



St Birinus, pray for us

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

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1 DECEMBER 2024

### ADVENT I

Monday 2	Feria	Goring	Sat 6.00pm	Fr Jacob Lewis RIP
Tuesday 3	St Francis Xavier	Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Wednesday 4	St John Damascene	Goring	10.00am	Fr John Formby & Jean Willett (anniv.)
Thursday 5	ST BIRINUS	Woodcote	11.30am	Fr Jacob Lewis RIP
Friday 6	St Nicolas	Goring	8.00am	REQUIEM for Fr Jacob Lewis
Saturday 7	St Ambrose	Goring	6.00pm	Sheila English (1st anniv.)
Sunday 8	ADVENT II (Immaculate Conception is transferred to 9 Dec. this year)	Goring	9.30am	George Wallace (anniv.)
		Woodcote	12.00pm	Departed of the White & Ashton families
		Goring	9.00am	Holy Hour
		Goring	10.00am	St Birinus' Church, Dorchester
		Goring	5.00pm	Confessions
		Goring	6.00pm	David Kerslake RIP
		Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
		Goring	10.00am	Bishop Richard Walker's intentions
		Woodcote	11.30am	Bishop Richard Walker's intentions

The parish is 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 the daily Mass. The Parish Priest tries to take Tuesday apart from Mass as a quiet day. Thank you for your generosity to the Catholic Church in so many ways, not least financial. Our Masses are generally streamed on the *Goring and Woodcote Catholic Parish* page on Facebook.

#### FR JACOB LEWIS, RIP

As you may have heard on the grapevine or seen through the parish email news, our dear friend Fr Jacob died early this morning (Saturday.) Although he has been poorly for several months and we have not seen him in church for a while, the end has come relatively swiftly. Only last Wednesday he was able to join in the prayers fully as he was anointed and received the Blessed Sacrament. He has been a wonderful friend to this parish (and its three most recent parish priests) for 30 years, has given so much, and I know that he has loved being part of the parish too. We thank God for his long ministry, not just in this place, and for all that he brought into our lives. May he know the forgiveness of his sins, the rest and light of the Father's house and may he hear the Gospel words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." May he rest in peace. We send Carol, Sarah and their wider family our sympathy, our love and our prayers.

#### ADVENT FLOWERS

As you know, traditionally there are no altar flowers in Advent and the modern rubrics remind us that we wait in sober expectation and must not unduly anticipate the full joy of Christmas, whatever happens outside. However, it seemed wrong to remove the flowers which Sharmala so beautifully arranged for Miriam's funeral last Wednesday and so they stand by Our Lady and the Sacred Heart today. May she rest in peace.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS & MISSALS**  
Christmas cards and Advent calendars are on sale in aid of the charity *Aid to the Church in Need*. There are packs at different prices, every penny of which supports the charity's work with persecuted Christians. New Missals have arrived; some have been ordered; others are available for inspection or ordering.

**MEDIAEVAL CAROLS : 13 DEC.**  
More tickets have been sold this week—now 65%. Posters and flyers available. Book early to avoid disappointment. Please have a word if you can you help on the night?

#### BISHOPS, COFFEE & CAKE

We will bake twice: next Sunday to mark the visit of our new auxiliary bishop in the south of the diocese and the following week, Gaudete Sunday, which is always a good day on which to celebrate. We look forward to seeing the bishop. Please be here if you possibly can to give him a warm welcome to our parish.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE DEBATE**  
I have to say that I was surprised as well as profoundly shocked at the vote in Parliament last Friday. It was a dark day for our nation. This is not the time to type anything rash but I would commend the Catholic Bishops' statement to you all. Hard copies are available in church and the text may also be found via [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

#### READERS AT MASS

6pm: Chris Sexon; 10am: the Roberts family; 11.30: the Hart family.

#### VOTIVE LIGHTS

... burn during December for the Brown family at Woodcote and for the Pacey family, Tina Rapinet and EM at Goring.

#### PLEASE PRAY

... among the sick for Margaret, Jeanie, Anne-Marie, Elizabeth, Mary, John, Gill, Joan, Lavinia, Kevin, John, Patsy, Annabelle, John, Emily, Rose, Ilene, Catherine, Patrick, Anne, Charlotte, Teresa, Peter, Paul, Jemima, Barry, Oliver, Cordelia, Peter, Monica, Eva Maria, Tom, Charlie, Sophie, Paul, Jacob, Justin, Victoria, Maureen, Eva, Bob, Gail, Tony, Claire, Ann, Tim, Susannah, Anzelika, Bill, Linda, David and Lindsey, Gail, Sr Maria Goretti, Pat, Emma, Paul, Deborah, Christine, Mark, Leon, Charlie, Catherine, Colin, Patricia, Gary, Keith, John, Alice, Philippa, Fr Bruce, Tamsin, Miriam, Adam, David, Rose, Fr Michael, Rosie, Jake, for 8 others & for SG's friends; ... for Luella, Henrietta Challinor, Fr Edward Corbould, Miriam Perera, Fr Richard Hanford, David Kerslake; Rosemary Samways and Fr Jacob Lewis; also for Raymond Catling, George Wallace, Bridget Wallace, Sheila English, Hilda Walsh, Michael McMahon, Mary Letitia Sammons (anniv.)

THE NEEDS BOX at the back of OLSJ supports the work of the Churches In Reading Drop In Centre (CIRDIC.) Thank you for your care and prayers.

The parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Safeguarding Representative may be contacted at [sg.ol.stjohngothames@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.ol.stjohngothames@rcaob.org.uk). Until Lucy's successor is officially appointed it may be best to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding team on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.