

PARISH OF ST OSMUND

ST GREGORY + ST OSMUND

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

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

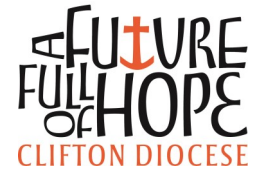
From Father Anthony

I threaded my way along the A36 from Warminster back to Salisbury. It was Christmas day morning: drab, cold, with very fine rain. Thick clouds boiled and twisted above the undulating countryside. Then, away to my right the clouds parted and, for an extended moment, emitted a shaft of intense golden sunlight. It lit up a hillock which blazed a deep emerald green. It was unexpected, spectacular and heart lifting. I couldn't help thinking that the heavens were doing homage to the ground in memory of the Birth of Jesus. Or am I being fanciful?

They prostrated themselves and did him homage. With the Birth of Jesus, God makes Himself accessible to all of us by becoming one of us. God becomes part of His own creation! God and man now have *family resemblance*. He is a demanding God: demanding our love and care... as all babies do! Normally we relax in love; but even more so with a defenceless, vulnerable infant. In ordinary speak *we have to be on the lookout for them*, all the time; anticipating their wants and needs; trying to see the world from their perspective... a definition of selfless love (*Agape*). Parents know this... especially at three in the morning!

And yet, the unknown and unknowable God manifests in this Infant. In the Presence of this Child (*Jesus*), we are in the Presence of God. And being in the Presence of God the sensitive soul is awe struck and deeply moved to worship and do homage. Perhaps, in an increasingly secular, materialistic society we are becoming less reverent and worshipful. But, when we cease to be present to God we begin to worship and idolise ourselves; we become self-obsessed and self-preoccupied, which leads to the torment of seeking for what can never be found: and ultimately to a form of oblivion.

The gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh were diplomatic gifts of tribute acknowledging a rightful heir... much has been written about this. Practically, there are three gifts we can offer to Jesus as He manifests His Presence to us (*Epiphany*). Firstly, acknowledge Him and come into His Presence, like the Kings did. Secondly, love Him with affection: don't leave Him outside our life or our society. Thirdly, worship Him as God, above ourselves, others and any worldly power we have established. There is only one King, one Ruler, one God; all others are fake.



PASTORAL TEAM

Rev Anthony B Paris VF (Parish Priest)
01722 333581 or 07544 053785
anthony.paris@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Jonathan Creer (Pastor of Sarum
Ordinatee & Assistant Priest)
07724 896579
jonathan.creer@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Joseph Columba Meigh
(Assistant Priest)
01722 333581
joseph.meigh@cliftondiocese.com

Rev John Detain (Deacon)
01722 415588
john.detain@cliftondiocese.com

Rev Stephen Godwin (Deacon)
07583 254488
stephen.godwin@cliftondiocese.com

Rev John Proctor (Deacon)
07802 631968
john.proctor@cliftondiocese.com

Parish Office

Monday & Tuesday 0900 - 1600

Wednesday CLOSED

Thursday & Friday 0900 - 1600

01722 562703

Caroline Williams
caroline.williams@cliftondiocese.com

Désirée Coups
office@salisburycatholics.org

Tony Peters-Ennis
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

[Click Here](#)



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

In the Eastern Church the major feast is that of the Epiphany, which focuses on Matthew's story of the coming of the Wise men to honour Jesus with gifts. The heart of this feast lies in the revelation of Christ to the non-Jewish world represented by the Magi. It recognises the stages of God's showing himself to the world, first to the Jewish people and then, through the Jewish Jesus, to all people. Jesus is the light of the world and brings light to all who believe in him. For more click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Epiphany Chalk - The blessing of homes with Epiphany Chalk is a centuries old Catholic tradition. The chalk will be blessed by the priests at Mass this Sunday. Families can then 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. If you want to take home some blessed chalk, you can pick up a piece along with a prayer slip with instructions from the stewards at the back after each Mass.

BISHOP BOSCO TO VISIT NEXT SUNDAY

Bishop Bosco is coming to Salisbury next weekend (12 January) and will celebrate the 9am & 11am Masses in St Osmund's Church on that day. We are also hoping that he might pop into our 'Family of Faith' session between the Masses (tbc) and so we expect to need the overflow into the Parish Rooms - we encourage everyone to come early to the Mass of their choice. If you can assist with set up of the Parish Rooms and speedy re-arrangement to allow for after-9am Mass coffee, please contact the parish office. Many thanks.

Jubilee Year 2025 - Bishop Bosco formally opened the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope in the Diocese at the 11.15am Mass at Clifton Cathedral on 29 December. The full service can be viewed by clicking on image in the 'Top News' box or click on [Jubilee Year 2025](#) button on our home page. On the same page we also have the video of Pope Francis opening the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and officially inaugurating the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope on Christmas Eve.

Pope Francis Christmas Message and 'Urbi et Orbi' Blessing 25 December 2025 In his message Pope Francis emphasised how "the door of God's heart is always open" and called on us to return to the heart "that loves and forgives us" and lets us be reconciled to Him. For the full message & blessing in video and text please click on the image in the 'Top News' box or [click here](#).

Advent Talks The final talk (Friday 20 December) was given by Father Anthony on 'Heaven and Hell'. To watch the recording click on the 'Advent Talks' button on our homepage or [click here](#)

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Youth Group - meet again next Wednesday 8 January 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](#).

Family of Faith The first gathering in the New Year is next Sunday 12 January beginning with our morning 9am Masses continuing afterwards at our Parish Centre. Sessions take place *every other week* in term-time, finishing at 12 noon. [Click here](#) or on 'Family of Faith' on our homepage.

Young(ish) Catholic Adults Group for those in their 20s, 30s, 40s...?! We will gather again next Tuesday 7 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.

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 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.

SHARING OUR FAITH

Journey in Faith This is an 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 this Sunday 5 January at 10.30am at the Parish Centre. Contact Dave Blake via the Parish Office office@salisbury Catholics.org if you are interested in joining or [click here](#)

Confirmation 2025 - The first session in Term 1 is on Tuesday 14 January at 7pm in St Osmund's Parish Rooms. If you have a child that is in Year 9 or above and are interested in joining our preparation programme, please click on 'Confirmation' on our homepage 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](#).

REGULAR PARISH GATHERINGS RETURN DATES

Parish Prayer & Praise (Alabaré) - Tuesday 7 January at 7.30pm in our Parish Centre.

Radiant - Friday 31 January 7pm in our Parish Centre.

First Friday Talks - Friday 7 February after the evening Mass in our Parish Centre.

My Generation - Wednesday 15 January at 2pm in St Gregory's Church Hall.

Hope and Friendship Group - Monday 6 January at 10.45am at our Parish Centre.

Parish Rosary Group - Wednesday 8 January at 2.30pm.

Coffee & Cake after the Thursday 10am Mass restarted on 2 January and it was lovely to have you back!

Art and Craft Group - Monday 6 January after the 10am Mass at St Osmund's in the Parish Rooms.

Bridge Club which meets each Tuesday at 1pm in the Parish Rooms will reconvene on 7 January 2025

LITURGY THIS WEEK

Year C-1 Christmas Week 2
Proper of the Solemnity and Weekday Psalter 2

Saturday 4 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Thanksgiving for Abin & Family

First Mass of Sunday

18:00 St Gregory MASS Julia in sickness

SUNDAY 5 JANUARY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

09:00 St Gregory MASS Eric & Louisa Poulter & Pat RIP

09:00 St Osmund MASS George & Monica Pickford RIP

11:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intentions

12:30 St Osmund Ordinariate MASS

18:00 St Osmund MASS People of the Parish

Monday 6 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Personal Intentions

Tuesday 7 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Doris Phelan RIP

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 Benediction

Wednesday 8 January

10:00 St Gregory MASS Lyn Futchter RIP

18:00 St Osmund Ordinariate Mass

Thursday 9 January

10:00 St Osmund MASS Deceased members of the
Hughes & Moran Families

All Day Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

18:00 St Osmund Benediction

Friday 10 January

10:00 St Gregory MASS Thanksgiving - Tess & Johny

18:00 St Osmund MASS Josephine Kohlhofer RIP

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

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

Florindo Carpenito, James Herlihy, Andrée Spark, Fiona Ross and Veronica Fulton 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

**All nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you,
O Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star when it rose and
have come to worship the Lord. 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 Desiree for more details: office@salisbury Catholics.org