. **Light of Truth** Catholic formation for everyone. Join us for a two-day retreat led by Sister Carino and Sister Amata, Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. Each day will conclude with Adoration and Benediction. More details and sign-up link coming soon!

SPUC Coffee Morning. Many thanks to all those who enabled a successful Coffee Morning on behalf of SPUC. We made £260.86 which will be sent to SPUC for their valuable work. Much appreciated.

FEAST OF ST OSMUND – AT SALISBURY CATHEDRAL

Yesterday evening Thursday 4 December on the Feast of Saint Osmund, Catholics and Anglicans came together in Salisbury Cathedral for a historic service of shared prayer and thanksgiving. The Dean the Very Reverend Nicholas Papadopoulos, warmly welcomed the Catholic community to join the Anglican Eucharist. This year was significant as Father Joseph Columba was invited to preach, offering a moving reflection on Saint Osmund's life and legacy as a bishop and administrator. This was followed by a reception in the Parish Rooms where parishioners from both communities were invited. [For more including photos please click on the image in the 'Top News box.](#)

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith – For adults who are not confirmed Catholics and for those who are returning to the faith of their childhood. The next session is next Sunday 14 December 10.30am at the Parish Centre. If you are interested in joining do contact Dave Blake at salisbury.journeyinfaith@cliftondiocese.com For more including the timetable click on the ['Journey in Faith'](#) button on our home page.

Baptism Preparation – The next course commences on 1 February 2026 after the 9am Mass at St Osmund, please contact the Parish Office if you wish to join. To request Baptism for your child, please click the ['Registration'](#) button on our homepage.

Congratulations and welcome to Aleksander & Maksymilian De'Ath who will receive the sacrament of Baptism in the 10am Mass at St Osmund next Saturday 13 December . Please keep their parents Agata & Louis and godparents in your prayers.

Marriage Preparation - The next course is on 9/10 January 2026. Anyone planning to marry in any of our churches in Spring or Summer 2026 should attend **THIS** course. Contact the Parish Office to book.

FAMILY OF FAITH 2025-6

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. 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. The next session is this Sunday 7 December at St Gregory's at 9am for a 9.15am start, followed by the 11am Mass.

CONFIRMATION 2026

The next mandatory session for those preparing to receive the Sacrament is next Wednesday 10 December 6.30pm at the Parish Centre. This will be led by Fr Joseph, and the topic will be: "Is the Bible credible?". To sign up or find out more, click on the button ['Confirmation'](#) on our homepage.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING...

...well not quite yet but we are starting to get organised! There's always lots to do in preparation for this wonderful celebration in all of our churches. Could you offer your gifts and talents? Watch this space in the coming weeks for ways in which you can help.

ST OSMUND'S ORGAN UPDATE

We have heard from our Organ Builder that work on the re-leathering of the bellows of the St Osmund's organ is progressing well. At the moment, the work is still on target to be completed by Christmas. Many thanks to all those who have contributed.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Advent Week 2

Psalter 2 Proper of Season

Saturday 6 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Hughie Mullan RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Doris Phelan RIP

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER

09:00 St Osmund MASS Deceased friends & family of Mary Fleming

11:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving – Joseph George & family

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

MONDAY 8 DECEMBER THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

13:00 St Osmund Funeral Service William Coughlan RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS Thanksgiving Tess & Johny

Tuesday 9 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Jack Cox RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 10 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving – Jacob family

Thursday 11 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS (G) Susanne Peniston RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

18.30 Downton MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

Friday 12 December

10:00 St Gregory Rosary, Service of the Word, Adoration & Benediction

18:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

Saturday 13 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Johnny Coneran RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS P. C. Chacko

10:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Saturdays 4.30pm until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 9.30am until 12 noon

and by appointment

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For Christians in areas of conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parish of St Gregory the Great / St Thomas More (Cheltenham).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

William Coughlan, Ruth Healy, John Tobin, Sue Halliden, Robert Fitz, Shiny Mathew, 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:

Psalm Response

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace forever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

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 2026 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

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Mass	St Osmund's, Salisbury	17:00
Christmas Eve Mass	St Osmund's	22:30
Christmas Day Mass	St Osmund's	08:00
Christmas Day Mass	St Osmund's	10:00
Christmas Day Mass	St Osmund's (<i>Ordinariate</i>)	13:00
Christmas Eve Mass	St Gregory's, Salisbury	16:00
Christmas Day Mass	St Gregory's	09:00
Christmas Day Mass	St Gregory's	11:00
Christmas Eve Mass	Sacred Heart, Tisbury	18:00
Christmas Day Mass	Sacred Heart	09:00
Christmas Eve Mass	All Saints, Wardour	23:30
Christmas Day Mass	All Saints	10:30
Christmas Eve Mass	Christ the King, Amesbury	18:00
Christmas Eve Mass	Christ the King	Midnight
Christmas Day Mass	Christ the King	11:00
Christmas Eve (<i>Crib Service</i>)	St George's, Warminster	17:00
Christmas Eve Mass	St George's	21:00
Christmas Day Mass	St George's	09:00