

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

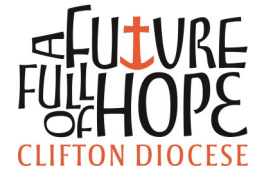
LENT WEEK 5(B)

From Father Anthony

Red breast blazing, the gunslinger came in low from behind, did a 'wing over' and landed, legs splayed, on the stump. I stood tea in hand. We eyed each other. He opened his beak wide and let out a piercing note which ended in a beautiful stutter. He cocked his head this way and that: stuttered again. I had felt like the weather... heavy, grey and relentless! But, the simple actions and song of this little friend warmed my heart and cheered my soul... and later, the sun came out!

We often ignore or take Scripture for granted: we hear passages of it read every Sunday; it's always been there. But, if you read and meditate on the seemingly disparate books of scripture, laid down side by side over many centuries, you might begin to discern a single voice behind them all. A deeply personal message, echoing across the ages, is revealed which, when heard, is quite a shock. Only a supernatural explanation accounts for it; only Spirit can span the distance of time and speak personally to each soul! The more we read and listen to the Old and New Testaments we begin, with Saint Augustine, to experience another amazing mystery, namely, "*The New is in the Old concealed; the Old is in the New revealed*".

We noted already that the first and last words of the Book of Genesis read, '*beginning in a coffin in Egypt*'. Our experience of what we call life or *waking consciousness* is in fact an experience of death. God put Adam into a deep sleep; it never says Adam woke up again! Paul tells us that we have already died with Christ and can therefore rise with him! Countless times scripture urges, '*wake up O sleeper*'. Centuries after the book of Genesis, in John's Gospel, we read about Jesus raising Lazarus from the tomb (*coffin*). Lazarus is a Greek version of the Hebrew name אלעזר, Eleazar loosely meaning, *God is my helper*. When we fail to recognise Christ (*God*) as our only true help and support trusting rather in a world of materiality we lose sight and understanding of the truth of our being: we *die off* spiritually: we feel dead and buried. To be fully human we must encounter Christ within. This encounter *is* our Resurrection into Light and Life. Risen from our coffins we must assist others to rise from theirs.



PASTORAL TEAM

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Parish Office

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

A NEW BISHOP FOR THE DIOCESE OF CLIFTON

On Thursday of this week, the Holy Father, Pope Francis accepted the resignation of the Right Reverend Declan Lang as Bishop of Clifton. Bishop Declan has served the Diocese for 23 years as our bishop.

The Holy Father has appointed Canon Bosco MacDonald, a priest of the Diocese of Clifton, who is currently the Dean of our Cathedral Church of St Peter and St Paul, Bristol to be the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Clifton. As yet no dates for the installation of Canon Bosco have been announced but it seems likely that Wednesday's Penitential Service at Christ the King in Amesbury will be Bishop Declan's last visit to our Pastoral Area.

For more click on the image in the Top News box or [click here](#).

Please note - there will be NO Confessions in St Osmund this Saturday 16 March after the 10am Mass

Stations of the Cross at Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Downton on Friday 22 March at 10 am. All welcome

Spiritual Bouquet. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) recently launched a new prayer initiative in collaboration with the Knights of St. Columba. Let Life Flourish: A Spiritual/ Bouquet is a rallying call to pray with renewed faith and trust for the protection of all human life. The Intention for March is that 'Medical Staff' will always act to protect the dignity of human life at every stage. Commit to prayer at this website: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/letlifeflourish>

Parish of St Osmund Mobile App Our App called 'Parish of St Osmund' is on both the AppStore and Google PlayStore. If you don't have the App, why not?!? It provides easy access to key information such as: Mass Times, Contact Details, and much more. Need help? No problem - pop into the office to see us and we'll help you get this App onto your phone or tablet.

SCORE collection and update. There is a retiring collection this weekend for SCORE home projects. Donations can also be made via the website, or through payment devices in church. The recent SCORE committee meeting gave a total of £10,117 in grants. For all the detail please see the full March update which can be found on our website under 'Parish Life' or [click here](#). Thank you for your contributions.

Words of Faith: *Six-session online course starting Tuesday 9 April, 7.30pm-9pm.* Clifton Diocese in partnership with 'Light of Truth' are offering a short course to find the best words to give an account of our faith and answer the hard questions Catholics can be asked about God, Jesus, the Church, morality and Catholic practices. For more and to register for this 'Zoom' course click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 2pm in the Lounge of Roman Road Methodist Church due to the current work being carried out in St Gregory's Church Hall. For further information please contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Essential Training for Catechists - Clifton Diocese are offering an introduction into the aspects of catechesis for those working with children or adults, There are six sessions all on 'Zoom' starting Thursday 11 April at 7.30pm. For more information and how to register please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Coffee & Cake in the Parish Rooms every Thursday after the 10am Mass at St Osmund. Do come along.

Art and Craft Group are meeting each Monday after the 10am Mass at St Osmund's in the Parish Rooms. All are welcome whether you have painted, drawn or crafted before. For information contact Oltea on 07597 453989.

Parish Rosary Group meets to pray the Rosary together via Zoom on each Wednesday at 2.30pm. Please contact Josephine on 01722 328410 for information. Everyone is welcome to join.

EXCITING NEWS: OUR PARISH CENTRE READY TO OPEN!

We're thrilled to announce that our Parish Centre, located at the end of Exeter St., has undergone a refurbishment and is all set to open immediately after Easter. Thanks to the renovation, the Centre has been nicely decorated and cleaned and boasts high standards for the enjoyment of our Parish community.

We've got an exciting lineup of activities already planned and will soon have a calendar available for everyone to peruse. The opening of the centre presents a fantastic opportunity for us to come together and make the most of this versatile space, with our community's needs in mind.

If you have any ideas or activities you'd like to arrange in the Centre, we'd love to hear from you!

Additionally, as we prepare for the opening, we need a few items to help us get started:

- Good quality mugs and plates
- Quality cutlery
- Working vacuum cleaners or similar
- Cleaning supplies like washing up liquid, cleaning agents, and disinfectant

For any enquiries or to arrange a tour of the Centre, please contact Deacon Steve. We can't wait to welcome you to our Parish Centre!

Chrism Mass in Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday 27 March. The coach (fully booked) will be departing St Osmund's Church at 7.20am, then leaves St Gregory's at 07.35am with a pick up at Amesbury library at 07.55am. Mass is at 11am, the coach should depart therefore before 2pm to arrive back in Salisbury by 4pm.

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

Choir for Easter Triduum in St Osmund's the next rehearsal with Fr Joseph is Tuesday 19 March followed by Tuesday 26 March in the Parish Rooms both at 6pm. Everyone is welcome, not too late to join in.

Easter Flowers In honour of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Churches need to be adorned with beautiful flowers, please do consider making a contribution. Donations can be placed in the normal collection basket at any Mass in a envelope marked 'Easter Flowers'. Alternatively, you can make a direct bank transfer - please use FLOWERS EASTER as the Reference and call the Parish Office if you need account details.

First Holy Communion 2024 The session planned for tomorrow has been CANCELLED, the next session will now be Saturday 20 April at 2pm in St Gregory's Church. Further information and the programme schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Confirmation 2024 - The next session is on Palm Sunday 24 March after the 11am Mass in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. Further information and the programme schedule is on our website: [click here](#).

Baptism Preparation. The next course is at St Gregory starting 5 May. If you plan to attend, please contact the Parish Office. To register for a Baptism please click the Registration button on our homepage or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-2 Lent Week 5 and Psalter 4

Saturday 16 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Recovery of Heather Prescott

PLEASE NOTE - NO CONFESSIONS TODAY

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS People of the Parish

SUNDAY 17 March

09:00 St Gregory MASS Annamma Chacko RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS Andrew Osmund RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS John Stone RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS John & Margaret Stone RIP

Monday 18 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intention

Tuesday 19 March **SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

10:00 St Osmund MASS Simon Thornton RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 20 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS Michael Wykeham RIP

No Ordinariate Mass this week

19:00 Christ The King Deanery Penitential Service

Thursday 21 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Stefanie Hawtin RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 22 March

10:00 St Gregory MASS James McHugh Boyce RIP

18:20 St Osmund Stations of the Cross

19:00 St Osmund MASS Doris Phelan RIP

Saturday 23 March

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mini Francis RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Simon Elsom RIP

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis Intention for March -

For the new martyrs:

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm [Click here](#).

CLIFTON DIOCESE - We pray for the parishes of St John the Baptist (Trowbridge) and St Bernadette (Westbury).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Anita Pheby, Michael Lennard, Stefanie Hawtin, Andrew Osmond and Bernadette Gallagher 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.

Advance Notice:

Michael Lennard's Requiem Mass is on Tuesday 2 April 10am at St Osmund. **All welcome**

Anita Pheby's Requiem Mass is on Wednesday 3 April 12noon at Holy Redeemer **All welcome**

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Year A Readings - Lent Week 5

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalms 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Romans 8:8-11

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; who ever believes in me will never die.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

John 11:1-45

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

St Osmund: On the first Saturday of the month 9am to 12 noon, other Saturdays after the 10am Mass and by prior appointment with our priests.

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 Sept 2024, please use our online form to join our 2025 programme. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who will be in Year 9 or above from Sept 2024, 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@cliftondiocese.com

THE THIRD SCRUTINY FOR THE ELECT OF OUR PARISH

For this the Third Scrutiny the theme is 'The Raising of Lazarus' which emphasizes Jesus as 'The Resurrection and the Life'. We hear in the Gospel of the raising to life of Lazarus, Jesus in his obedience to his Father has the authority to give life to whom he will.

The Elect will be presented for the third scrutiny this Sunday at the 9am Mass at St Osmund.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ELECT OF OUR PARISH

André Pereira & Lawrence Hendry

LENTEN & EASTER SERVICES

Penitential Service Wednesday 20 March 7pm at Christ the King, Amesbury (with Bishop Declan)

For those attending please allow extra time to travel as there are planned roadworks.

Stations of the Cross Every Friday during Lent 6.20pm at St Osmund until 22 March.

HOLY THURSDAY 28 MARCH

Morning Prayer	10am	St Osmund
Mass of the Lord's Supper:	6.30pm	St Gregory
	8pm	St Osmund

GOOD FRIDAY 29 MARCH

Morning Prayer	10am	St Osmund
Children's Stations of the Cross	10am	St Osmund (Parish Rooms)
Stations of the Cross	10am	St Gregory
The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ	3pm	St Gregory & St Osmund
Walk of Witness	11am	Starting at Salisbury Cathedral (Organised by The Parish of St Osmund)

HOLY SATURDAY 30 MARCH

Morning Prayer	10am	St Osmund
Easter Vigil	8pm	St Gregory
Easter Vigil	9pm	St Osmund

EASTER SUNDAY 31 MARCH

Masses on Easter Sunday will be held at our normal Sunday Mass times and locations.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt following each of the 9am Masses.

For more information on the above and a narration by Canon Christopher Whitehead who talks us through Holy Week and Easter please click on the 'Holy Week & Easter Services' button on our homepage or [click here](#).

MORE FOR LENT

Clifton Diocese Lenten Reflections 'Journeying Through the Desert'. For the 5th Sunday in Lent, Cath McCarthy reflects that we need to find a quiet place in our lives to feel God's presence. The videos are on our ['Lent'](#) page.

Alabaré Lenten Reflections on the Passion are being held on Tuesdays during Lent at Riverside House, 2 Watt Rd SP2 7UD. The latest 'The Passion Of Our Lord Jesus Christ As Depicted By The Authorities' - by Deacon Steve Godwin is now on our [Lent](#) page.

For all our Lent resources please visit our Lent page, click on the 'Lent' button on our homepage or [click here](#).