



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

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SUNDAY 3 APRIL 2022

SUNDAY V OF LENT (*Passion Sunday I*)

Monday 4	Feria	Goring	Sat 6pm Zani family intentions
Tuesday 5	Feria <i>Goring Day of Prayer for Peace</i>	Goring (Latin)	8.00am Parish & people
Wednesday 6	Feria	Goring	10.00am Private intention (FrJL)
Thursday 7	Feria	Woodcote	11.30am Private intention (FrKM)
Friday 8	Feria	Goring	7.30am Jean Barrett (anniv.)
Saturday 9	Feria	Goring	6.00pm Peace in Eastern Europe
Sunday 10	PALM SUNDAY (<i>PASSION SUNDAY I</i>)	Goring	9.30am Private intention
		Woodcote	12.00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
		Woodcote	12.00pm Private intention
		Goring	10.00am Private intention <i>Holy Hour from 9.00am</i>
		Goring	6.00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
		Woodcote	7.00pm PENITENTIAL SERVICE
		Goring	5.00pm <i>Confessions</i>
		Goring	6.00pm Ray Lynch RIP
		Goring (Latin)	8.00am Parish & people
		Goring	10.00am Private intention (FrKM)
		Woodcote	11.30am Private intention (FrJL)

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.

PASSIONTIDE

Our Lenten devotions change gear today and all sorts of things are intensified, not least with the veiling of the images around our churches. Never forget that the crucifix, that symbol of triumph as well as execution, is something in which we glory and was depicted in art with gold and jewels long before it was depicted as a wooden instrument of brutal execution. Things change in our liturgy too, with a striking Preface at Mass, and in the Divine Office.

STUDY EVENING

Tuesday at 7.30pm - Lent study evening in the Galilee with a viewing of the episode from Neil MacGregor's landmark series *Seeing Salvation* about the crucifixion as seen in Christian art. Refreshments will be available beforehand. We will finish by 9pm.

CUDDLY TOYS

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

YOUR EASTER DUTIES

This Friday at 7pm there is our usual Penitential Service at Christ the King. As in years past, there will be visiting priests giving you the opportunity to make your confession in the course of the service to someone whom you do not meet week in, week out. I am enormously grateful to priests from the Deanery for coming. Please do not give them a journey for relatively few penitents!

There is a similar Penitential Service at St Michael's, Sonning Common on Monday in Holy Week. Fr Michael Sharkey has extended a very warm welcome to anyone from our parish who would like to attend that and make their Confession then.

Fr Jacob and I are available at other times, both advertised on the card and by arrangement. Please do not hesitate to ask.

HOLY WEEK CARDS

These are now available. Please take one and ideally take one away for someone who may not be at Mass regularly.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to Henry and Alexander Zani who were baptized in the chapel of the OPS yesterday (within our parish) and to Rachel, Nicholas their parents and Isabella, a very proud big sister.

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.

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 five other parish friends who are ill.

... for those who have died, among them Margaret Peat and David Payler, and for Jean Barrett and Leland a Beckett Robinson whose anniversaries fall at this time.

... for our First Holy Communion children: Mollie, Flo, Cian, Josephine and Anthony.

THE VOTIVE LAMPS

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

A NEW COMMUNICATION FROM THE DIOCESE ABOUT REFUGEES

We are pleased to say that since we sent out our last update on the response to Ukraine, Fr Hudson's Care has received numerous offers of sponsorship/accommodation and of translation skills in Russian and Ukrainian. The evident enthusiasm for support from our parishes and parishioners is a great testament to our faith.

Since our last update, we have continued to work with Fr Hudson's Care, with our Ukrainian communities, with local councils and with agencies such as Reset and CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) to understand how best to offer our support as a diocese.

So far, a lot of our work has been preparatory- the Coventry Catholic Ukrainian community has been supporting Coventry City Council by checking the Ukrainian translations on the council's website and all of our Ukrainian communities are compiling lists of potential interpreters/translators ready to support potential refugees.

As we understand it only a few refugees have arrived from Ukraine so far under the families' scheme, and they have been accommodated with family members. We are not aware of anyone yet arriving under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, needing housing or schooling. We are expecting some more guidance from the government on the matching process over the coming days, but we are acutely aware that the matching process needs more support to ensure that refugees can safely come to the UK.

It is imperative to us that we must utilise our own Catholic network in this country and in Europe to help to identify refugees and help them find sponsors here in the UK to expedite their journey for safety and support.

To do this we are discussing whether we will need to recruit a qualified staff member to help us to build our local capacity for support, and to enable people to come from Ukraine and be housed safely within our local communities. We are also discussing how we would gain funding for this position and may be asking for donations towards this in the near future.

Father Hudson's is happy to continue to receive offers of accommodation and language services and to support and remain in touch with those who offer their help: [Your Help | Birmingham Diocesan Trust \(birminghamdiocese.org.uk\)](http://YourHelp|BirminghamDiocesanTrust(birminghamdiocese.org.uk))

Please share this message with parishioners – it is also available on the Diocesan website www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/ukraine

CHURCH CLEANING

WOODCOTE: We will have a jumbo pre-Holy Week spring cleaning session next Saturday, 9 April, from 10.30am to noon with refreshments and sandwiches at the end. Do come if you can and join in the fun.

GORING: a message from Frances MacIntosh:

Now that we have the benefit of The Galilee, and with the plan to let out our lovely new facilities from time to time (which means complying with health and safety legislation,) we have been looking at ways of combining weekly professional cleaning with a volunteer rota to cover light top-up cleaning and flowers each week.

As we make this change, we are looking both for support from new volunteers who might like to join this rota, and from anyone who might feel able to support this new approach by making a donation which can cover the relatively modest costs involved.

We will of course continue with the traditional 'big cleans' before the major feasts!

So whether you are joining the rota for the first time, continuing to help, increasing your financial contribution, helping with occasional 'big cleans' or retiring after decades of cleaning the church, a huge thank you for all your support to our parish!

Frances's contact details are macintoshconsulting@btinternet.com

Fr Kenneth would like to add his own thanks to the army of wonderful people who have given their time and efforts over many, many years to keep our two houses of God the special, loved and prayed-in places which they are. Many joined the rota decades ago. Are there other friends, perhaps from a younger generation, who might have the time and opportunity to help out?

I would also like to thank (and apologise if I embarrass them) Frances and Neil who have done so much in Goring over the Covid period, often unseen on a Saturday lunchtime.

CHRIST THE KING KNEELERS

It was good to hear so many nice comments about the new kneelers last week. Come and try them out. And yes, they are primarily meant for kneeling but they can be sat upon too! I am grateful to two families who have generously offered a significant amount towards this little project. They cost £23 each which I think is a very good price for something of this quality which should last us many decades. Would anyone else be able to help defray the costs? Many, many thanks.

A NOTE ON PASSIONTIDE

"From the first Vespers of Passion Sunday, Holy Church covers completely and with opaque purple veils, all the crucifixes, statues and pictures of the saints, intended for worship and not for mere decoration. The custom may suggest that the devotion to the saints should yield for a time to the great work of Redemption. ... But this explanation does not apply to the crosses that are veiled as well. In fact, all those veils are a relic of the former custom of hanging a curtain between nave and sanctuary during the whole period of Lent. In earlier times, indeed, public penitents who were excluded from the church were not allowed to enter it until Maundy Thursday. When this practice was no longer in use, all Christians were to a certain extent considered as penitents and, although they were not excluded from the church, the sanctuary and all within it was hidden in order to show them that they were unworthy to take part in eucharistic worship and to receive their Easter communion, until they had brought other fruits worthy of penance."

From the St Andrew Daily Missal edited by the monks of St-Andre.

WELCOME VISITORS

It was very good to welcome members of the Oxfordshire Association of Organists yesterday who had a nice time with our new instrument after a time at St Thomas's having one last look before that instrument is taken away for restoration.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Tuesday will be another day of prayer for peace in Goring, shared between the three churches. It is our turn to host this day during April. There will be public led prayers at 7am, 9am, 12.30pm, 4.30pm and 7pm with the church open (as usual) for private prayer throughout the day and an opportunity to light a candle. Please support this ecumenical venture if you possibly can.

JEROME K. JEROME

The wonderful Jeremy Nicholas will be with us on 29 April at 7pm for his one-man show about Jerome K. Jerome, famous from the West End and BBC Radio. This was originally meant to be the opening event for the Galilee in October but Jeremy was indisposed. Tickets are now available via Eventbrite and the galileegoring.org.uk link will be up tomorrow. Please come. What could be nicer than a spring evening's laughter and wine 200 yards from Jerome's beloved Thames?