



The Parish of Our Lady & St John & Christ the King



Goring - on - Thames & Woodcote

Parish Priest: Mgr. Antony Conlon PhD HEL

Assistant Priest: Fr Jacob Lewis (Retired) Tel. 01635 578714

PARISH NEWSLETTER: 17/06/2018. ELEVENTH ORDINARY SUNDAY (B) Psalter Wk 3

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: 10/06/18 = £435.00 (Cash & Envs) Thank you to all who contribute by DD as well as envelopes & cash.

Sunday Mass times	6.00pm (Sat)	10.00am	11.30(Woodcote)
Readers : 16-17 June	M Wilkinson	Children	A Sims
23-24 June	L Ellis	H Nathanielsz/ C Cole	R Metcalf
Cleaning/Flowers next w/e	Group D (Goring)	T Mills (Woodcote)	////////////////////
Counters (next 3 weekends)	18/06 - Wm O'Connell	25/06 - D Godley	1/07 - C Quinton

PREAYRES REQUESTED FOR -Patricia Bursey, Anne-Marie Hupé, Rosemary Allen, Ray & Margaret Lynch, Lucia Leeson, Mary Hoban, Betty Browne, Jenny Logan, Elizabeth Leaver, Maurice & Eve Smithson & family.

DAY FOR LIFE - Special Collection this weekend. On the reverse side of this Newsletter is an editorial comment from the *Spectator* weekly magazine. It's worth reading as a comment from a source that does not claim to be religious; just concerned.

Congratulations & every Blessing to Campbell Scobie and his family. He was baptised in OL&SJ on Saturday 16th.

ANNIVERSARIES -Cardinal George Basil Hume (1991)

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND -The traditional annual personal gift of Catholics to the Pope

SAINTS THIS WEEK

Alban - 4th century saint who was the first known martyr for the faith in England. The city and abbey church were named after him.

Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591) His family were Dukes of Mantua in Italy and he gave up a life of luxury and ease to become a Jesuit. He died through nursing plague victims.

John Fisher (1469-1535) A friend and spiritual adviser to the grandmother of Henry VIII it did not save him when he refused to take the oath that the king imposed on every official in the land. He would have been a saint even he had not become a martyr.

Thomas More (1477-1535) His reputation for scholarship as well as his fidelity to the true faith has earned him worldwide fame. As well as believing in the politics of justice, he was uncompromising in his belief that heresy ruined society and created division was shared by many at the time. The law originally supported his view But when it changed few were willing to follow his lead.

CHURCH CLEANING - some more volunteers needed to lighten the load. Each team cleans for around an hour every 5 weeks. Contact Frances MacIntosh (01491 871162)

QUALITY HIGH-FI MUSIC UNIT is available. The owner would just like a donation to the church to be made in exchange for it.

YEAR FOR PRIESTS 2018-2019
From June 8th until the following June there will be a year of prayer and reflection on the priesthood in dioceses throughout England & Wales. The special prayer cards are available on the table in church.

On Sunday we shall have the last **Children's Masses** until the autumn. Thank you to all the boys and girls who continue to be involved in this way and thank you parents for encouraging them and allowing them to do so. Obviously, we still look forward to seeing you when you are not away, during the holiday months. Likewise, your participation is always welcome.

VESPERS & BENEDICTION AT WOODCOTE THIS SUNDAY

A guest choir from London will join us at Christ the King, this Sunday at 4.00pm to sing Latin Vespers (from which Evensong is a translation). Benediction will follow afterwards. If you have never been to a service like this and appreciate the best in church music and worship, try and make time to attend.

SERVICES AND MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Sat 16 June
11.00am - *Baptism of Campbell Scobie*
12 - *Confessions at CTK*
8.00pm - Parish
Sun 17 ELEVENTH ORDINARY SUNDAY
10.00am - *Children's Mass*
11.30am -
4.00pm - *Vespers & Benediction* (Woodcote)
Mon 18 - **Dedication of St Chad's Cathedral**
10.00am -
Tue 19 -
9.30am -
Wed 20 - St Alban
9.30am -
Thu 21 - St Aloysius Gonzaga
9.30am -

SUNDAY HYMNS
265
303
69
335

Fri 22 June - **SS John Fisher & Thomas More**

9.00am - **No Holy Hour Today**

10.00am-

Sat 23- Our Lady on Saturday

11.30am - *Baptism of Albert Harper*

6.00pm - Parish

Sun 24 - **NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

10.00am -

11.30am -

Sacrament of Penance - Sat from 11-11.30am and after 6.00pm Mass in OL&SJ.

CTK, Woodcote, 3rd Sat of the month from 12.00-12.30pm. Also on request, at either church.

Life matters

Predictably enough, there have been no calls this week for the Irish referendum on abortion to be re-run, no complaint from Ken Clarke about the ‘tyranny of the majority’, no moaning that the campaign had been in any way unfair. Neither should there have been. The Irish people have made a fair and democratic choice and the result should be respected.

Less respect seems to have been forthcoming, however, for the views of the Northern Irish on abortion. On the contrary, no sooner was the result from south of the border announced than the calls began for the government in Westminster to impose its will on Northern Ireland and liberalise the province’s abortion laws. Shadow attorney general Shami Chakrabarti, playing on Theresa May’s claim to be a feminist, suggested ‘the test of feminists is whether they stick up for all women’ and impose liberal abortion laws on the province. It was a remark which was ignorant as well as intolerant — far from ‘all women’ supporting abortion, polls which have broken down responses according to gender have tended to show that women generally have less favourable views towards liberal abortion policies than men do. A recent ComRes poll, for example, revealed that 60 per cent of the UK population support a reduction in the limit for abortion from 24 weeks to 20 weeks — broken down into 49 per cent of men and 70 per cent of women.

Sir Vince Cable, meanwhile, demanded that the government take advantage of the temporary lack of an assembly at Stormont, saying: ‘The position in Northern Ireland is now highly anomalous and I think probably action will now have to be taken.’ The same argument could be said about the different policies across the United Kingdom on fracking, drink-driving and on many other issues where the Scottish Parliament or Welsh or

Northern Irish assemblies have chosen to adopt different policies from those which apply in England. Anomalies are the inevitable and, indeed, intended result of devolution. If it’s done properly, laws are going to end up differing across the United Kingdom. Few campaigners objected when, in 2015, the government announced its intention to devolve abortion laws to the Scottish Parliament, even though it is likely to mean different laws applying in Edinburgh and in London.

Clare Murphy, a director of the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, declared that ‘While the government can say that abortion is a devolved issue, human rights are not.’ In doing so she showed a distinct lack of understanding about human rights and democ-

*Westminster is overdue
an abortion debate
of its own*

cracy. In 2015 a High Court ruling declared Ulster’s strict abortion laws to be in breach of the mother’s human rights in instances of rape and fatal foetal abnormalities — in other words where there is zero chance of the unborn child surviving. The judge did not, however, seek to overturn Northern Ireland’s laws — the ruling respected the right of the Northern Irish Assembly to decide the issue. It was a judgment which did what many campaigners seem disinclined to do: allow the democratic system to balance the human rights of mother and unborn child.

Many at Westminster will be quite happy to see the focus on abortion debate shifted to Belfast, as it allows them to put off the duty of considering the bioethical issues which medical advance is forcing upon them. The cases of Charlie Gard and Alfie Evans have revealed the passions which can be aroused over whether or not to subject sick children

to untested treatments which may be both painful for the child and ruinously expensive for the health service. But they have underlined even more just how inadequate the law is in this area. It is one thing to cut out the parents in cases where they have religious or other objections to potentially lifesaving treatment; quite another when the state steps in to rule that a child should be allowed to die when the parents believe they have identified a possible treatment. Important ethical issues such as these should not be the realm of party managers and whips, but they certainly need to be discussed and the law kept abreast with medical advance.

Westminster is overdue an abortion debate of its own. The Irish referendum paves the way for abortions to be carried out in that country up to a gestation period of 12 weeks. In Britain, we have a limit of twice that, although in practice just 2 per cent of terminations take place at 20 weeks or later. The longer limit seems like the real anomaly. It is bizarre that in the same hospital healthy foetuses of 24 weeks may be terminated, while elsewhere emergency doctors work around the clock to save a premature child of the same age. (Most born at this stage, the so-called micro preemies, now survive.) With the honourable exception of Jeremy Hunt, who has publicly expressed his wish to reduce Britain’s abortion limit to 12 weeks — when nine out of ten terminations take place — no one in government seems prepared to speak out.

The result of the Irish referendum is for some a cause of rejoicing — a triumph of light over darkness. For others it is the other way round. In reality, bioethical issues — on abortion and other things — occupy a vast shady area in between. Neither the Irish referendum nor the campaign to take the battle for abortion rights to Northern Ireland go far towards resolving the ethical conundrums.