



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

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SUNDAY 29 JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY IV OF THE YEAR (*Epiphany IV*)

Monday 30 Feria
Tuesday 31 St John Bosco
Wednesday 1 Feria
Thursday 2 PRESENTATION OF OUR
LORD (*Candlemas*)
Friday 3 St Blaise
Saturday 4 Our Lady on Saturday
Sunday 5 SUNDAY V OF THE YEAR
(*Quinquagesima*)

First Friday

Goring	Sat 6pm	Fr Giles Goward (anniversary)
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Private intention
Woodcote	11.30am	Keith Gregory (anniversary)
Goring	7.30am	HM King Charles
Goring	6.00pm	Francis O'Gorman
Goring	9.30am	Elizabeth Davies RIP (per VS)
Woodcote	12.00pm	Michael Baldwin RIP
Goring	6.00pm	Parish & people
Goring	9.00am	<i>Holy Hour for Vocations</i>
Goring	10.00am	REQUIEM for Brian Barrett RIP
Goring	5.00pm	<i>Confessions</i>
Goring	6.00pm	Private intention
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Vocations
Woodcote	11.30am	Vocations

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.

CANDLEMASS

Christmastide (in the longer interpretation of the term) comes to an end on Thursday with the lovely feast of the Presentation of the Lord. We enter the Temple in Jerusalem and bless candles—hence the term “Candlemas” – and meditate on Christ the light “to lighten the Gentiles.” There are two Masses in the parish—noon at Woodcote and 6pm in Goring when Mass will be offered (mostly) by candlelight.

GORING ECUMENICAL LENT GROUP

After years when this has not possible, it will meet again this Lent to contemplate prayer. Details from Dave Browne and in church. There will, of course, be our usual Lenten devotions in church. It is a questions of “both / and” not “either / or.”

ULTRA LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

... are available at both churches. Please ask if this would help.

BRIAN BARRETT RIP

Brian's funeral will take place on Thursday 2 February at 2.15pm at the crematorium in Caversham, as he requested, before being laid to rest with his mother at White Hill. Requiem Mass for him on Friday at 10am.

CONFIRMATION

Perhaps Thursday at 6.30pm is a tricky time. Does anyone have any ideas? Would anyone else like to explore what is involved? First Holy Communion classes will start in February.

READERS AT MASS

6pm: John O'Donohue; 10am: Colin Cole, Helen & Chloe Cook; 11.30am: tba.

VOTIVE LAMPS

... burn during January for Keith Gregory and for the Brown family. Please be in touch if you would like to dedicate one during the month of February in memory of someone or for a particular cause or intention.

CONCERT—10 FEBRUARY

At the end of our last cultural event marking the launch of the Galilee a kind parishioner emailed me saying “I am looking forward to next season already!” There are flyers for our first event of 2023 at the back of the churches. This will be a wonderful evening of glorious baroque music with a Venetian themed reception in the Galilee afterwards. Please come and bring all your friends! Tickets are a little more expensive as there are more London-based players involved. Lock-down was difficult for self-employed musicians so it is only right to be utterly professional. Let a little Venetian sunshine warm an Oxfordshire winter.

MARCH 4 LIFE DAY

Training day at Oscott College on 4 February to help us speak effectively about Life issues. See the poster for details. I know this is a long way away but it promises to be an excellent day.

PLEASE PRAY

... among the sick for William, Margaret, Jeanie, Rosemary, Anne-Marie, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Gill, Joan, Lavinia, Lyall, Tony, Kevin, John, Linda, Patsy, 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, Paul, Jacob, Justin, Victoria, Maureen, Eva, Bob, Gail, Tony, Francis, Fr Jacob & 11 others.

... for the dead and in particular for Florence Chippindale, Al Shattuck, Michael Baldwin and Brian Barrett who have died recently.

... for those whose anniversaries fall at this time, among them Keith Gregory, Mrs Lewis, Christine Lester, Thomas Churchman, Richard Nicholas, Denis De Freitas, Michael Connelly, Marie Carroll, Mavis Ann Marsh.

NO MASS AT MAPLEDURHAM TODAY

THANK YOU ... You gave a very generous £600 to Mary's Meals in our Crib Collection. This is a wonderful effort. I have also sent a cheque to the St Birinus SVP for its project on the Ukraine / Romania border. If anyone can help with that it is an excellent cause.



Above: Mrs Lucy Bonnett is our newly-appointed Safeguarding Representative. Full contact details will be available next week. I am very grateful to Lucy for taking on this essential role.

Right: two of our longer-standing parishioners at Sheila English's birthday party. Sheila's medal was sent by President Higgins. We congratulate her. It was very good to see many friends on the day.



A MONTH OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

The Vocations Office in Birmingham has re-structured our diocesan praying for Vocations. In previous years each parish was allotted a day for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Things are now organised on a Deanery basis and we in Oxford-South have been asked to make a special effort during February. As you may know, Luke Theobald from our neighbouring parish, St Michael's, Sonning Common, is at seminary in Rome at the moment and has written a series of short meditations on his sense of Vocation thus far. I am grateful to Luke for making this available. We will say Mass each week for Vocations and make it the intention for Holy Hour on Friday mornings.

"Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Matt 9:38)

In this first article I want to suggest what we can all do to help foster and nurture vocations in our own parishes. Firstly, to those who are either young or searching for where the Lord is calling them, I would say be open and do not be afraid. If anything about the priestly life or religious life seems attractive, intriguing, or just keeps popping into your head, don't be afraid to explore it. I would encourage you firstly to pray about it, but also to speak to someone; a priest, a family member or the vocations director. By speaking to someone else you will know that you are not alone. Every priest and religious has their own story of questioning, wrestling and accepting their vocation in the same way as every married couple has the story of how they fell in love and committed themselves to one another. I want to remind anyone who might be interested, that there is no commitment if you speak to a priest or vocations director. Even now in seminary I have not committed to the priesthood, this occurs at ordination. I am still discerning my call from the Lord, but the Church is helping me, guiding, and affirming me in my movement towards it. Whatever the end, God is always faithful to anyone who is seeking him so there will only be blessings in exploring any potential call.

For us all though, there are two important tasks; firstly prayer: we must all pray, with desire, for the Lord to call many to the priesthood and for them to respond. Jesus says, *"ask and it will be given,"* so it is essential that we pray and ask the Lord for vocations. If there are any events this month for vocations you could attend, joining your prayers with the parish and deanery at large. Secondly: is to ensure that our parishes are nurturing and supporting young people. Most priests and religious brothers and sisters have the vocational seed sown in them at a young age. Please support and encourage young people by making them welcome in the community, giving them the opportunity to serve and lead. Also be open to the Holy Spirit prompting you to speak and gently ask someone if they have thought about a certain vocation, it may be the very words they are waiting to hear.

Next week I will share a little of my faith story. Luke