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The Catholic Parish of Our Lady & St John, Goring-on-Thames
& Christ the King, Woodcote

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SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2022

SUNDAY IV OF LENT (*Lætare*)

<i>The plainchant for the opening words of today's Mass: "Rejoice, Jerusalem"</i>		Goring	Sat 6pm	Sandra Majka RIP (JA)
Monday 28	Feria	Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Tuesday 29	Feria	Goring	10.00am	Private intention (FrKM)
Wednesday 30	Feria	Woodcote	11.30am	Private intention (FrJL)
Thursday 31	Feria	Mapledurham House	6.00pm	Eyston family intentions
Friday 1	Feria	Goring	7.30am	Requiem Mass for Dodo Peat (funeral day)
Saturday 2	Feria (St Francis of Paola)	Goring	6.00pm	David Payler RIP
Sunday 3	LENT V (PASSION SUNDAY I)	Goring	9.30am	For A's teachers
		Woodcote	12.00pm	Stations of the Cross
		Woodcote	12.00pm	Private intention (FrJL)
		Goring	10.00am	Mark Cannon RIP <i>Holy Hour from 9.00am</i>
		Goring	6.00pm	Stations of the Cross (FrJL)
		Goring	5.00pm	Confessions
		Goring	6.00pm	Lafferty family intentions
		Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
		Goring	10.00am	Private intention (FrJL)
		Woodcote	11.30am	Private intention (FrKM)
			11.00am	Baptisms (OPS)

The priests are always delighted to receive requests for Mass intentions. Please let us know about the ill, the housebound and those who need the Sacraments at home. The Rosary is prayed 15 minutes before the daily Mass. Mass is streamed on the parish page on Facebook. Thank you for your generosity to the Catholic Church in so many ways, not least financial.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

We pray today, as the Church has for many centuries, for mothers. We pray for our own mothers whether in this life or in the next and ask Our Lady to pray for them all.

EASTERN EUROPE

Thank you to everyone who joined the Pope and many millions of Christians of the world in the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in St Peter's Basilica last Friday. We will host the next Goring day of prayer for the situation at OLSJ on Tuesday week.

As last week, the message from the diocese about the many generous responses to the appeal for accommodation for refugees is overleaf. Father Hudson's Care is co-ordinating things with the Ukrainian communities in the diocese. There is also a Ukrainian community in Reading which is part of Portsmouth diocese. *Caritas Portsmouth's* response is almost identical and works with the same external agencies, particularly *Reset*.

LENT

Stations will be prayed on Wednesday and Friday. It was good to see a few friends for film night last Tuesday. Obviously Tuesday evenings are tricky. We will leave this Tuesday fallow and I will come up with an event for Tuesday week at 7.30pm. Perhaps next year the usual pattern of Lent groups will be back to normal.

MARGARET PEAT, RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret, Lady Peat, known to her friends as Dodo, who has died at the age of 100. She was a devoted parishioner here some years ago and was a gret friend and near contemporary of Norrie Tapsell. She will be buried on Monday with her late husband in Ashampstead. I will be leading the Commendation at the funeral service and saying Mass for her at 7.30am at which I know that a number of her family are hoping to be present. We extend our sympathy to Michael and to her whole family.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Sian, Archie and Lowrie Dallas on the arrival of Robbie a couple of weeks ago. We send them our prayers and our love..

REFRESHMENTS

Please stay if you can for a cup of coffee or tea and the opportunity to meet each other after the 10am Mass. I have put a form at the back of church to sign if you are able to help. The more the merrier!

THREE PILGRIMAGES

(1) to Walsingham. The diocesan pilgrimage has been reinstated after two years away for Saturday 14 May. Mass is at 1pm. Fr Hartley has invited us to join his pilgrims from Thame who will be leaving at 8am. See FrK.
(2) to Lourdes with the diocese of Birmingham, 29 May to 3 June. Details from Fr Kenneth.
(3) to Oberammergau with Goring Fine Arts, 8 to 20 Sep. Details from Rosie Mortimer.

CUDDLY TOYS

If your little one gets restive, there are some soft friends lurking in the Galilee who may help!

PLEASE PRAY ...

... among the sick for William, Margaret, Jeanie, Rosemary, Anne-Marie, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Gill, Joan, Lavinia, Lyall, Tony, Patricia, Kevin, Dora, Grazyna, John, Linda, Patsy, Annabelle, John, Emily, Rose, Ilene, Richard, Catherine, Patrick, Anne, Malcolm, Ida, Charlotte, Denis, Henry, Teresa, Peter, Paul, Charlie, Jemima, Eddie, Barry, George, Fr Patrick, Maryrita. *Please keep us updated.* Please pray too for three other parish friends who are ill.

... for those who have died, among them Margaret Peat and David Payler, and for Philip Turnstill, Doris Wright, Catherine Barr, Bridget Ledgerwood, Bernard Lyons (anniversaries)

... for our First Holy Communion children: Mollie, Flo, Cian, Josephine and Anthony. Put 12 June in your diary.

THE VOTIVE LAMPS

... burn during March for James and Teresa McAllister and family, the Brown family, for Peter Vlk and for Edward, Margaret and Jonathan Beckett.

Many people want to help those who are having to leave their home country of Ukraine, who will be offered refuge in this country until it is safe and possible to return.

The Archdiocese and Caritas Archdiocese of Birmingham have asked Father Hudson's Care to coordinate the many generous offers of help. This is so that we can put in place a welcome that will be so important to the individuals and families in this tragic situation. Always working with others, Father Hudson's has been welcoming asylum seekers, refugees and migrants for over 30 years.

Some of you will know of Brushstrokes, the Sanctuary, Fatima House and Sophia House and parish Community Sponsorship schemes. Those already working with asylum seekers, refugees and migrants from all round the world and most recently from Afghanistan will share their expertise and knowledge.

Father Hudson's will offer a diocese-wide approach, working closely with the existing Catholic Ukrainian communities based in Coventry and Wolverhampton to offer a coordinated response to any one forced to leave Ukraine due to the war.

Father Hudson's and the Ukrainian communities anticipate being able to be the organisations that can link offers of help to refugee Ukrainian individuals and families.

Please note if you have a connection with the Ukrainian communities based in Coventry or Wolverhampton please contact them directly, rather than Father Hudson's.

If you do not have a connection with these Ukrainian communities, please contact Father Hudson's using the contact details below.

Your help

We know that we will need:

Accommodation in people's own homes or homes that belong to individuals or to parishes/the Archdiocese.

If you wish to offer accommodation, please contact Father Hudson's on (01675) 434000 between the hours of 8.30 – 5.00pm Monday to Thursday, and 8.30 - 4.30pm on Friday.

Or, within or outside of these hours please email Maria Gallagher on mariagallagher@fatherhudsons.org.uk providing a phone number that you can be contacted on.

Or ring, text or WhatsApp 07966 935533 outside of these hours, please leave a voicemail and number if unanswered.

There are three important steps regarding accommodation:

(1) **Your offer** - Father Hudson's will be the point of contact for this.

(2) **Matching** - where the offer of accommodation is matched to a Ukrainian refugee family or individual. The national body, Caritas Social Action network, is recommending the use of an organisation called Reset, which has worked for a number of years supporting the Community Sponsorship scheme for refugees. Father Hudson's will assist you in contact with Reset. It is also possible as time goes on that Caritas organisations in Ukraine, Poland and other European countries will assist.

(3) **Support once a Ukrainian refugee individual or family is matched** - at the moment it is unclear to what extent Local Authorities and other agencies will be able to assist. Father Hudson's, from its experience, knows that this ongoing support matters greatly. As central government, local government and other agencies clarify the nature of this support we will keep you fully informed.

Language help - if you speak Ukrainian or Russian these skills will be of incredible value, even if you live a long way from where the individuals/families will live (phone/Zoom etc.) - contact as above.

Other skills - as time goes on, some or all families will value support with developing their English-language skills (Esol), and possibly professional help, such as counselling - contact as above.

A local parish community contact - whilst the host individual or family will do much to provide a welcome it is important that they are supported in this by their parish community and we are looking for one or more parish members to offer to be a point of contact. **We are not asking you to contact Father Hudson's or the Ukrainian communities yet**, only when we have a clearer idea of where those seeking refuge here will actually live. We do not want to raise expectations only to find that offers of help are not used because there is no Ukrainian refugee individual or family living nearby. Once we know, we will communicate further.

Please note regarding the donation of goods, neither Father Hudson's nor the Ukrainian community in Coventry have the facilities to manage the donation of goods. The Ukrainian community in Wolverhampton is involved to some extent in this and you may wish to contact them to see what goods they most need, if you have some links there. However, once families and individuals do arrive in this country they will undoubtedly need the donation of goods and it is hoped that parish communities where these individuals and families will be offered a temporary home will be able to support them in this way. Our parish communities have a great tradition in doing this. **Please share this message with parishioners** - it is also available on the Diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ukraine

I do not often shout at the radio but I caught a piece on Radio 4 about ten days ago which was incredibly frustrating in its ignorance. In something of a hatchet job on a religious order in France which prays the older form of the Church's liturgy, the reporter repeatedly talked about the priest "turning his back on the people." He obviously felt that Father had taken a conscious decision to be deliberately unfriendly towards his congregation. Interestingly, the reporter noticed that the congregation was large and predominantly young.

So why do churches traditionally face east eastward-facing position and priest and people face the same way? We need to remember that the Mass and all our worship is first and foremost about God and only subsequently about us. Of course we are involved and participate, and it is the richest thing that we can experience in life, but worship is not first and foremost about a human community. It would be bizarre if a teacher faced the board throughout a lesson but the Mass is not a lesson. We address God in our prayers before we greet him in each other. The Church's traditional arrangement towards the East means that priest and people together face the rising sun, one of the most primeval symbols of the Resurrection. We turn towards the Lord together. In a useful picture, the celebrant at Mass is like the tip of the arrow, **facing the same way as the people**, looking above and beyond even the altar crucifix. The priest could be accused of separating himself from the people by standing on the far side of a large slab of marble. Or we could talk of the priest "turning his back on the Tabernacle" just as easily. Obviously the Mass is the Mass is the Mass, hopefully celebrated reverently and devoutly whatever the setting. One should not become obsessive about things but the Radio 4 piece showed a lack of inquisitiveness. The Superior of the French community would have been delighted to explain!

A PARISH MEETING

Thank you to the few people who expressed an opinion. Saturday morning received no support so we will look for an evening soon after Easter and a time which is late enough to allow people to come after work and early enough not to interfere with supper. This will be an ideal use for the Galilee. Never again will we need to cram into the presbytery sitting room.

50 NEW KNEELERS

... make their Sunday debut at Woodcote this morning. Thank to the generous souls who have given a good percentage of them. They cost us something like £22 each which I think represents good value and they should last for decades. Would anyone like to donate a few more?!