



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

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SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY V OF THE YEAR (*Septuagesima*)

Monday 6 Ss. Paul Miki & companions
Tuesday 7 Feria
Wednesday 8 St Jerome Emilian
Thursday 9 *Feria*
Friday 10 St Scholastica
Saturday 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
Sunday 12 SUNDAY VI OF THE YEAR
(*Sexagesima*)

Goring	Sat 6pm	Margaret Baxendale & Catherine Jones RIP
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Sue Smyth RIP
Woodcote	11.30am	For Vocations
Goring	7.30am	Mark Cannon (anniv.)
Goring	6.00pm	Nigel Chaffey RIP
Goring	9.30am	Elizabeth Livingstone RIP
Woodcote	12.00pm	Richard Sainsbury (ill)
Goring	9.00am	<i>Holy Hour for Vocations</i>
Goring	10.00am	Helen Osborne RIP
Goring	2.00pm	<i>Holy Baptism</i> —Rollo Debiec
Goring	6.00pm	Daniel Barrett RIP <i>5.00pm Confessions</i>
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Vocations
Woodcote	11.30am	Simon Lee RIP

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 Mass. Mass is streamed on the Goring and Woodcote Catholic Parish page on Facebook. Thank you for your generosity to the Catholic Church in so many ways, not least financial.

CONCERT THIS FRIDAY

Our first musical and cultural event of the year takes place this Friday. PLEASE COME AND BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS!!!

It was striking last year that roughly half of the people who came to our events when the Galilee was inaugurated had never been over our threshold before. There is an opportunity here. If people come once for a concert they may come a second time for Mass.

In addition, we have our place in the wider community and it is so good to be able to offer something to the wider world.

This will be a wonderful evening of glorious baroque music with a Venetian themed reception in the Galilee afterwards. Tickets are a little more expensive as there are more London-based players involved. Lock-down was difficult for self-employed musicians so it is only right to be utterly professional.

David's voice is a golden instrument and it will be an utter treat. Let Venetian sunshine warm an Oxfordshire winter.

READERS AT MASS

6pm: Shinkwin family; 10am: Roberts family; 11.30am: Hart family.

REFRESHMENTS

Please do stay if you can after the 10am Mass for a cup of coffee and your fill of yummy biscuits and to meet your fellow parishioners too.

GORING ECUMENICAL LENT GROUP

After years when this has not been possible, it will meet again this Lent to contemplate prayer. Details from Dave Browne and in church. There will, of course, be our usual Lenten devotions in church. It is a question of "both/and" not "either/or."

HUGE THANKS ..

... to Dee and Richard at Reeds Art & Framing in the Arcade not only for the large picture of Our Lady & St John which arrived before Christmas but also for the two new pictures in the Galilee—a copy of Hugo van der Goes Calvary with our two patron saints and Philippe de Champaigne's Annunciation from the Wallace Collection.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22 February: Ash Wednesday. A day of fasting and abstinence.
3 March: CAFOD Family Fast.
9 April: Easter Day.
21 April: theatrical evening.
28 May: 125th anniversary of the first Mass at OLSJ.
4 June: visit of His Grace the Archbishop. First Holy Communion, and an anniversary parish party.
27 May-2 June Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

WHAT ARE THE "GESIMA" SUNDAYS?

These three Sundays leading up to Ash Wednesday for many centuries formed a little "pre-Lent" season and still do when we celebrated the older use. One writer has put it like this: it can teach us many valuable lessons: that Lent should not be begun abruptly or thoughtlessly but preceded by a period of adjustment; that uttering the sacred word "Alleluia" is a privilege which should not be taken for granted; that sin puts us in exile from our True Home; and that the Old Testament is perpetually relevant to the lives of Christians

PLEASE PRAY

... among the sick for William, Margaret, Jeanie, Rosemary, Anne-Marie, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Gill, Joan, Lavinia, Lyall, Tony, Kevin, John, Linda, Patsy, Annabelle, John, Emily, Rose, Ilene, Richard, Catherine, Patrick, Anne, Malcolm, Ida, Charlotte, Denis, Henry, Teresa, Peter, Paul, Jemima, Barry, Oliver, Crispin, Cordelia, Peter, Monica, John, Eva Maria, Tom, Charlie, Sophie, Paul, Jacob, Justin, Victoria, Maureen, Eva, Bob, Gail, Tony, Francis, Fr Jacob, Richard, Claire & 11 other friends.

... for the dead and in particular for Betsy Livingstone, Simon Lee, Nigel Chaffey, Howard Thorp, Florence Chippindale, Al Shattuck, Michael Baldwin and Brian Barrett;

... for those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Margaret Baxendale, Catherine Jones, Fr Eric Bindloss Smith, Bernadette Evelyn Tierney, Marcin Wierzkicki and Daniel Barrett.

VOTIVE LAMPS

... burn during February for Barbara and for the Brown family.

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM
DIOCESAN VOCATIONS OFFICE
Ask · Invite · Pray

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Heavenly Father,
we ask you to send labourers
into your harvest.

Inspire, in the hearts of your people,
vocations to the priesthood, diaconate
and religious life.

Bless our families with a spirit of generosity,
so that those whom you call
have the courage to give themselves
to your Church in faith.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



www.vocations.org.uk

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A MONTH OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The Vocations Office in Birmingham has re-structured our diocesan praying for Vocations. In previous years each parish was allotted a day for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Things are now organised on a Deanery basis and we in Oxford-South have been asked to make a special effort during February. As you may know, Luke Theobald from our neighbouring parish, St Michael's, Sonning Common, is at seminary in Rome at the moment and has written a series of short meditations on his sense of Vocation thus far. I am grateful to Luke for making this available. We will offer one of our Sunday Masses each week for Vocations and make it the intention for Holy Hour on Friday mornings.

“

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk of them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.” Deut 6:6-7

We each come to faith in different ways but for me looking back three things stand out. The first was being raised in a family where Mass attendance, family prayer and an openness to talking about God were part of everyday life. Through the witness to faith of my family, not only was God an essential part of life but in the lives of family the love and virtues of Christian living were evident.

Secondly, as child I began attending events and conferences in which I met other Catholics my own age as well as young adults who had a deep commitment to Jesus. This helped me understand that I was not alone in my belief. The support of Christian friends enabled me to grow in my knowledge and relationship with the alive and risen Jesus. Fostering this relationship is now at the heart of my life in the seminary by meeting Jesus daily in the scriptures, liturgy and personal prayer.

Finally, as I grew up, I realised that the love Jesus has for me and the Catholic Church became inseparable. In particular I am drawn to the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist. It is within the sacrament of reconciliation that I return time and again as the prodigal son into the loving arms of the Father, knowing that my sins are forgiven and through the Holy Spirit grace is given to help me to grow in virtue. The Eucharist is the high point of prayer as Jesus feeds me with his own body and blood. I find within the Eucharist the assurance I so often need of how intimate Jesus wants to be with me, shown by his desire to feed me with his own body and blood.

Next week I will summarise my vocation story.

Luke

