



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

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SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2022

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Monday 28	Feria	Goring	Sat 6pm	Fr Arthur Sammons (anniversary)
Tuesday 29	Feria	Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Thomas's intentions (birthday)
Wednesday 30	ST ANDREW	Goring	10.00am	Parish & people
Thursday 1	ST EDMUND CAMPION	Woodcote	11.30am	Kathleen & Michael O'Connell RIP
Friday 2	Feria	Mapledurham House	6.00pm	Eyston family intentions
Saturday 3	St Francis Xavier	Goring	7.30am	Faithful departed
Sunday 4	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Goring	6.00pm	Faithful departed
		Goring	9.30am	Faithful departed (AM)
		Woodcote	12.00pm	Private intention
		Goring	9.00am	<i>Holy Hour</i>
		Goring	10.00am	Paul O'Loughlin
		Goring	5.00pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		Goring	6.00pm	Canon Philip Ursell (birthday)
		Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
		Goring	10.00am	Private intention
		Woodcote	11.30am	Private intention

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. The parish priest tries to take Wednesday as a quiet day after the morning Mass. Thank you for your generosity to the Catholic Church in so many ways, not least financial.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Today marks the beginning of a new "year of grace." Advent, for me, has always been the loveliest few weeks of the year, with the richest and most evocative liturgical provision. It is a season in its own right, not primarily (as the radio told us this morning) "preparation for Christmas." The more we enter into the wonders of Advent and avoid getting side-tracked too much by the secular round of jollifications, the richer our spiritual lives will be.

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During November the souls of the faithful departed are remembered at each Mass. Mass is offered for the faithful departed. Individual Mass intentions are still very much available. If you would like to include a Mass stipend that is always very much appreciated by the priests. Grave lights are also available, £5. It is good to visit White Hill or St Leonard's and see them alight.

THURSDAY O.P.S. CONCERT

Our friends in the music department at the Oratory Prep School, led by Mrs Emily Reed, will be here for a Community Concert on Thursday at 7pm. The Choristers, Jazz Band and soloists will provide the music with communal singing at the end. Entrance is free but to make sure that numbers do not get away from us there is booking via Eventbrite or the Galilee-Goring.org.uk website in the next day or two. Demand has predictably been very high from parents already. It is good to see the church being used in this way by the wider community.

CONGRATULATIONS

... to William Davie, received into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church and confirmed this week. He and Sara will be married in Italy next year. We look forward to a number of parish baptisms too in the coming few weeks. Always a joy!

REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS

Please stay if you can for a cup of coffee after the 10am Mass to warm yourself up and meet fellow parishioners. This was one of Fr Antony's thoughts when planning the Galilee project.

READERS AT MASS

6pm: Simon Enright; 10am: the Roberts family; 11.30: Chris Gregory, Anna Griffiths.

GORING CRAFT FAIR

Saturday and Sunday 26/27 November, 10am-4pm raising funds for Goring Primary School. Why not look in on your way home from Mass today for coffee, cake and a little shopping spree? Further details from Katie Harding.

MASS IN THE COLD

We will experiment for a few weeks with saying the Goring midweek Masses in the Galilee. This will save considerable amounts on heating the church and also save hot air pumping out into the Oxfordshire skies.

PLEASE PRAY ...

... among the sick for William, Margaret, Jeanie, Rosemary, Anne-Marie, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Gill, Joan, Lavinia, Lyall, Tony, Kevin, John, Linda, Patsy, baby Annabelle, John, Emily, Rose, Ilene, Richard, Catherine, Patrick, Anne, Malcolm, Ida, Charlotte, Denis, Henry, Teresa, Peter, Paul, Jemima, Barry, George, Fr Patrick, Oliver, Crispin, Cordelia, Peter, Monica, John, Eva Maria, Tom, Fr Jacob, Fr John, Charlie, Sophie, Bob, Paul, Bob, Jacob, Justin, Victoria & 8 others.

... for those who have died recently, among them Nicola Flannery, Fr Ian Ker, John Walsh and Patricia Bursey.

... for those whose anniversaries fall about this time, including Nora Morrish, Priscilla Lehar, Harriet Heath, Alice Sumner, Brian Godley, Hazel Nicholas, Catherine Copeman, Fr John Formby, Thomas Ritchie, Raymond Catling, Bridget Madeline Wallace

New parish forms are available, now GDPR compliant. Our records are a little eccentric; please fill one in so we are up to date and legal.

At the back of the churches you will see some Christmas cards which are on sale to benefit two excellent Catholic charities—Aid to the Church in Need and Mary's Meals. Mary's Meals does wonderful work feeding and educating over a million of the world's poorest children. The charity has been offered matched funding between now and the end of January. Every penny which the charity is given will be doubled by another generous source. There are also some packets of last year's cards from ACN at the bargain price of 25 assorted cards for £10. I can always order more if we run out. There are some CAFOD catalogues with presents which may be ordered by post or online.

OLSJ AT 125

Pentecost 2023 marks the 125th anniversary of the opening of the church in Goring. To mark the occasion, the Archbishop will be with us on Trinity Sunday, 4 June, which will also be our traditional First Communion Mass. There will be other celebrations.

Please put Two cultural events are now in the diary for 2023: a concert of the music of Heinrich Schutz in his anniversary year on 10 February with a professional group from London and *Posting Letters to the Moon*—a dramatized presentation of the wartime letters of Celia Johnson and her husband Peter Fleming on 21 April. See the Galilee website. In addition, our friend Julian McNamara, now at Downside School but for many years a parishioner here, will give an organ recital in the spring.

There are First Aid boxes in both churches—at the back of CTK with the hymn books and on the window-ledge of the Galilee kitchen. Futon-style folding mattresses and blankets are available for anyone who needs to lie down. They are kept in the Galilee cleaning cupboard at Goring and in the back room at CTK. I am still planning on a pair of defibrillators. The nearest ones in both villages are at the village halls.

C.T.S. BOOK STALL

You will have seen that the Perspex book and leaflet stand at Goring has moved from the Galilee where it was rather out of the way to the porch. In recent years the Catholic Truth Society has produced some really excellent materials, both in its brief leaflets and in the longer booklets. Last week a dozen copies of Fr Guy Nicholls' new booklet on the Rosary arrived. Please do have a look. The grey wall safe just inside the door is the place for any contributions.

COVID

While the situation is obviously very different from the last couple of years, Covid-19 has not gone away. Many of us are having our boosters at the moment. We will obviously keep the situation under review if there is a spike in the figures during the winter and keep our good habits from the worst days of the pandemic in mind if we need to reinstate them. The disinfectant fogger is still up our sleeve.

The ministry of the hospital chaplains in all our local hospitals, whether Reading, Oxford or one of the smaller hospitals in the area, is an essential part of our treatment. However, modern legislation about data means that wards can no longer share information with them as once was the case. If you or a member of your family are going into hospital please let either the chaplain know through the ward staff or let me know and I can pass on your details. It is a well-worn path.

ADVENT COURSE

Our friend Fr John Osman and his parish at Dorchester have developed a fascinating looking course looking at — and doing! — prayer through the lens of St Teresa of Avila, one of the greatest saints of the mystical tradition. This will take place on Tuesday nights at 7pm via Zoom led by a Carmelite sister from an enclosed community.

1. Introduction to St Teresa
2. Finding Christ in prayer
3. Transformation in prayer
4. Prayer and the Church

Starting next Sunday, I will make Sister's talks my theme for our four Advent sermons.

ZOOM ID code: 5017884510 Passcode: 734516

ADVENT: THREE IMPORTANT EVENTS IN TWO DAYS

Tuesday 20 December at 7pm. Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will be here as our Episcopal Vicar to celebrate Mass and administer the sacrament of confirmation to a handful of young people from our parish and from Dorchester. Please make every effort to support them (and your parish) on this never-to-be-repeated day in their lives. GORING.

Wednesday 21 December: the Rorate Mass at 7.00am, offered by candle-light before dawn. Please note that this is half an hour earlier than advertised last week. GORING.

Wednesday 21 December: Penitential Service at 7pm with visiting priests from across the Deanery. A perfect opportunity to make your confession to someone other than the parish priests! WOODCOTE.

VOTIVE LIGHTS

... burn during the month of November for Frances Shinkwin and for the Brown family. Two are still available to sponsor.

THE NEEDS BOX

... has been very busy recently. Thank you. Many of the things which are donated make their way down to the ecumenical Churches Drop-in Centre in Reading where they are put to very good use with people who can give them a good home.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARISH

Christ must be at the heart of any Christian's celebration. This may help you plan these few days. I hope that there is sufficient opportunity for everyone to fulfil our Obligation. Please let me know of friends who will require the sacraments at home.

23 DECEMBER

Confessions:

12pm at Woodcote; 6pm at Goring

24 DECEMBER

Vigil Mass & carols: 5pm at Goring

Mass of Christmas Night & carols:

8pm at Woodcote; 10pm at Goring

25 DECEMBER

Mass of the Dawn:

7am (Latin); 8am (English) both at Goring

Mass of Christmas Day & carols:

10am at Goring; 11.30am at Woodcote; 6pm at Goring