



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

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SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY VII OF THE YEAR (*Quinquagesima*)

Monday 20 Feria

Tuesday 21 St Peter Damian

Wednesday 22 ASH WEDNESDAY
Day of Fasting & Abstinence

Thursday 23 Feria (St Polycarp)

Friday 24 Feria

Saturday 25 Lent Saturday

Sunday 26 LENT I

Goring	Sat 6pm	Claire Ayling (ill)
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Vocations
Woodcote	11.30am	Kevin Watters RIP
Goring	7.30am	Jimmy Collins (anniversary)
Goring	6.00pm	C's intentions CONFESIONS AT 5pm
Goring	NB 10.00am	<i>with ashing</i> Fr David Hartley's intentions
Woodcote	12.00pm	<i>with ashing</i> Sheila Cross (anniversary)
Goring	6.00pm	<i>with ashing</i> Jonathan Smith (anniv.)
Woodcote	12.00pm	Howard Thorp RIP
Goring	9.00am	<i>Holy Hour for Vocations</i>
Goring	10.00am	Fr Pat Davies
Goring	6.00pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Goring	11.00am	<i>Holy Baptism</i> —Henry Indoe
Goring	6.00pm	Henry Indoe's intentions <i>Confessions at 5pm</i>
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Vocations
Woodcote	11.30am	Bill O'Connell (anniversary)
Mapledurham	6.00pm	Eyston family intentions

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.

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

This starts on Wednesday when there are three opportunities to be at Mass and receive the imposition of ashes. It is one of the two days of fasting and abstinence in the year (as opposed to days of abstinence such as Fridays) when we should limit ourselves to one main meal. The canons allow for two collations which do not add up to the one big meal. We should avoid meat and things made from meat. Many people choose to give the money which we would have spent on our usual meal to charity. Lent, of course, involves fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Please use these next two days to decide what you are going to give up and what you are going to take on, both in terms of your prayer life and your gift of time or money to others. On the back of this bulletin is a letter about the earthquake. **Why not put the "shrive" back into "Shrove Tuesday"** with **CONFESSION** as well as pancakes?

READERS AT MASS

6pm: Monique Wilkinson;
10am: Singleton family;
11.30am: Mayer family.

REFRESHMENTS

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

1ST HOLY COMMUNION

Classes will start next week. There is still time to give names to Fr Kenneth.

DIARY WORRIES

Have I forgotten anything? I ask this every so often as people frequently grab me for a quick word after Sunday Mass when the week is at its busiest and I live in fear and trembling of something not making it into the presbytery diary. Please say if I fail to remember something. A local priest and friend has a similar fear of reaching St Peter and having to answer for failing to say Mass for an intention having promised so to do.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

VOTIVE LAMPS

... burn during March for the Ashton, White and Brown families, and for Jonathan Smith.

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 in case those skills are ever needed.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays in Lent at Goring 6pm
Wednesdays at Woodcote 12pm

HOLY BAPTISM

Please pray for Henry Indoe who is to be baptized next Saturday.

PLEASE PRAY

... 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, Joan & 11 other friends.
... for the dead and in particular for Margaret Flynn, Linda, Simon Lee, Nigel Chaffey, Howard Thorp, Richard Sainsbury.
... for those whose anniversaries fall at this time: Rudolph Capek, Lilian Fitzherbert-Jones, Jimmy Collins, Jonathan David Smith, Kevin Watters, John Silvanus Stokes, Irene Florence Caldon, Elsie Gladys Price, Marco Troiani, Moya Ewbank, David Howard-Allen.

A LETTER FROM HIS GRACE THE ARCHBISHOP

Dear Father,

I have recently been contacted by CAFOD following the terrible earthquakes in Syria and Turkey earlier this week. CAFOD's local experts are already on the ground and responding to the needs of those affected. CAFOD is currently prioritising its emergency response towards Syria, where access is particularly challenging, but where its local partners are particularly well able to offer support.

As we pray for all those affected by the earthquake and we prepare for Family Fast Day on Friday 3 March, I would be grateful if you could share with your parishioners the following message from CAFOD:

CAFOD Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance, and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Syria Turkey Emergency Appeal online at [Prayer for the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquakes \(cafod.org.uk\)](http://Prayer for the people of Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquakes (cafod.org.uk))

With my thanks, together with my prayers and kindest wishes.

Yours devotedly in Christ

✠Bernard Longley

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.

“When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.” Lk 5:11

Seminary is principally a place of discernment, to test and grow in confidence of the path to which the Lord is calling a man. At the same time, it is a time of preparation for future ministry. The Church gives us four dimensions on which to focus and grow. These are the spiritual, pastoral, intellectual and human dimensions of formation. Unsurprisingly the spiritual dimension is about the seminarian growing in love as a disciple of Jesus, knowing him and trusting him. This takes the form of public prayer and liturgy, but also the expectation of a seminarian to foster his personal prayer life and reading of Scripture all under the guidance of a spiritual director. The pastoral dimension gives experiences of different circumstances a priest often experiences such as schools, hospitals, prison as well as the parish. Pastoral work is meant to foster practical skills while facilitating a growth in the charitable heart of the seminarian. Typical pastoral work involves summer placement in parishes in the UK, or in Rome serving the homeless or working with a local priest in catechesis or evangelisation work. Intellectual formation, whilst including formal studies is about growing the mind with both the philosophy and theology needed by a priest but also about broader engagement with society through literature, music and art. Finally, the human dimension is about the man growing in his self-awareness, not in a self-centred way but in a search for self-knowledge allowing a deeper understanding of 'who I am'. The process is long, because every man in the seminary is different, has his own strengths and weaknesses and is ultimately being called to a vocation of which he is not worthy. At the heart of the seminary is a community of men, friends and brothers who are all seeking to know the Lord more. These friendships are the foundation of a happy, holy and fruitful time in seminary.

I would like to conclude by thanking you for this opportunity to share my experiences with you. However, I do want to 'go on record' and say that the life of a seminarian is a privileged, joyful and happy life! The halls of the seminary while silent in times of prayer and contemplation are filled with much laughter and joy at our dinner times and social events. I give thanks that the Lord has called me to discern the priesthood. For anyone who feels drawn in some way to a religious vocation see where the Lord leads you!

Let us all keep praying regularly and with intention for vocations. Please pray for me, my fellow seminarians, for our priests and parishes.