



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

FR KENNETH MACNAB
01491 872181 · 07866 357274
fr.kenneth.macnab@rcaob.org.uk

FR JACOB LEWIS
01635 578714
www.ourladyandstjohngoring.org.uk

SUNDAY 11 DECEMBER 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete in Domino semper
Rejoice in the Lord always

Monday 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
Tuesday 13 St Lucy
Wednesday 14 St John of the Cross
Thursday 15 Feria
Friday 16 Feria
Saturday 17 Feria

O sapientia

Sunday 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
O Adonai

Goring	Sat 6pm	Mgr Anthony Wilcox
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Private intention
Woodcote	11.30am	Debbie Lee RIP
Goring	7.30am	Victoria S-W's intentions
Goring	6.00pm	A parishioner undergoing treatment
Goring	9.30am	Joseph S-W's intentions
Woodcote	12.00pm	Private intention (ASW)
Goring	9.00am	<i>Holy Hour</i>
Goring	10.00am	In thanksgiving
Woodcote	12.00pm	<i>Confessions</i>
Goring	5.00pm	<i>Confessions</i>
Goring	6.00pm	Ray Lynch
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. Thank you for your generosity to the Catholic Church in so many ways, not least financial.

ADVENT

The wonderful season of Advent is as long as it can possibly be this year when Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. Today we take the rose pink vestments out of the press for one of only two days in the year. The word "Gaudete" - the first word of today's Mass in Latin - runs through all our worship today. "Rejoice." I often think it is a little like the white of Christmas breaking through to lighten the shade of our violet vestments in this penitential season.

CHANGING GEAR

For the week leading up to Christmas Eve the Church sings the seven "O antiphons" at Vespers, using Old Testament images to address Christ. The final one on the 23rd is "O Emmanuel." The famous Advent hymn which we will sing loudly next Sunday uses most of them. The first, O Wisdom, is next Friday, the 17th. The CTS has published a little book called "Praying the O antiphons" which I recommend.

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

As promised last week, the Galilee is now equipped for celebrating midweek Masses using the altar which Fr Sammons first installed in 1951 at the shrine of St Joseph under the tower as part of his thanksgiving for 50 years as a priest. The dates are in the stained glass window and also carved into the oak near the altar stone. This will make for a more intimate, warmer and—it must be said—cheaper arrangement for the coldest winter months. The modern insulation in the Galilee makes a huge difference and we can heat the Galilee without heating the whole church. There is an environmental side to this too as we will not be pumping lots of hot air out into the Oxfordshire skies. My thanks to John and Heather Raisin and to Simon English for their help in different ways.

READERS AT MASS

6pm: Chris Sexon; 10am: the MacIntosh family; 11.30: Angela and Richard Sims.

C.T.K. HEATING

After a couple of bracing Masses at Christ the King, I very much hope that things will be more comfortable this morning. My thanks to Len Preston who spent a long time yesterday helping to fit draught excluders to the windows and doors and to Jonathan Hart from Goring Gap Electrical who fitted new switches last week to enable the high-level heaters to work once more. The fitting of the smart meter had tripped them. Thanks too must go to Kevin Hine for the Propane cylinder which will heat the space before Mass. It is too noisy to leave on during Mass but should make a difference. There will be a smell but it is a small price to pay.

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.

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, Oliver, Crispin, Cordelia, Peter, Monica, John, Eva Maria, Tom, Charlie, Sophie, Bob, Paul, Bob, Jacob, Justin, Victoria, Maureen & 10 others.

... for those who have died recently, among them George Wallace and Debbie Lee.

... for those whose anniversaries fall about this time, including Francis Henry Williams.

... for Mgr Anthony Wilcox who is moving to Lichfield this week after 30 years in Henley. We thank him and wish him well.

VOTIVE LAMPS

These burn during December for the Beckett, Brown and Moffett families, for David and Lindsay Goddard and for Tina Rapinet.

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.

SAFEGUARDING NEWS

I am very grateful to Mrs Lucy Bonnett for taking over from Kim Walker as our Safeguarding Representative. The formalities have now been processed by the diocese. This is, of course, an essential part in the life of any parish. Full details of Lucy's role and her contact details will be posted next week. I am more grateful that I can say to Kim for all she has done for us for so many years on this front. As many of you know, she has moved from Elvendon Road to Bix.

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you to everyone who helped deliver these during the week.

CLEANING AT GORING

From Frances MacIntosh ...

- As usual we are looking for volunteers to make up the window decorations at Goring. There is a common colour scheme and, as in past years, Chris Gregory will bring oasis, container and candles. Please let me know if you are able to help.

- OLSJ Big Clean for Christmas. This will take place on the morning of Christmas Eve from 10.30am. Do come if you can to make the church clean and beautiful. This will also involve decorating the tree.

CLEANING AT WOODCOTE

We will have a big clean of the church on Wednesday 21 December with refreshments and mince pies to keep us going. Sarah Heath will let us know about times.

LOOKING FORWARD: 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.

LIVE ON THE GALILEE WEBSITE

(1) Friday 10 February: the tenor David De Winter and baroque specialists *The Brook Street Band* present a concert of music by Heinrich Schutz in his 350th anniversary year featuring virtuoso music from Venice which the German master visited twice. David is a member of the choir of Westminster Cathedral and Opus Anglicanum, among many other groups, and sang here last year.

(2) *Posting Letters to the Moon*—a dramatized presentation of the wartime letters of Celia Johnson and her husband Peter Fleming on 21 April. An evening of great charm with Lucy Fleming and her husband Simon Williams reading from her parents' wartime letters, the author Peter being in India and the great actress Celia being at home in Nettlebed.

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. Date tbc.

A NEW ARRIVAL

Last week a print of Alonso Cano's painting of St John giving Our Lady Holy Communion arrived from Austria and it has been beautifully framed by Dee and Richard Singleton at Reeds' Gallery in the Arcade. This is the kind gift of a friend. It always struck me that it is a bit odd that we do not have an image of our co-patron other than the image in the 12th Station of the Cross. This scene became a popular one in Counter Reformation art and the original now hangs in a gallery in Padua. My thanks to Dee and Richard for their help.

THE YEW HEDGE

You may be thinking that the hedge along the path leading to the main door in Goring is looking rather bald. I have spent some time this week wrestling with the ivy which is threatening to swamp the little yew trees completely. The Holliday family recently gave me some of Charlie's photographs and it is clear that as late as 1998 the hedge was 100% yew. The good news is that it is difficult to kill a yew and given a bit of time the hedge should be back to its best.

TEN MILLION PRAYERS

During the week I hope that some prayer cards will arrive from SPUC. There is a campaign at the moment for people of faith to pray 10 million prayers for life. This is not, of course, just a Catholic or Christian priority. It would be good if we can play our part. More details next week.

MAGNIFICAT & BENEDICTUS

Many of us already use *Magnificat* which comes monthly and contains the prayers and reading not only for Mass but for large parts of the Daily Office and other meditations. I recommend it highly. Why not subscribe for 2023? Details are available through the Catholic Herald website: catholicherald.co.uk/magnificat There is a parallel publication called *Benedictus* with similar provision for the older use and the Latin Mass. Details are at praybenedictus.com

HAVING A PARTY?

The Galilee kitchen has hundreds of glasses, lots of china, cutlery, table linen and other things, available to borrow if you wish. And as a bonus, the parish commercial dishwasher makes slight work of the washing-up. Do ask. The service is free but donations are always welcome, particularly to cover the cost of firing up the Hobart dishwasher. It is also possible to borrow the 10 x 4m awning.

G.D.P.R.

The modern legislation about storing people's data has made significant changes. If you wonder why I do not type the names of the sick in full, this is part of the issue. Some friends, perfectly understandably, wish to be remembered privately and discreetly.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE THE FEAST

Confession should be part of every Christian's routine but particularly in preparation for the great feasts of the year. There will be several opportunities in the next fortnight:

- the usual times at both churches next Saturday
- the usual penitential service at St Michael's, Sonning Common on Monday 19 December
- our own penitential service at Woodcote on Wednesday 21 December at 7pm. Visiting priests will be with us.
- Friday 23 December at noon at CTK and 6pm at OLSJ.

ADVENT COURSE ON PRAYER

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
- ZOOM ID code: 5017884510 Passcode: 734516

I suggested that I would preach on the same themes. Having thought about this, I will stick to preaching on the Mass readings but Sister has a huge amount to teach us..

21 DECEMBER: A BUSY DAY

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 first advertised. 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.

A CONFIRMATION CHANGE

Owing to a combination of circumstances, not just in our own parish, we have taken the decision to postpone the Confirmation to next year. A nice sunny day in the summer may well be easier to get everyone together and may even give others the opportunity to join the confirmands.

THE NEEDS BOX

... has been very busy recently. 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. With the weather turning much colder and the financial situation really beginning to bite for so many the needs certainly will not be going away. Thank you for everything you do.