



Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us

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

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9 FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY V OF THE YEAR (*Epiphany V*)

Monday 10 St Scholastica
Tuesday 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
Wednesday 12 Feria
Thursday 13 Feria
Friday 14 Ss. Cyril & Methodius
Saturday 15 Our Lady on Saturday
Sunday 16 SUNDAY VI OF THE YEAR
(*Epiphany VI*)

Goring	Sat 6.00pm	Alma Wigglesworth (baptism day)
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Private intention
Woodcote	11.30am	Ignatius Pereira (ill)
Goring	8.00am	AMH's intentions
Goring	6.00pm	Sheila Cross (anniv.)
Goring	9.30am	Harry McIlhenney (anniv.)
Woodcote	12.00pm	Fr Paul Trenchard RIP
Goring	9.00am	<i>Holy Hour for vocations</i>
Goring	10.00am	For vocations
Woodcote	12.00pm	<i>Confessions</i>
Goring	6.00pm	Kieran Watt-Smith RIP <i>Confessions 5pm</i>
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Fr Pat Davies (anniv.)
Woodcote	11.30am	Private intention

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 streamed when possible on the *Goring and Woodcote Catholic Parish* page on Facebook.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025
Another year has come round. As usual, our parish First Holy Communion Mass will be on Trinity Sunday which this year falls on 15 June. Classes will start at the beginning of Lent. Please have a word, ideally by email, if you have a young person who will be thinking about making this great step in their life. The usual age-group is Year 3 at primary school and above.

CONFIRMATION
If you would like to be prepared for this sacrament, please contact the presbytery. On Tuesday there is an DEANERY MEETING which, among many other things, will be discussing dates. I have not forgotten that Bishop Richard Walker's first visit to us before Christmas was ambushed by the weather. He will be coming at some point later in the year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
The parish finance committee meets on Thursday. May I thank its members and, in particular, publicly thank Karen Brown for all her work on our 2024 accounts.

THE NEEDS BOX at the back of church in Goring supports the work of Churches In Reading Drop In Centre (CIRDIC.) Thank you for all your generosity.

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.stjohnthames@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 if you have any concern.

FEBRUARY FOR VOCATIONS
The Archbishop has asked our Deanery to take responsibility for praying for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life during the month of February. Our regular Holy Hour and Masses on Fridays will be particularly focussed on this essential work of prayer. Overleaf you will find more meditations from Luke Theobald from Sonning Common who is currently at a parish in Coventry as part of his seminary formation in Rome.

PILGRIMS OF HOPE
This Jubilee Year is focussed on the idea of pilgrimage. We have had a number of good suggestions and will try to arrange some or all of these ...
spring: Saturday walking pilgrimage to Our Lady of Caversham
10 May: Saturday pilgrimage to Walsingham with the diocese
24-30 May: diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes
summer: parish trip to Harvington
November: joint trip to Rome with Our Lady & St Anne, Caversham.
See overleaf for more details.

READERS AT MASS
6pm: Simon Jones; 10am: the Roberts family; 11.30: the Mayer family..
VOTIVE LAMPS
These burn during February for the Brown family at Woodcote and for Jonathan Smith at Goring. Two remain. Would you like to dedicate one to someone or some intention?

FIRST AID & OTHER THINGS
These may be found at the back of the church at Woodcote and in the Galilee kitchen at Goring. There are bio-hazard cleaning boxes as well. At Goring there is a defibrillator in the kitchen in the green box on the wall. OLSJ has baby-changing facilities..

ULTRA LOW GLUTEN HOSTS
These are available at both churches and in the chapel at the Prep School. Please ask if you need one.

HAVING A PARTY?
The Galilee kitchen has lots of restaurant glass, china, cutlery, table linen and other things. If it would ever help to borrow them, please do not hesitate to ask. There is no charge (but donations are never unwelcome!)

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, Rosie, Jake, Ignatius, for 10 others & for SG's friends;
We are reviewing this list. There is no limit to length of time but information is always good to have.
THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED Please pray for Roger Markwick who has died recently and also for Daniel Barrett, Huberta King, Sheila Cross, Harry McIlhenney, Julian Hickey, Harold Pick, Fr Pat Davies (anniv.)

MEDIATIONS FROM A SEMINARIAN—WEEK 2

Continuing the reflections on vocations to the priesthood, where do vocations come from? All vocations are a gift from God, and they include a personal call to holiness and the building up of the Kingdom of God. Therefore, every person's unique vocation, whether that be married or single life, priestly or religious life, is the place in which that person will reach their fullest potential and flourish to their greatest extent. The Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium* encourages everyone to holiness, with our aim to be '*perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect*'. Embracing our own unique vocation is the 'fast-lane' to holiness and personal sanctification and becoming the person God most wants us to be. From this joy, peace and hope will flow into our communities fostering and supporting one another's faith. Therefore, we must encourage our young people to discern their true vocation including being open to the priesthood and religious life. For priestly vocations there seems to be two important factors found in data collected in the US. Firstly, priestly vocations overwhelming come from families that are active in their faith, regularly go to Mass and pray at home. Secondly, was the importance of young people receiving encouragement from priests and the community to consider the priesthood. For me it was a priest that asked me first if I had thought about the priesthood. I leave two suggestions this week, alongside your continued prayers for vocations. Firstly, ask the Holy Spirit if He is asking you to encourage any young person in your parish on their faith journey, a simple word of encouragement can mean a lot to many young people. More specifically for families with children at home I offer a short prayer that could be added to your daily prayer routine, perhaps after the family meal.

"Loving God, each member of our family is a special gift from You. You have given each of us gifts and talents so that we may enjoy life but also so we can share with others. Generous and loving people are needed for service and leadership in our Church. Help us to know how to encourage and support each other so that we can respond generously to this need. We know that You will be with us, invite us to become the kind of people You desire us to be. Help us to trust in You and in each other. Amen"

ROME PILGRIMAGE 2025

A message from Our Lady and St Anne, Caversham

Fr Joseph McLoughlin is leading a pilgrimage to Rome in November 2025. We have 17 pilgrims going at the moment and if anyone else would like to join us then you would be most welcome. Details are attached and then please contact the parish office as soon as possible on ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk if you would like to know anything more or to make a booking.

Provisional Itinerary

Monday 24th November

Fly to Rome. Transfer to Hotel Emmaus for 4 nights stay on half board basis – evening meal will be taken at a local restaurant. Celebrate Mass locally

Tuesday 25th, Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th November

A full programme will be organized including: Early morning Mass at St Peter's Basilica, attendance at Papal Audience, a half day guided tour of the City with coach – this would usually be used to visit St Paul's Outside the Walls Basilica, then on to St John Lateran and from there the group would walk to St Mary Major and return to the hotel on foot or by taxi if required. We can apply for the group to Process through the Holy Doors. Walking tours will also be undertaken with your courier.

Friday 28th November

Transfer to Rome for return flight to the UK.

Costs: Payable to Tangney Tours

£1150 for double/twin room and £1276 for single room. Some triples available.

Covers return flights, transfers in Rome, half board accommodation, tour guide. Personal Insurance is included; £20 reduction if you have your own cover. Not included are lunches, tips and donations to the Churches.

Costs: Payable to St. Anne's Church

£60 (max) to cover transfer to and from UK airport.

ARCHDIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM - PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES - 24-30 MAY

6 little films give lots of information at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage

ARCHDIOCESAN DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - 10 MAY

Full details will be posted soon on the diocesan website