

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

From Father Anthony

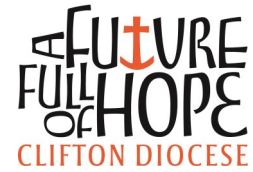
The day began beautifully with birdsong and silence. The rising sun cast a pink veil across an early morning, opalescent sky. Jets sighed into the distance leaving a crisscross of red pencil lines. As I watched, clouds gathered in the east, heavy and bluish; there was an expectation of snow! The Gunslinger seemed to agree and pierced the air with a beautiful song. What we got was rain... lots of it. So much for expectations!

The people were filled with expectation. With hope comes expectation. What is it we hope for? Most of us hope to be saved... now: to be deeply fulfilled, without any sense of error: to be complete, without too much or too little. This hope leads to a deep longing or expectation. And yet, worldly experience often leads us to conclude that hopes and expectations often remain unfulfilled dreams; or, if fulfilled, leave us with a sense that, there must be something more.

If so, it might inspire us to ask what life is really about. For the people of Scripture, it was ultimately about the Messiah. Nothing has changed! Jesus, God made Man, is the fulfilment of all hope and expectation. To be fulfilled is to live freely surrendered and present to and in Him, through whom, you and I, and the whole universe, came to be. Everything else is transitory and ultimately unfulfilling. Only God is whole and complete and Jesus is the human and earthly expression of God; therefore, only He will do.

Of course, a large part of the 'reasonable' world will laugh their heads off at this. *Mumbo Jumbo, fairy stories, they will say... get into the real world!* Which reveals how far we have separated from our spiritual reality and heritage: swallowed up by materialism, rationalism and egoism! Nevertheless, the Scriptures (*the Word of God*) reveal that everything is fulfilled in Jesus. He is our only realistic hope and expectation. Practically, only He can fulfil our temporal and spiritual needs if they are for our eternal good.

If our hopes and expectations remain unfulfilled it might be we are not fully surrendered to Jesus (*Baptised into His Being*). Just as we were dipped (*baptised*) in water, so, we must be dipped spiritually in His Being! We must part the clouds of our own materialism and self-idolisation and listen to the voice of the Father revealing His Son, Jesus to us.



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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](#)



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. For more on this feast with a video reflection, click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

WELCOME BISHOP BOSCO!

Bishop Bosco is coming to Salisbury this weekend (12 January) and will celebrate the 9am & 11am Masses in St Osmund's Church. He will also be visiting our 'Family of Faith' session between the Masses and so we may need the overflow into the Parish Rooms - please come early so that our stewards can get as many people as possible into seats in the church without disrupting the beginning of Mass. Anyone willing to assist with a speedy re-arrangement of chairs/tables to allow for after-9am Mass coffee would be much appreciated. Many thanks.

Epiphany Chalk - A centuries old Catholic tradition. The chalk mentioned last weekend has now arrived and has been blessed by Fr Joseph. Families can take a piece home and use it to bless their homes. The chalk is used to write an inscription over the front door, to invoke God's blessing and protection on all who enter the house. You can pick up a piece along with a prayer slip from the porch of both Churches after Mass.

Rosary in Salisbury Cathedral - The Rosary is prayed by Catholics and Anglicans in Salisbury Cathedral on the third Friday of each month at 12 o'clock. The next meeting will be on Friday 17 January. If you would like to join us we meet in the cathedral Refectory 1130-1150 before going into the Cathedral.

SCORE - There will be a retiring collection for SCORE overseas projects next weekend 18/19 January

The Feast of Candlemas (2 Feb) commemorates the child Jesus being presented in the Temple when He was 40 days old. This year, 2 February falls on a Sunday, and we will keep the tradition of blessing candles on this day. If you have any candles which you use at home for prayer, you will be very welcome to bring them along with you to Sunday Mass (in 3 weeks' time), to be blessed. It is also the traditional date for taking down the crib, and any other remaining Christmas decorations!

A retiring collection for SPUC's White Flower Appeal will take place on 1/2 February. This year's Appeal Post Cards call on the Government to adhere to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Please give generously. Cards may be completed and handed in at the back of the Church or posted by yourselves.

Salisbury Foodbank - The Parish of St Osmund donated over 1000 kg of food to the Foodbank in 2024. A big thank you to all our parishioners from both of our churches. Keep up the good work.

Chrism Mass in Clifton Cathedral on Wednesday 16 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 Church at 7.20am, then leaving St Gregory 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 complete the sign up sheet in the porch of each church or contact the office office@salisburycatholics.org.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Family of Faith The first gathering of this the New Year is this Sunday 12 January beginning at our morning 9am Masses continuing afterwards at our Parish Centre. An email has been sent to all the parents by Fr Joseph reminding them of this Sunday's session. If you missed it, a copy can be found by clicking on the 'Family of Faith' button on our homepage or [click here](#). **Please bring your Family of Faith books to this session.**

Youth Group - meet every Wednesday during term time at the **Parish Centre** at 6.30pm. **Do you want to join?** This is for anyone in Years 8-11. All the dates are on our website, just click on Youth Group on our home page or [click here](#).

Young(ish) Catholic Adults Group for those in their 20s, 30s, 40s...?! We will gather again on Tuesday 21 January at 8pm in person in the St O's Parish Rooms (Green door), or join us online via Zoom. Contact Fr Joseph for the link.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Confirmation 2025 An email has been sent this week to all the parents of the candidates reminding them that the first session is next Tuesday 14 January at 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. If you have not applied yet and have a child that is in Year 9 or above this is a 'final call': **please do it now and make sure they attend on Tuesday**. Please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage or [click here](#) for how to register and more information.

Journey in Faith Our ongoing programme for adults who are interested in Christianity, but who are not confirmed Catholics. We 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. The next session is on Sunday 19 January at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Contact Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@clifftondiocese.com if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

Baptism Preparation Course - The next course is at St Osmund starting 9 February 2025. To request Baptism for your child, click the Registration button on our homepage or [click here](#).

ENCOUNTER - PARISH LENTEN RETREAT 3RD - 6TH OF APRIL 2025

Following the wonderful and highly successful retreats in previous years, we will be returning to the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell near Godalming. This year's theme is Encounter. We will be looking at how even the smallest encounter with Jesus can change the course of a life. We would love to encourage those of you who have never made a retreat before to come and experience how the Lord always blesses us when we intentionally give him the time and space. There will be 25-30 places available. The cost per person is about £250-£300, but please don't let cost prevent you from coming along, we are able to offer some support to those who need it to make this possible. Please contact the Parish Office to book or Dave Blake salisbury.journeyinfaith@clifftondiocese.com for more information.

If you cannot go, but would like to contribute to the costs to enable someone else to go who otherwise would not be able to afford it, why not make this part of your Lenten almsgiving? Contact the Parish Office for more information - all contributions, large or small will be gratefully received.

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Ordinary Time Week 1
Proper of the Feast and Weekday Psalter12

Saturday 11 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Robson RIP

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Osmund Polish MASS

18:00 St Gregory MASS Alistair Rimmer RIP

SUNDAY 12 JANUARY THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

09:00 St Gregory MASS Paul Gillen RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

11:00 St Osmund MASS For the deceased members of
the Parish in the last 12 months

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS Mary Rattigan RIP

Monday 13 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Frank Farley RIP

Tuesday 14 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intentions

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Wednesday 15 January

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thomas Grant RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate Mass

Thursday 16 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving for Joey & Rosalina

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

18:30 Downton MASS Doris Phelan RIP

Friday 17 January Saint Anthony

10:00 St Gregory MASS Bryan Wilson RIP

18:00 St Osmund MASS Marie Therese Farley RIP

Saturday 18 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Frances Morris in sickness

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS In Thanksgiving

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 JANUARY

For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected. [Click here.](#)

CLIFTON DIOCESE

We pray this week for the parish of St Thomas of Canterbury (Fairford with Cricklade).

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sylvia Weston, David Humphries, Florindo Carpenito, James Herlihy and Andrée Spark 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.

Psalm Response

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

My God, how great you are!

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! He who is mightier than I is coming.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Alleluia!

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 in our Family of Faith programme. [Click here](#)

CONFIRMATION If you have a child who is in Year 9 or above from Sept 2024, please use our online form to apply to join our 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 Désirée for more details: office@salisburycatholics.org