



St Cecilia pray for us

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

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SUNDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2021 CHRIST THE UNIVERSAL KING (*NEXT BEFORE ADVENT*)

		Goring (Latin)	8.00am Parish & people
		Goring	10.00am Private intention (Fr JL)
		Woodcote	11.30am <i>BENEDICTION</i> Michael O'Connell (ann.)
Monday 22	St Cecilia	Goring	7.30am David Bevan (ill)
Tuesday 23	St Columbanus	Goring	6.00pm Rose Metcalf
Wednesday 24	St Andrew Dung Lac & comps	Goring	9.30am Private intention (a parish family)
Thursday 25	St Catherine of Alexandria	Woodcote	12.00pm Faithful departed
Friday 26	Feria	Goring	9.00am <i>Holy Hour</i>
		Goring	10.00am Fr Arthur Sammons (anniv.)
Saturday 27	Our Lady on Saturday	Goring	5.00pm <i>Confessions; 1st Vespers of Sunday at 5.35pm</i>
		Goring	6.00pm Faithful departed
Sunday 28	ADVENT I	Goring (Latin)	8.00am Private intention (FrKM)
		Goring	10.00am Parish & people
		Woodcote	11.30am Parish & people (FrJL)
		Woodcote	4.00pm <i>VESPERS & BENEDICTION</i>
		Mapledurham House	6.00pm Eyston family

The priests are always delighted to receive requests for Mass intentions. Please let us know about the ill and housebound. The Rosary is prayed 15 minutes before the daily Mass. A daily Mass is streamed on the parish page on Facebook.

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

This week sees the last few Masses of November. We have offered each Mass for those in purgatory, sometimes in tandem with another intention. Thank you for your contributions and Mass intentions. There is no greater act of charity we have than to pray for those who have gone before us. If you would like a grave light they are always available for a suggested donation of £5.

THREE PLAQUES

... arrived last week. Do say a prayer for departed friends. Fr Tom and Norrie lie at rest far from here but it is right to remember them in this way. They gave so much for so many years to our parish life.

CHRIST THE KING

Today is the 52nd and final Sunday of the liturgical year when the Church comes to the end of her praying cycle in the gold and silver of celebration as she meditates on Jesus Christ, the eternal and universal king. This is, of course, the Feast of Title for our church in Woodcote. We will keep the Solemnity with Solemn Benediction at the end of the main Mass at 11.30am and with a little glass of something fizzy after Mass. Set your kitchen timer to allow for a few moments at the back of church before returning to your roast. Happy feast to one and all. After everything that we have missed at Woodcote this year and after so much hard work by so many people it is a wonderful reason for a party.

NEXT SUNDAY

... will be Advent Sunday. We will keep the penitential season with a few variations. The two sung Masses will begin with Asperges—the rite of sprinkling with Holy Water—in place of the Penitential Rite. Then we will re-start the singing of Vespers at 4pm for which we will use Christ the King as Fr Antony did in years gone by.

THE VOTIVE LAMPS

... burn during the month of November for Frances Shinkwin, for the Ashton and White families, for the Brown family and for Maeve Colbert. All four lamps are still available for December. Please ask if you would like to sponsor one in memory of someone or for a cause.

PLEASE PRAY ...

... among the sick for William, Margaret, Jeanie, Rosemary, Anne-Marie, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Gill, Joan, Lavinia, Lyall, Tony T, Patricia, Kevin, Dora, Tony C, Grazyna, John, Linda, Patsy, Annabelle, John B, Emily, Rose, Ivor, Ilene, Richard, Catherine, Patrick, Anne, Malcolm, Ida, Charlotte, Denis, Henry, Teresa, David, Gwen.

... for those who have died recently, among them Anne Thompson, Fra' Matthew Festing and Philippe Fraser.

... for those whose anniversaries fall this week, among them Michael O'Connell, Dorothy Watt, Charles James Crook, Betty-Ann Henderson, Fr Arthur Thomas Sammons, Marjorie Berkeley.

FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 7pm - **MUSIC FOR BRASS QUINTET** - THE PHILHARMONIC BRASS OF LONDON

www.galileegoring.org.uk for details and ticket bookings

This promises to be a wonderful evening of music-making of the highest standard from five of the leading brass players in the country.

A WORD FROM THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS

For the first time since the pandemic began, the bishops of England and Wales were able to meet face-to-face last week. They have sent a document about the centrality of Sunday Mass for our faith. The Sunday Obligation has not been restored in the old way as many thought likely but they have given some important pointers for us all to contemplate after so many pandemic months. Here is a small section of their letter:

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

Responding to the Gift

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.

IN GORING VILLAGE HALL TODAY

There is a Craft Fair in aid of Goring Primary School, in Goring village hall, 10-4pm. This is the school's first fundraiser for a while and much needed. Why not look in for a cup of tea or coffee and slice of home-made cake and a chance to do some Christmas shopping?

OBSERVING ADVENT

Advent has always been my favourite season of the Church's year and we will keep Christmas well if we keep Advent well. The Diocese has sent us copies of the well-known *Walk with me* booklets for daily meditation. Please take one. Unfortunately we will not be able to have an ecumenical study group this year. I very much hope that this will be back next year. I am working on an idea for the Christian Unity Octave in July. Why not make the daily Mass and Vespers and Benediction on a Sunday part of your December pattern? We will say 1st Vespers of Sunday before Rosary on Saturday nights.

MAPLEDURHAM MASS

Lady Anne and Mr Edward Eyston are very happy to see visitors at the monthly Mass.

SUNDAY COFFEE AFTER 10am MASS

Shall we start next week? Any volunteers?

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR 2021

I have been trying and trying to find an appropriate time and opportunity to hold an annual meeting for the parish. We have the perfect venue—and I am sure that the Galilee will be an improvement on the dining room of the Presbytery. Amongst other things, we still need to present the 2020 accounts in public. Please bear with me. I hope we can manage this before Christmas.

VOLUNTEERS FOR FRIDAY

We are in need of 6 volunteers to help with the recital on Friday: 2 on front of house (tickets and fire marshal duties), 2 in the Lane to help with any parking issues and 2 in the kitchen for interval refreshments. On the topic of parking, for the recital it is reserved in the first instance for people with mobility issues. If you can walk, please do, or use one of the village car parks.

ANY IDEAS FOR HOLY HOUR?

Friday's Holy Hour, which has been part of our praying pattern here for many, many years, seems to be proving difficult for more and more people. Numbers attending have been dropping off, even if the Friday Mass at 10am has had good numbers. Is there a better time in the week for Holy Hour? Do let me know what would be convenient.

ROSE BORDER

Huge and public thanks to Phil and Graham Sadler. They have just collected the last few roses to complete the border. We will then have a guide with links to the people in whose memory they have been given.

CHURCH BOOKSTALLS

These were early victims of the lockdown as we were not supposed to be handling things more than we could possibly avoid. There is a CTS one at Goring this morning with a new one coming for Woodcote as soon as the stock is in the warehouse. I hope you will agree that the CTS has done great things in recent years and produced some attractive and inspiring material.

ORGAN CONSOLE

My thanks to the parishioner who helped move the bulky and heavy console into the church last Thursday. Little by little I am mastering the mysteries of installing the computer software and connecting the speakers. Meanwhile, our neighbours at Dorchester are taking delivery of their new pipe organ from M. Aubertin in France tomorrow. This is very exciting and a wonderful achievement by Fr John and his parish.

1st HOLY COMMUNION

Next year we plan to revert to the pattern of celebrating this on Trinity Sunday, 12 June. Please see me with any names. I will also start thinking about Confirmation plus a refresher course.

CLEANING THE CHURCHES AND THE GALILEE

I am more grateful than I can say to the people who have taken on the business of cleaning the church at Goring during the lockdown when gathering together has been strongly discouraged. We have been scrubbed, hoovered and disinfected each week with the minimum of fuss. As things begin to drift back towards normal (I hope) we need to think about things. My hunch is that we would do well to combine a weekly commercial clean—particularly as we have formal standards to meet from SODC if we hire the Galilee out—with the congenial “mucking-in”, particularly before great festivals which fall roughly once each couple of months. What do you think? Woodcote is looking good, particularly considering the amount of dust and sawdust which has been generated. Thank you to everyone who has helped there. Again, a blitz in Advent with a sandwich lunch might be a convivial and useful thing.

LETTER TO FR CHRISTMAS

Our two churches, a bit like little children, have been wondering what Fr Christmas may be bringing. They don't want a new bicycle but they have been dreaming wistfully about a ream of photocopier paper at £4.95 or a new tea urn or some china and glass and cutlery. The Galilee has whispered the words “baby changing unit” in my ear. Watch this space.

GALILEE THOUGHTS

Last Tuesday's Deanery meeting and lunch was not only helpful and jolly but taught us various things. Sometimes one only learns by doing—on this occasion using the oven for the first time. Over the next couple of weeks a box of soft biblical-themed soft toys for little children will arrive and Fr Tom's Needs Box will finally re-emerge after its spring clean. Unfortunately the suppliers of the new chairs and the PA speakers have had supply problems. I have been chasing them this week. However, a third flooring engineer came this week to talk about the oak flooring. I have been promised completion by Christmas. Speaking of which ...

CHRISTMAS MASSES ETC.

Of course things may change but at the time of writing I am planning to offer the same pattern of services as last year. It may help you plan your Christmas if you think about this sooner rather than later:

23 December - Confessions at Woodcote at noon; Confessions at Goring at 6pm.

24 December - Mass at Goring at 5pm (carols); Mass at Woodcote at 8pm (carols.)

25 December - Mass at Goring at 7am (Latin), 8am, 10am (carols) & 6pm; Mass at Woodcote at 11.30am (carols.)