



St Andrew pray for us

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

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SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

		Goring (Latin)	8.00am David Bevan RIP
		Goring	10.00am Parish & people
		Woodcote	11.30am Private intention (Fr JL)
		Woodcote	4.00pm <i>Vespers & Benediction</i>
		Mapledurham House	6.00pm Eyston family
Monday 29	Feria	Goring	7.30am Faithful departed—a parish family
Tuesday 30	ST ANDREW	Goring	6.00pm Departed of the Lonsdale family
Wednesday 1	ST EDMUND CAMPION	Goring	9.30am Pauline Redington RIP
Thursday 2	Feria	Woodcote	12.00pm Caroline Tournilhac RIP
Friday 3	St Francis Xavier	Goring	9.00am <i>Holy Hour</i>
		Goring	10.00am Private intention
Saturday 4	St John Damascene	Goring	5.00pm <i>Confessions; 1st Vespers of Sunday at 5.35pm</i>
		Goring	6.00pm Private intention
Sunday 5	ADVENT II	Goring (Latin)	8.00am Garry Bennett (anniv.)
		Goring	10.00am Private intention (FrJL)
		Woodcote	11.30am Private intention (FrKM)
		Woodcote	4.00pm <i>Vespers & Benediction</i>

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. Thank you for your generosity to the Catholic Church in so many ways, not least financial. A warm welcome to you all.

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.

GWEN BRUCE, RIP

Please pray for the soul of Gwen Bruce who died last week in the Royal Berkshire Hospital after a very short illness. Gwen has not been able to come to Mass during the pandemic but she was a devoted parishioner, driving up from Whitchurch and helping the choir lead the singing for many years. We extend our sympathy to Ian, her husband, and to their whole family. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated in Goring on Friday 10 December at 2pm.

DAVID BEVAN, RIP

David Bevan died yesterday in Cumnor. It was my privilege to be with him to celebrate the sacraments for the final time a few days ago. A member of the famous Catholic musical dynasty, he taught music to the young at schools including Downside and Prior Park, played the organ at Westminster Cathedral in the 1970s and was the long-serving Director of Music at Holy Redeemer, Chelsea. We send his large family our sympathy. Many of them are involved in the life of the parish at Dorchester.

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. During December lamps burn for Tina Rapinet, for Garry Bennett and for the Moffett family. Please ask if you would like to sponsor another.

ADVENT IS HERE

May I wish you every blessing for the new ecclesiastical year> It is always a thrilling moment when the Missal or the Breviary are turned back to the very first page and the riches of the Church's liturgy are with us once more. 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. We will also restore the singing of Vespers at 4pm for which we will use Christ the King as Fr Antony did in years gone by. It was one of the casualties of the lockdown and the enforced absence from Christ the King.

Please take one of the *Walk with me* books. This has been produced as usual by a team of diocesan priests and which is commended to us by the Archbishop. There are daily meditations and daily activities for children.

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, Peter, Margaret.

... for those who have died recently, among them David Bevan, Gwen Bruce, Caroline Tournilhac and Pauline Redington.

... for those whose anniversaries fall this week, among them Priscilla Lehar, Raymond Catling, Bridget Madeline Wallace and for Harriet Heath, Alice Sumner, Brian Godley, Hazel Nicholas, Catherine Copeman, Fr John Formby, Thomas Ritchie whose anniversaries fell on unspecified dates during the month of November.

DIARY S.O.S.

As some of you know, my pocket book which contains pretty well everything I need went missing during the week. It has now turned up but I fear that, having spent a week jotting things down on scraps of paper, I run the risk (and live in fear of) missing something. In particular I have a fear of missing Mass intentions which may have been requested. If this applies to you, **please tell me as soon as you can**. May I apologize profusely in advance?

SUNDAY COFFEE AFTER 10am MASS

Please stay if you possibly can for a cup of coffee or cup of tea in the Galilee. It is a little early for sherry. Why not have one of the first cups from our new coffee machine, kettle and urn this morning?

MAPLEDURHAM MASS

Lady Anne and Mr Edward Eyston are very happy to see visitors at the monthly Mass celebrated in the house chapel at 6pm on the last Sunday. Please park in the village.

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.

GORING PRIMARY SCHOOL

Katie Proctor tells me that last weekend's Craft Fair was very successful and raised well into four figures for school funds at a tricky time. Thanks to everyone who supported.

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. 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? Or subscribe to *Magnificat* through the *Catholic Herald*? This afternoon Radio 3 broadcasts the Advent Carol Service from Cambridge.

HUGE THANKS ...

... to everyone who supported last Friday's inaugural concert with the Galilee in use. What an extraordinary evening of music-making at the very highest level we enjoyed. I need to pinch myself when I think that the 5 players were at the Philharmonie in Berlin last week, at the Royal Festival Hall last night and in Ferry Lane in between. As you heard if you were here, I am lucky to have known the trombonist David Whitehouse since we played together as schoolboys 40 years ago. It was a great joy for me personally to welcome them and it was super to see such a large and enthusiastic audience from the congregation and much further afield. We learn from these occasions and slowly we are getting our heads round what may be possible and what is needed on the organisational side. Thank you all.

TIMINGS FOR HOLY HOUR

I gather that this has been a recurring question for many years. 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. I have the glimmer of an idea.

ROSE BORDER

Phil and Graham Sadler have not only collected but planted the last few roses to complete the border. I will produce a guide with links to the people in whose memory they have been given. This will need checking as they came in in a variety of ways.

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 with a new one coming for Woodcote as soon as the stock is in the warehouse.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The three churches in Goring have once again produced a joint Christmas card to go to every letterbox in the villages. I will be given our allocation to deliver in the next few days. All help will be gratefully received. My thanks to our friend Rev Ben Phillips for organising this.

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. We have 3 already. I will also start thinking about Confirmation plus a refresher course.

LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS

Our two churches, a bit like little children, have been wondering what Fr Christmas may be bringing. They don't want a new bicycle or an X-box but they have been dreaming wistfully about one or two bits and pieces. The Galilee has whispered the words "baby changing unit" in my ear. Thank you so much to the generous person who sent a nice delivery man (one of Santa Claus's helpers) with a shipment of copier paper last week. I will come up with a full list of ideas with a range of possibilities in the week. In another place the wish-list started with a box of tea and ended with a spire. That was optimistic! A serious idea for our two churches includes new kneelers for Woodcote and pew runners for Goring.

GALILEE THOUGHTS

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. Even more flooring chaps came this week.

DIOCESAN EMAIL SYSTEM

As you know, I have changed my email to the one which is supplied by the diocese. This makes the diocese legal under the current GDPR legislation. There is a down-side however in that I cannot guarantee that they are 100% secure. For anything confidential, please telephone me in the first instance.

THINGS FOR THE FUTURE

... include a Parish meeting for 2021 (I haven't forgotten!); reflection on diocesan material about the Pope's Synodal Pathway; a Retreat, hopefully at Douai; new parish contact forms so that we are up-to-date and legal.

CHRISTMAS MASSES ETC.

Of course things may change swiftly 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:

22 December - grand church cleaning sessions to include sandwich lunch.

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.)