

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

LENT WEEK 3(A)

From Father Anthony

Quiet prayer was interrupted by a brouhaha outside. Not the Gunslinger but several cats; they had taken exception to one another, violently! Mrs Cat arrived and that was that. Peace reigned. Over rooftops, far away to the East the sky glowed red. As a rule of thumb, it meant that wet windy weather would arrive from the West... and it did; lots of it. Later in the day I wished I could read myself as well as I could the weather!

I have food to eat you know not of. This reply confused the disciples and probably us too. His food and therefore ours is to do the will of 'Him who sent me'. In some manner we are nourished, energised, enhanced by doing God's will. What is this will? A possible short cut to gain some understanding is to contrast St Paul saying, *I live... not I but Christ in me* (Gal 2:20); and Jesus saying, *I and the Father are one* (Jn 10:30). With St Paul there is still a sense of me... Christ in *me*. With Jesus the sense of *me* has gone: He and the Father are *one*. With Paul there is still twoness; with Jesus, *oneness*. His actions and God's actions are *one*... to have seen Him is to have seen the Father. This oneness is food and drink; it gives us true life. To live as *me* is to live with a sense of separation and unfulfillment. To be one with God is everything, always (*His Will*).

Last week on the mountain we gained an insight into our spiritual nature (*transfiguration*). This week, our spiritual identity (*oneness*) with God is revealed as that which sustains us in all things; worship (*spirit and truth*), life (*water of life*) what records and guides our being (*told me all I ever did and what I must do*).

Oneness is not acquired; it is what we are; we don't find it... we are it (*fields ripe for harvest*)! But we have lost consciousness of it. Like the prodigal son we have gone on a long journey called life thinking we are separate from God when in fact we are not separate; we only think we are. When we come to God for God *and not for what we can get*; then we will sense His Presence by the well of our life... and find Him as our life.

Bishop Bosco MacDonald has issued a statement regarding the War in Iran.
To read please [follow this link](#) or see the 'Top News' box on our website.



PASTORAL TEAM

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PARISH OFFICE

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Wednesday CLOSED
Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600
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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](#)

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of peace, Father of all, in this hour of fear and violence draw near to every family living under threat.

Protect the innocent, shelter the displaced, comfort the grieving, heal the wounded, and strengthen all who bring relief and care.

Turn the hearts of leaders from pride and anger. Give them wisdom, restraint, and courage, that the weapons may fall silent and honest negotiation may begin.

Save the peoples of the Middle East from a widening war.

Guard Christians and all religious minorities, and keep hatred from hardening into lasting division.

Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, make us peacemakers in our homes, our schools, and our communities. Bless our Lenten prayers and sacrifices, and let them bear fruit in mercy, justice, and reconciliation.

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, protector of families, pray for us.

Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us.

Amen.

Our Bishop, Bosco MacDonald is calling the whole of the Clifton Diocese to prayer for peace in the Middle East. He has issued a statement which you can read online [here](#) or on our church noticeboards if you do not have access to the internet.

LENT & HOLY WEEK LITURGY

Stations of the Cross - Fridays during Lent 5.20pm at St Osmund prior to the 6pm Mass.

TUESDAY 31 MARCH

Deanery Penitential Service 7pm St Gregory with several priest for Confessions.

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL

Chrim Mass 11am Clifton Cathedral

[Book your place](#) on the coach

HOLY THURSDAY 2 APRIL

Tenebrae 10am St Osmund

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm St Gregory

GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL

Stations of the Cross 9am St Gregory

Tenebrae 10am St Osmund

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

Stations of the Cross 6pm St Osmund

Ecumenical Walk of Witness 10.30am Starting at Salisbury Cathedral (West Door)

HOLY SATURDAY 4 APRIL

Tenebrae 10am St Osmund

Easter Vigil 9pm St Osmund

RITE OF ELECTION & RCIA JOURNEY

The Elect are those who seek full membership in the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Eucharist. In the coming weeks, they will join us for the next liturgical steps in their journey: the Scrutinies and the Presentations of the Creed and the Our Father.

The Scrutinies, part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, take place on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. On these Sundays, the Church always uses the 'Year A' readings, as they mirror the path of conversion leading to baptism and highlight the central role of faith in Christ as a sign of readiness to follow Him. The whole parish will hear and reflect on these same readings, even if the Elect are not present at every Mass.

This Sunday, the Elect will be presented for the First Scrutiny at the 9am Mass at St Gregory, there will also be a Presentation of the Creed at the 6pm Mass at St Osmund on Friday 13 March.

Please pray for the Elect of our Parish: **Christopher, Sophie, Luisa and Jennifer.**

EMHC TRAINING DAY & RECOMMISSIONING - 7 MARCH

Fr Joseph invites ALL Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to join him at 3pm tomorrow in St Gregory's Church & Hall. There will be a short talk followed by the worldwide premiere (!) of our recently recorded training materials for EMHCs. Ministers will be re-commissioned at the 5pm Mass after the session. Approximately 40 people have signed up so far, but we are NOT short of space so if you haven't signed up but would like to come along, just turn up. Please arrive on time as we are recording the talk and want to keep noise interruptions to a minimum **The talk will begin at 3pm in St Gregory's CHURCH.** Refreshments will be served mid-session. See you there!

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

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.

Family of Faith: Next session is Sunday 15 March after the 9am Masses at the Parish Centre on Exeter Street. Please visit the [Family of Faith](#) to sign up and for all the detail.

The 'Little Sleep' Following the cancellation of "The Big Sleep" in Salisbury Cathedral for Alabaré, St Joseph's School have organised their own version for students, sleeping outside at the school on **Friday 13 March** to raise money and awareness of homelessness. Any young people (Year 8 to 11) who would like to take part (you don't have to be a pupil from St Joseph's School), please contact Fr Joseph

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith – The next session is this Sunday 8 March 10.30am at the Parish Centre on Exeter Street. For more including the timetable click on the ['Journey in Faith'](#) button on our home page.

Confirmation 2026 - The next key [Confirmation](#) session is next Wednesday 11 March at 6.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Baptism Preparation. The next course starts Sunday 12 April after the 9am Mass at St Osmund for three consecutive Sundays, contact the Parish Office to join or click the ['Registration'](#) button on our homepage.

CHRISM MASS in Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday 1 April. A coach has been booked to travel to the Chrism Mass. Timings are expected to be similar to last year: departing St Osmund's at 7.20am, St Gregory's 7.35am with a pick up at Amesbury library at 7.55am. Mass is at 11am. If you would like to join our priests and deacons on the coach, please book your place by [completing the online form](#). The cost is £19 per person.

First Friday Talks – Friday 6 March after the 6pm Mass in the Parish Centre, we will feature a video presentation by Fr Stephen Wang on 'The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist'. All are very welcome, no need to book.

Sunday Vigil Mass in Czech and Slovak – Saturday 21 March 6pm at St Osmund – Celebrant Fr Tomas Krejci. Confessions will be heard from 5pm in English and Czech/Slovak with refreshments in the Parish Rooms after Mass.

Men's Breakfast on Saturday 14 March at 8am in the Parish Centre. The speaker will be Matthew Higgins, the new Head of St Joseph's School. Please book by [following this link](#) and completing the form. £10 per head, payable on the day or directly to Deacon John Proctor.

Lenten Talks Join us for a thoughtful series of [talks](#) inspired by the popular reflections of Fr Stephen Wang. These evenings are engaging, practical, and welcoming to everyone — whether you attend each week or just drop in when you can. **Every Tuesday in Lent from 7.30–9.30pm** at the Parish Centre beginning with light refreshments. There is plenty of parking, no booking is required — simply come along and take part.

Choir for the Easter Triduum in St Gregory's & St Osmund's. It's not too late to join, we rehearse not to 'replace' the congregation, simply to support them so there is no pressure to 'perform'! We especially need some more men! The next get-together will be Wednesday 18 March in the Parish Rooms at St Osmund at 6pm followed by one on Wednesday 25 March. Recordings of the music to learn at home are available for those who don't read music. Contact the parish office if you're interested or just turn up!

Easter Egg Donations! We are delighted to announce that we will once again be able to host an Easter Egg hunt for children after the 9am 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.

SPUC White Flower Appeal raised £604.75 in our parish. This does not include any donations made by card on the contactless machine, for which the total is not yet known.

Decriminalisation of Abortion. The House of Lords is currently debating an extreme amendment to the Government Crime & Policing Bill, which would allow women to self-induce an abortions for any reason, and at any stage of gestation. The last chance to remove this amendment is the Report Stage, expected on the 11 or 17 March. Please act NOW to stop this barbaric proposal. Find out more and use the SPUC's tool to write to members of the House of Lords at <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation>

The Relics of St Carlo Acutis the first 'millennial' saint, canonised by Pope Leo last year will be brought to St Gregory's Church, Cheltenham, from 8–10 March. A programme of events is available, and free but (required) tickets can be booked here: <https://stgregorys.org.uk/relics/> **If anybody needs a lift, or can offer one, please let us know.**

Prayers for Justice & Peace Salisbury Cathedral Trinity Chapel on 18 March at noon led by the Rev Jonathan Plows.

Salisbury Churches celebrate 'Christian Aid at 80 Years' Join us for a short celebration with the children of St Osmund's (and St Martin's) Primary Schools, gathered around the rowan tree funded by our churches. Thursday 19 March at 2.30 pm in Churchill Gardens, near the car park and toilet block on Southampton Road. All welcome.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year A-2 Lent Week 3 & Psalter 3

Saturday 7 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Louise Musante RIP

SUNDAY 8 MARCH

09:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

09:00 St Gregory MASS Breda Sweeney RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Michael Pearce RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Charles & Dolores Mattocks RIP

Monday 9 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Leonard Hirst RIP

Tuesday 10 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Wednesday 11 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS Anne & David Power RIP

Thursday 12 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Pat & Errol Rayner in sickness

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 14:00

17:30 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 13 March

10:00 St Gregory Rosary

17:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

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

Saturday 14 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Colin O'Farrell RIP

First Mass of Sunday

17:00 St Gregory MASS Gerry Kinsella RIP

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 MARCH

For disarmament and peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray for the parishes of St Catharine (Frome) & St Dominic (Mells).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Beth Newman, Darren Barnes, Anthony Scouller and Orlando Saraze 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

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts'.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

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@clifftondiocese.com