

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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



ADVENT WEEK 2 (B)

From Father Anthony

It was a steel grey day with strong winds and heavy rain: no sitting outside with a cup of tea. I sat before the one-eyed god, tapping away, occasionally glancing out of the window. With ruffled feathers the gangsters attempted, 'into the wind spot landings': neither the gunslinger nor the brown sparrows were anywhere to be seen. Feeling my tummy rumble I went into the kitchen to prepare a morsel or two for lunch. 'Prior preparation and planning', we used to say, 'prevents, poor performance' (*polite version*). Properly prepared, the tomato sauce, timely cooked pasta, Parmigiano Reggiano and a few lettuce leaves were lovely.

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." Prepare: another Advent word. It comes from the Latin *praeparare*, meaning 'to make ready beforehand', (A study of the Hebrew word *Kun כּוּן* is interesting too). During Advent we prepare to recognise Christ within as well as historical remembrance.

Interior preparation includes *staying awake* - we spoke of this last week - principally by being aware of our thoughts, feeling and actions. Perseverance in *awareness* will reveal how our lives need to change... often accompanied by the thought 'there must be a better way'. We come to realise how limited, stereotyped and erroneous our thoughts, feelings and understandings are about God and Creation.

The Gospel urges us to go deep within (*wilderness*): clear out old thoughts, habits and actions (*baptism*): renewing them with thoughts based in love and recognition of Christ within (*repentance*). Awareness of and clearing out the old is preparation for recognition of Christ in and as our own deeper consciousness. This is the direct (*straight*) path to God. We find ourselves 'dressed in camels' hair with a leather girdle about our loins, living on locusts and wild honey'. This is a spiritual description of our true nature freed from the darkness of duplicitousness, error, envy, self-absorption and hate: now revealed as clear, strong, truthful, vibrant and loving; living spontaneously on what the world has to offer. Discarding the old person, (*baptism in water*), we recognise Christ within and become a new, (*baptism in the Holy Spirit*). We now think, feel and act in and as Christ; seeing Him in everyone.

If we want this, to awareness we must add prayer. Find a place and set a time every day during Advent; and in that place, for perhaps five minutes, pray for renewal within.

**A FUTURE
FULL OF HOPE**
CLIFTON DIOCESE

PASTORAL TEAM

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Parish Office

Monday-Friday 0900 - 1600

ADVANCE NOTICE - the parish office
will be closed for Christmas from 15
December until 2 January 2024
01722 562703

Caroline Williams
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Désirée office@salisburycatholics.org

Tony outreach@salisburycatholics.org

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 at:
<https://salisburycatholics.org>
click "Registration/update"

'THE EUCHARIST' SERVICE AT THE CATHEDRAL ON MONDAY 4 DECEMBER

A large contingent of our parishioners joined the 'The Eucharist' service at Salisbury Cathedral last Monday where Fr Anthony preached on the 'Feast of St Osmund'. After the service our Ecumenical friends joined with us in the Parish Rooms for a Cheese & Wine celebration. A big thank you to the ladies who helped out and made the evening a success Please click on the image in the Top news box or [click here](#) where we have a transcript of Fr Anthony's sermon and photos of the event.

Parish Advent Penitential Service will be held at St Gregory's church **next Thursday 14 December 7pm** There will be a short service including music followed by the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a number of priests available to hear individual Confessions. **In addition every Saturday during Advent, Confessions will be heard between 9am and Midday at St Osmund.**

Christmas Mass Times - All the Christmas Mass Times are on the insert page below and also by clicking on the 'Christmas Mass Times' button on our homepage. The preceding day Sunday, Mass times are as normal except the evening Mass at St Osmund which is replaced by the vigil Mass for Christmas.

St Gregory's Livestream - Following the installation of internet and a new sound system a livestream camera is planned for this Monday 11 December. If all goes well when you visit Church TV from our main menu and then click on the 'St Osmund's & St Gregory's Livestream' button, you will find a slightly different panel. Under the LIVE tab you will be able to select 'St Osmund' or 'St Gregory'. Services will be livestreamed from St Gregory exactly the same way as currently from St Osmund and will be available 24/7. Any difficulties please contact Tony in the Parish Office.

Apostolic Blessing - Gertie Harmon. Gertie a regular at 11am Mass was presented by Fr Anthony with an Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis on occasion of her 100th birthday last Sunday. Photos can be found by clicking on the image in the 'Top News' box, [click here](#) or visit our Photo Gallery.

Please note there will be no Adoration and Benediction next Tuesday 12 December - due to St Osmund's School rehearsing for their Carol Service during the day.

Newsletter - Next week's newsletter (published on 15 December) will be the last before 5 January 2024, so all submissions of content need to be sent to the Office by Tuesday (12 December) of next week.

Church Cleaning for Christmas will take place in St Osmund's from 12 noon to 2pm on Saturday 16 December. Please do come and help Henrietta, many hands etc., **men don't be shy**. Everything provided.

Food and Friendship Festive Lunch will take place next Thursday 14 December at St Gregory's Hall 12 noon for a 12.30pm serving. A festive menu and Christmas Carols. Due to St Gregory's Hall closure, the next gathering will be on Thursday 11 January for Coffee & Cake, 10.30am-12noon, in St Osmund's Parish Rooms.

Life in The Spirit! Last Friday's talk was given by Mrs Helen Inglis on 'Ministry to the Homeless'. The next talk will be by Rev Margaret Collins on 'Prophecy' on Friday 5 January after the 7pm Mass at St Osmund. Each seminar is recorded and can be viewed by clicking on the 'The Holy Spirit' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

After-School Club the final session in this series is next Wednesday 13 December at 3.45pm at St Osmund's. Children from Yr 2 - 4 are welcome, they **must** however be accompanied by their parents or guardians (additional siblings coming with their parents are also welcome).

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 20 December 2023 for Bingo & Mince Pies at 2pm in St Gregory's Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

SCORE - retiring collection next weekend 16/17 December. Money raised will go into funds for local projects.

FAMILY ADVENT RETREAT DAY - LAST SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER.

Over 30 adults and children had a wonderful day. The day began with Mass & Confessions and then the adults moved to St Elizabeth Hall for talks, workshops and a period of Adoration & Benediction, meanwhile the children had craft, drama & games in the Parish Rooms. The children returned to St Elizabeth Hall towards the end of the day and performed a play on 'Genesis', their interpretation was quite interesting. Our thanks goes to Fr Joseph and especially Xanthe who organised the day and all those who led the workshops and looked after the children.

CHILDREN'S PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday 10 December in St Gregory's Hall from 10.30 to 12.30pm. Bookings for children have now closed, any child booked under 5 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. For those coming please bring a plate of food that is suitable for children. All donations towards the cost of the party would be gratefully received, please contact or see after Mass Sarah Varney: svarney1@me.com or Jo Kingston: joannaskingston@icloud.com e.

OPTING-OUT OF SCORE

Most parishioners will be aware that 10% of all offertory collections are paid over to SCORE. SCORE has used these funds to support a number of international charities including EduKaid in Africa, food banks in South Africa, and social projects in the Philippines and the Sudan. At home, SCORE has supported the homeless, foodbanks, Street Pastors and charities offering a range of services to local children and families in poverty.

Those parishioners, who may prefer to make contributions to their own choice of charities, can elect to opt out of the automatic SCORE allocation. This election can be made by either ticking the appropriate box on page 1 of the GIFT AID Declaration form or simply emailing your intention to *Finance.Salisbury@clifftondiocese.com*

Father Anthony's Homilies: Following his homily on The Feast of Christ the King we also have the transcript of the homily given last Sunday Advent Week 1. To view please click on the link below his image or [click here](#).

Advent Carol Service: Thursday 21 December 7pm at St Osmund's Church Fr Joseph is once again organising an Advent Carol Service (the one held last year was absolutely beautiful) and is calling for singers to join him. The final rehearsal is next Wednesday 13 December 6pm - 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms and everyone is most welcome - the music will not be too challenging.

Journey in Faith: This is a programme for adults who are interested in Christianity but who are not confirmed Catholics. The next meeting is this Sunday 10 December in the Parish Rooms next to St Osmund's Church on Exeter Street. For more on this programme please visit 'Exploring Your Faith' on our main menu or [click here](#).

Congratulations and Welcome to Jedidiah Akporido & Emily Rose Corcoran who received the Sacrament of Baptism last Saturday & Monday at St Osmund. Please keep Jedidiah & Emily Rose and their parents Rita & Paul and Ann-Marie & Thomas and the godparents in your prayers

Baptism. Our next course will be at St Gregory for three consecutive Sundays starting 14 January, please register with the Parish Office. To request a baptism please [click here](#).

First Holy Communion The next session is tomorrow Saturday 9 December 2pm at St Gregory for both parents and children. All information and the schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Confirmation The first session of the programme will be an introductory social on the 16 January 2024. The complete schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-1 Advent Week 2
Psalter 2 Proper of Season

Saturday 9 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Deceased members of the Brook, Detain, Kenny & Murray Families

SUNDAY 10 December

09:00 St Gregory MASS Departed members of the Edathottiyil & Kallarackal families

09:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving - Jacob Family

11:00 St Osmund MASS Johnston Family

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

16:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 11 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

Tuesday 12 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS P. C. Chacko RIP

There is no Exposition & Benediction on this day

Wednesday 13 December Saint Lucy

10:00 St Gregory MASS John Brook RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 14 December Saint John of the Cross

10:00 St Osmund MASS Julius & Tulia Flavia RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

19:00 St Gregory Advent Penitential Service

Friday 15 December

10:00 St Gregory MASS Alma Bradley RIP

19:00 St Osmund MASS Colin O'Farrell RIP

Saturday 16 December

10:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Leo McShane RIP

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis Intention for December - For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parishes of St Augustine of Canterbury (Matson) & English Martyrs (Tuffley, Gloucester).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Martin Dawkins, Sarah Niccolini, Shaun Elliott, Teresina Mills, and June Rockett 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

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Ps 84

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.**

2 Peter 3:8-14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,

make his paths straight,

and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Mark 1:1-8

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS For baptisms please register your application [click here](#). For more information contact Deacon John Proctor or Deacon Stephen Godwin.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION If you have a child who will be in Year 3 or above from September 2024, please use our online form to join our 2025 programme. [Click here.](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child in Year 9 or above, please use our online form to apply to join our next preparation programme. [Click here](#)

MARRIAGES Please speak to the priest for guidance.

FUNERALS Do your family know your wishes with regards to your funeral? Registered parishioners can provide these details which are scanned and stored confidentially with your parishioner record and can be given to families at the appropriate time. Contact Caroline for more details:
caroline.williams@clifftondiocese.com

RECONCILIATION

St Gregory: Fridays after the 10:00 Mass & Saturdays 17:30 until Mass

St Osmund: Saturdays 09:00 until 12:00 on the first Saturday of each month & during Advent, all Saturdays after the 10:00 Mass.

and by prior appointment with our priests.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

*Christmas Day falls on a Monday this year,
and so we have the shortest possible Season of Advent.
Please note that because the Fourth Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve, the
6pm Sunday Mass at St Osmund on 24th December will be displaced by a
Christmas Vigil Mass as shown below.*

CHRISTMAS EVE

Church	Carols Start Time	Mass Start Time
St Gregory & the English Martyrs	16:00	16:30
St Osmund	17:30	18:00
St Gregory & the English Martyrs	19:30	20:00
St Osmund	21:30	22:00

CHRISTMAS DAY

Church	Mass Start Time
St Gregory & the English Martyrs	09:00
St Osmund	09:00
St Osmund	11:00
St Osmund (Ordinariate Mass)	12:30

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Church	Mass Start Time
St Osmund	23:30