



# 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 12 JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY VI OF THE YEAR (*Sexagesima*)

Goring	Sat 6pm Daniel Barrett (anniversary)
Goring (Latin)	8.00am Parish & people
Goring	10.00am Vocations
Woodcote	11.30am Simon Lee RIP

Monday 13	Feria
Tuesday 14	SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS
Wednesday 15	Feria
Thursday 16	Feria
Friday 17	Seven holy founders of the Servites
Saturday 18	Our Lady on Saturday
Sunday 19	SUNDAY VII OF THE YEAR ( <i>Quinquagesima</i> )

Goring	5.00pm <i>Confessions</i>
Goring	6.00pm Claire Ayling (ill)
Goring (Latin)	8.00am Parish & people
Goring	10.00am Vocations
Woodcote	11.30am Kevin Watters (anniversary)

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.

## THIS WEEK

## READERS AT MASS

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## PLEASE PRAY

I am away for a few days this week on a rather belated post-Christmas break. If you need a priest in an emergency please telephone Fr John Osman at St Birinus, Dorchester-on-Thames, on 01865 340417. The presbytery will be occupied so do not panic if you see the lights going on and off.

## MIDWEEK MASSES

All our neighbouring parishes have Mass in the week. Dorchester's is at 9.30 (8.00 on Weds.) Sonning Common at 9.30 (noon on Tues. and Thurs.) You will always be welcome.

## CONGRATULATIONS

... to Rollo Dominik Dębiec, baptized at Goring yesterday. Pray too for Julita, Dominik and for his Godparents and family.  
... to our friend Fr David Hartley at St Joseph's, Thame, who celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Tuesday. I am so grateful to Fr David for coming over from the furthest north east corner of our Deanery to help so readily and generously.

6pm: Maureen Lewis; 10am: MacIntosh family; 11.30am: Angela & Richard Sims.

## REFRESHMENTS

Please stay if you can after the 10am Mass for coffee and biscuits and a chance to meet your fellow parishioners.

## 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.

## HUGE THANKS ..

... to Dee and Richard at Reeds Art & Framing in the Arcade not only for the large picture of Our Lady & St John which arrived before Christmas but also for the two new pictures in the Galilee.

## 1ST HOLY COMMUNION

Classes will start at the beginning of Lent in late February. Names to Fr Kenneth please.

## DIARY WORRIES

Have I forgotten anything? FrK

22 February: Ash Wednesday. A day of fasting and abstinence.  
3 March: CAFOD Family Fast.  
9 April: Easter Day.  
21 April: theatrical evening.  
6 May: the Coronation  
28 May: 125th anniversary of the first Mass at OLSJ.  
4 June: visit of His Grace the Archbishop. First Holy Communion and a parish party.  
27 May-2 June Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

## WHAT ARE THE "GESIMA" SUNDAYS?

These three Sundays leading up to Ash Wednesday for many centuries formed a little "pre-Lent" season and still do when we celebrated the older use. One writer neatly says: "it can teach us many valuable lessons: that Lent should not be begun abruptly or thoughtlessly but preceded by a period of adjustment; that uttering the sacred word "Alleluia" is a privilege which should not be taken for granted; that sin puts us in exile from our True Home; and that the Old Testament is perpetually relevant to the lives of Christians."

... among the sick for William, Margaret, Jeanie, Rosemary, Anne-Marie, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Gill, Joan, Lavinia, Lyall, Tony, Kevin, John, 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, Richard, Claire, Fr Bruce, Ann & 11 other friends.

... for the dead and in particular for Margaret Flynn, Linda, Simon Lee, Nigel Chaffey, Howard Thorp, Helen Osbourne, Richard Sainsbury.

... for those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Huberta Blannin King, Julian Hickey, Harold Ernest Pick, Fr Pat Davies, Eleanor Hope Orchard.

## VOTIVE LAMPS

... burn during February for Barbara, for Fr Pat Davies and for the Brown family.

## CONCERT LAST FRIDAY

It was so good to see an almost full church for the concert last Friday. What a musical treat it was and it is good to have had a little part to play in David de Winter's project which was recorded for CD just before he came to us. The sound (and sight) of the baroque ensemble will remain with me. Thank you also to those who could not come but still supported the evening in other ways, not least by helping financially. As I have said before, there is an outreach side to these evenings. Many people who have lived in the area for years still do not know there is a little church tucked away down Ferry Lane.

### ST THOMAS'S ORGAN

After a year's silence, the organ at St Thomas's in Goring is back in position having been rebuilt by Clevedon Organs of Malvern. Saturday night saw the opening recital by the international superstar Thomas Trotter. We congratulate Rev. Ben Phillips and everyone involved in this huge project.

## FIRST AIDERS

Are you trained in First Aid? Quite a few of our parishioners are through their places of work. It would be very useful to have a list just in case those skills are ever needed. We hope for the best but should be prepared for every eventuality. Please have a word.

### STEWARDING AT MASS

From the start of Lent it would be good if we could have one or two people on hand at the door for the ten minutes or so just before the 10am Mass. Perhaps this might suit a family. Any offers of help for a little rota would be very welcome. Some people have asked for the collection bags to be reinstated after the lockdown. I am in two minds. Cash is dwindling. Many people generously avail themselves of Direct Debits and the contactless machine. Together these have been nothing less than a lifeline for us over the last 3 years. I would not want to embarrass anyone. But there is a symbolism in passing the bag round. Any thoughts?

## Prayer for Vocations

of Pope Benedict XVI

Heavenly Father, raise up among us abundant and holy vocations to the priesthood to keep the faith alive and serve the sacred memory of your Son Jesus through the preaching of his word and the administration of the Sacraments with which you continually renew your faithful people.

Grant us holy ministers of your altar who are careful and fervent guardians of the Eucharist, the Sacrament of the supreme gift of Christ for the redemption of the world.

Call ministers of your mercy, who, through the sacrament of Reconciliation, spread the joy of your forgiveness.

Grant, O Father, that the Church may welcome with joy the numerous inspirations of the Spirit of your Son and, faithful to his teachings, may she care for vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life.

Sustain the Bishops, priests and deacons, consecrated men and women, and all the baptised in Christ, so that they may faithfully fulfil their mission at the service of the Gospel.

This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary, Queen of Apostles, pray for us.

## 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 offer one of our Sunday Masses each week for Vocations and make it the intention for Holy Hour on Friday mornings.

*"Our heart is restless until it rests in You" St Augustine*

I first thought about the priesthood as teenager when a priest asked if I had ever thought of the priesthood. The question never left me although I spent a long time avoiding answering it. Fast forward until after studying university, I began working in London as a trader in the financial markets. Now in my mid-twenties, I would occasionally meet a priest friend for a catchup. One time he asked me; 'Luke are you living life to the full? For Jesus promised that his disciples would have life to the full if they followed him.' There was silence after this question as we both knew that I was not living life to the full. However, I was unwilling to change because my life was good; I had a great job, the work was stimulating and rewarding, my friends all lived nearby and I greatly enjoyed life in London. Shortly after, I was promoted and transferred to Sydney, and life became even better; I was now running a global franchise for the bank, lived a stone's throw away from the waterfront and the quality of life in Australia was unparalleled. However, that question from the priest lingered and as my material circumstances improved a restlessness was growing within my heart.

Two things happened in Sydney. Firstly, a girlfriend questioned how important my faith was to me. As she put it I 'talked the talk but didn't walk the walk'. She was right, with the busyness of work I had allowed my personal relationship with God to decline with no daily prayer and just habitual attendance at Mass and the sacraments. After her challenge and with her support I began to prioritise God again, rather than my job. This began by simply starting each day with 10 minutes of prayer, but its impact was profound. Slowly this daily prayer moved my priorities from a self-serving, selfish life to one that began looking out, attempting to serve and love others (this is still very much work in progress!). As this interior transformation was happening, the sense of restlessness kept on growing. I was very happy yet deeply unsatisfied. One day sitting in Sydney Cathedral I looked up to a stain glass window, which was of the last supper. In that moment, I knew that the priesthood, something that I had been thinking on and off for many years, was a path I had to pursue. I then began my discernment journey more formally. First by talking to my parish priest, then the vocations director, attending a retreat after which I resigned from work and returned to the UK before entering the seminary. The journey, from that moment in the cathedral, has been one marked by an ever-growing sense of peace replacing the restlessness in my heart.

Next week a little on seminary life.

*Luke*

MASS ATTENDANCE: 8 Jan 128 (21) 15 Jan 146 (27) 22 Jan 133 (32) 29 Jan 127 (22) 5 Feb 131 (22) (under 16s in brackets)