

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

ORDINARY TIME WEEK 23(B)

From Father Anthony

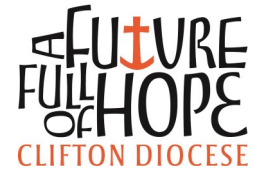
I felt tired and irritably overwhelmed by all the *process* that clogs up the church and society... and took myself off to Old Sarum. I looked down over a patchwork of mustard yellow and green stretching away toward Boscombe and Amesbury. The sky was clear with a gentle breeze. I relaxed and watched the *jumps plane* lumber off the strip and gain altitude. It droned as it climbed and circled overhead. Then, the engine note softened: little specks fell from it, descending at a frightening rate! My heart was in my mouth until one after the other blue chutes opened and with great skill twisted and turned onto the drop zone.

Ephphatha 'be opened'. How often is there a sense of falling headlong into the world; day after day after day; bombarded by the noisy demands, advertising, news, politics; in short, the whole social *paraphernalia* that informs what we listen to and influences what we say: that leaves us deaf to the Word (*Mind*) of God and dumb in the Voice of the Spirit which are natural for us as spiritual beings! No wonder there is tension in our lives.

Only Jesus can stop this headlong fall by opening up our spiritual ears and loosening our spiritual tongue. And He will do it if we let Him. Too often we pay Jesus lip service or treat Him as a concept, an idea or a sort of mystical Disney character from a spurious past. Perhaps that's how the world silences Him and the Truth!

Our spiritual journey is about remembering and embracing Jesus as a Living Person; a Person who is accessible to us in Spirit; whom we can meet and experience. He is the Second Person of the Trinity, God Made Man, our Brother; in whom and by whom the whole of Creation comes about and by whom it is sustained, *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. (Jn1:3-4).*

If we allow Him to be God in our lives; if we hand over everything to Him and get out of the way of ourselves: He will *take us off by Himself*, in spirit, and open for us the wonders of our Being in Him; *our ears will hear His Word and our Mouths proclaim His faith (Baptism Rite).*



PASTORAL TEAM

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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>
"Registration/update"

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Over time artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be worn as jewellery. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority - including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. For the story of this feast click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Adoremus In conjunction with the National Eucharistic Congress next Saturday, the Bishop's Conference of England & Wales have invited parishes to join in focussing on the Eucharist with renewed and deepened devotion on Sunday 15 September. On this day, there will be Exposition/Adoration in St Osmund's Church from 3pm culminating in Benediction at 5.30pm. For more click on the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Please note that Mass on Saturday 7 September at 10am will be a Memorial Mass for Hansel Antony D'Cruz who died suddenly this week and whose body is being repatriated to India. All welcome.

SPUC Petition calling for an end to the two-child benefit cap - cards will be available after Masses this weekend for those who wish to sign one. A major abortion provider has identified that the cap is a factor in many women's decision to abort their child. Signed cards can be handed to our SPUC representatives who will send them on to headquarters.

SPUC Talk. Katherine Hampton from SPUC will be giving a talk about their work on Pro Life issues from conception to natural death. It is being held in St Gregory's Hall on Wednesday 18 September at 7pm followed by a Q&A session until 9pm. Tea & biscuits will be available before the meeting from 6.30pm.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 15 September formerly known as Home Mission Sunday to support the work of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales in their work of encounter, evangelisation and liturgy. There will be a retiring collection after Masses next weekend (14 & 15 Sept). See 'Top News' on our website or [click here](#).

Justice & Peace Group - 7.30pm on Monday 9 September at the Parish Centre. Topics to be discussed are Recycling and Red Wednesday (Persecuted Christians). All welcome.

Parish Quiz Saturday 14 September. In in St Gregory's Hall after the 6pm Mass. Teams of six are welcome (we will also form ad hoc teams on the night so please come along to meet new people). Tea and coffee will be available but please bring your own food and drinks either for yourselves or for sharing.

My Generation will be meeting next on Wednesday 18 September 2024 for various games at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall. Contact Chris on 01722 321109.

Art and Craft Group meet each Monday after the 10am Mass at St Osmund's in the Parish Rooms. All are welcome. Contact Oltea on 07597 453989.

Coffee and Cake follows the 10am Mass every Thursday morning. Come and enjoy friendly company in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. There is no charge but we welcome a small donation for our chosen charities.

Parish Rosary Group meets to pray together via Zoom each Wednesday at 2.30pm. Please contact Alison on 01722 741681 for information. Everyone is welcome to join.

Hope & Friendship Group The group is for anyone experiencing grief or loss, even from a while ago. A friendly hour or so among people who will listen with care and encouragement. Monday mornings 10.45 - Midday in the Parish Centre. Any questions? Call John Detain 01722 415588.



YOUTH MINISTRY - A NEW ERA!

Starting this week, as a parish we are placing renewed emphasis on the young people in our parish. It is some years since we have had a thriving youth scene and the work of building up a vibrant and faithful youth community in our parish begins **TODAY**. How can you get involved? **Pray**... please pray for the success of all our new initiatives. **Participate**... encourage your young person to join one of our groups! Young at heart but not actually young? Perhaps you could help? Regularly or occasionally - come to our training day on 21 September (see below), **Publicise**...tell your friends, your children's friends, your family all about what's going on.

NEW Youth Group

Fr Joseph extends a very warm invitation to anyone in Years 8 to 11 who'd like to meet up, relax, play games, chat about faith, ask questions, and pray. Every Wednesday night, 6.30 to 8pm (during term time) in St Osmund's Parish Rooms (hall by the church). First session on Wed 18 September. See you there! All the dates can be found by clicking on 'Youth Group' on our homepage or [click here](#).

Confirmation 2025 If you have a child that is in Year 9 or above who may be interested in finding out more about this programme, **there is a mandatory pre-Enrolment meeting for Parents & Candidates on Tuesday 8 October at 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms**. For more information and dates click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#). If you are registered with the parish and have a child in Year 9 you will also be receiving an email about this. Not registered? Do it now! [Click here](#).

Family of Faith Starting in October, we will be launching a new 'Family of Faith' community, which will be open to families with children in Years 2 to 5. This will include, but not be limited to, those preparing to make their **First Holy Communion**. Meeting on Sunday mornings, after the 9am Masses, at our Parish Centre on Exeter Street. There will be a time of prayer, followed by separate activities for children, and input and discussion for parents, finishing at 12 noon. Please register your interest by clicking on 'Family of Faith' on our homepage or [click here](#). More resources will be added to this web page as they become available.

Family of Faith - Volunteers' Session - Many thanks to those who have offered to help us run our new Family of Faith programme on Sunday mornings, and Youth Group on Wednesday evenings... and to those who intend to but have not yet come forward! Please make every effort to attend the training session with Georgia on Saturday 21 September, starting with 10am Mass at St Osmund's, and continuing in the Parish Centre until 4pm. All welcome.

YOUTH Pilgrim Walk to Shaftesbury Abbey - All teenagers. Fr Joseph is leading a pilgrimage walk between Wardour Castle and Shaftesbury Abbey, on Sunday 6 October. It's about 8 miles easy going along an ancient pilgrim way - those who don't perish by the wayside will get a pilgrim's stamp from the Abbey (and maybe an ice cream, and definitely God's grace!). Depending on numbers, we can arrange transport following our 9am Masses in Salisbury to the departure point. To register please visit <https://forms.office.com/e/cbEtXV1r5a>

A Man for All Seasons In January, the Theatre Royal in Bath is hosting a production of A Man for All Seasons, a wonderful play about the life and martyrdom of St Thomas More. Fr Joseph would love to take a group from the parish, so we have reserved some tickets for the 2.30pm matinée performance on Saturday 18th January 2025. If possible, Fr Joseph would love to give some of our young people the chance to go and have that experience. So please consider coming yourself, but please also consider whether you could sponsor a young person's ticket. Tickets are at the discounted price of £35 (exc. travel to Bath, which we will arrange separately). Please contact the office in the usual way. Tickets will be first come, first served; secured on payment.

Journey in Faith returns this month. These sessions are for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics. We will meet on a Sunday morning to learn about what it is Christians believe, why they believe it, and explore what it means for our own lives.

This programme can lead to becoming a confirmed Catholic through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, should you choose to do so and when you feel ready. For more click on 'Journey in Faith' on our homepage or [click here](#).

The first session in the new series is on Sunday 15 September at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Please contact Dave Blake via the Parish Office office@salisburycatholics.org if you would like to find out more or if you are interested in joining.

Bible Timeline Talks Save the dates! This promises to be a really fascinating series of 8 talks on Wednesday nights, beginning on 9 October, at 7pm in the Parish Centre. These talks give an overview of the whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, and to see how our favourite characters and stories fit together in the overall narrative. This will be a combination of talks, and discussions in small groups and will be accessible and interesting. Hopefully, they will also become a way of opening up a deeper relationship with God through His Word, especially as we prepare to adopt the new translation of the Lectionary (readings at Mass) from this Advent. For more click on the 'The Bible Timeline' button on the homepage or [click here](#).

Radiant A new group for women looking to deepen their prayer life, build supportive friendships and grow in faith. A set of monthly get-togethers will start on Friday 13 September. Join us for Mass at 7pm (St Osmund) followed by food, conversation and faith sharing till 9.30pm in the comfortable setting of the Parish Centre. For more information contact Xanthe on 07904 589360 or click on 'Radiant' on our homepage or [click here](#).

Parish Prayer & Praise (Alabaré) has returned on Tuesdays at 7.30pm in our Parish Centre excluding the last Tuesday in the month when you are invited to the monthly 'Evening Supper' (see below). All are welcome.

Evening Supper on the last Tuesday of each month. The Alabaré Community host a supper for parishioners. All are most welcome but please contact Deacons John Proctor or Steve Godwin to register so that we know the numbers to cater for. There is no charge. The next supper is Tuesday 24 September in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

First Friday Talks begin tonight Friday 6 September after the 7pm Mass in the Parish Centre with the first given by Rev Rob Taylor on 'Ministry of Love'. All are welcome but if you cannot attend, each talk is recorded and available on our website over the weekend. Please click on 'First Friday Talks' on our homepage or [click here](#).

Wedding of Carla Rouse & Ian Jacobs to which we are all invited is tomorrow Saturday 7 September 1pm at St Gregory. Carla is the granddaughter of Ken & Janet Skutt.

Baptism Preparation Course The next course is at St Gregory starting on 6 October (and then 13 & 20) with 9am Mass followed by a meeting in the sacristy. 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](#). All the course dates can be found by clicking on 'Baptism' on our homepage or [click here](#).

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year B-2 Ordinary Time Week 23 Psalter 3

Saturday 7 September

10:00 St Osmund Memorial MASS Hansel Anthony D'Cruz RIP

13:00 St Gregory Wedding of Carla Rouse & Ian Jacobs

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Ross Burns RIP

SUNDAY 8 September

09:00 St Gregory MASS George Devassy RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS God's blessing to
Mitch Chinedum

11:00 St Osmund MASS Gilbert Miller RIP

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 9 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS David Kennedy RIP

Tuesday 10 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 11 September

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Mary Fleming

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

Thursday 12 September

10:00 St Osmund MASS Carol Carthy RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 13 September Saint John Chrysostom

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Tita Maruf

19:00 St Osmund MASS Ross Burns RIP

SATURDAY 14 September THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

10:00 St Osmund MASS For Charles & Marie Yamatay

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

18:00 St Gregory MASS Frank Farley RIP

RECONCILIATION

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

St Osmund: On the first Saturday of the month from 9am to 12
noon, and on other Saturdays after the 10am Mass

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Pope Francis Intention for September

For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live- [Click here](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE We pray for the parishes of St Gerard Majella (Knowle) and Christ the King (Knowle West).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

John (Sean) Coady, Ruby Spokes, Hansel Antony D'Cruz, Ross Burns, Dr Graham Heeley, Kay Flood, Maire Anne D'Alton, Dennis Hardiman & Barry Shrimpton 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 35:4-7

Psalms 145:7-10

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

James 2:1-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.**

Alleluia!

Mark 7:31-37

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 is coming to Mass regularly, for whom preparation for First Communion may be appropriate, please use our online form to register your interest. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who in secondary school from Sept 2024, please use our online form to register your interest in our youth faith formation. [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 Desiree for more details:
office@salisburycatholics.org