



*St Peter pray for us*

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

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16 FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY VI OF THE YEAR (*Septuagesima*)

Monday 17	Seven Holy Founders of the Servites	Goring	Sat 6.00pm	Kieran Watt-Smith RIP
Tuesday 18	Feria	Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Wednesday 19	Feria	Goring	10.00am	Fr Pat Davies (anniv.)
Thursday 20	Feria	Woodcote	11.30am	Private intention
Friday 21	St Peter Damian	Goring	8.00am	Jonathan Smith (anniv.)
Saturday 22	CHAIR OF ST PETER	Goring	6.00pm	UCAS candidates (per ME)
Sunday 23	SUNDAY VII OF THE YEAR ( <i>Sexagesima</i> )	Goring	9.30am	JSM (anniv.)
		Woodcote	12.00pm	Fr Paul Trenchard RIP
		Goring	9.00am	<i>Holy Hour for vocations</i>
		Goring	10.00am	For vocations
		Goring	5.00pm	<i>Confessions</i>
		Goring	6.00pm	CM's intentions
		Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
		Goring	10.00am	Private intention
		Woodcote	11.30am	Kevin Watters (anniv.)

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.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
My thanks to those who make up this committee which met last week and to Karen Brown who has done so much on our 2024 accounts. They will be formally presented at the annual parish meeting in the spring. In March and April the whole diocese will be looking at finance. Every so often this is the right thing to do. Covid changed much. Thank you to all who so generously keep our parish alive and active.

**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: Maureen Lewis; 10am: the Wheatley family; 11.30: the Heath family..

**VOTIVE LAMPS**  
These burn during February for the Brown family at Woodcote and for Jonathan Smith and UCAS candidates at Goring. Would you like to dedicate the other to 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. 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;  
**THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED** Please pray for Roger Markwick, Kieran Watt-Smith and Fr Paul Trenchard who have died recently and also for Fr Pat Davies, Jonathan Smith, Eleanor Hope Orchard, Rudolph Capek, Lilian Fitzherbert-Jones, Jimmy Collins, Kevin Watters (anniv.)

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.*

## MEDIATIONS FROM A SEMINARIAN—WEEK 3

A few weeks ago, I was speaking to Fr James Burns president of St Mary's Minnesota, a theological university in the US. He was saying that in his area the three local seminaries are full, in fact the seminary he lives in has more seminarians than the whole of the UK! I asked him his thoughts on the reason for this success and growth. Part of his answer was that around the start of the Millennium the bishops of the US began asking their communities to pray for vocations and they responded with generous and earnest prayers. Prayer is powerful, we have a God whose goodness and mercy are superabundant and boundless. However Jesus, in Luke chapter 11, does tell us to be persistent, to keep on asking, searching and knocking. We can be assured that as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church God will never abandon us (Matthew 16:13-19) and that Jesus is with us always (Matthew 28:20.) We can trust then that the Lord makes the call to the priesthood, but we must cooperate with His will.

Apart from the Holy Mass, one of the greatest forms of prayer we have is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. In the sacred silence of adoration, we come face to face with Jesus, body, blood, soul and divinity in the appearance of bread. In this most powerful moment of prayer we can allow our own human will to move in harmony with the divine will. We can also use this time to pray earnestly for vocations to the priesthood, simply by spending time before the blessed sacrament holding the desire for priestly vocations in your heart. But what should you do during these times of silence? My suggestion would be to very slowly, leaving pauses between each word, repeat mentally the phrase "Jesus, Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner." Try it for 15 minutes. You may be surprised what the Lord says back to you. But what if adoration isn't available at a time you can make it? Perhaps the Lord is inviting you help your parish priest or deacon to prepare the Church for adoration. Please do try and spend time this month in adoration with the intention of vocations in mind.

## 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](mailto:ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk) if you would like to know anything more or to make a booking.

### **Monday 24 November to Friday 28 November**

A full programme will be organized including: Mass at St Peter's Basilica, Papal Audience, a half day guided tour of the City with coach, the Holy Doors, walking tours etc.

### **Costs**

*Payable to Tangney Tours: £1150 for double/twin room and £1276 for single room. Covers return flights, transfers in Rome, half board accommodation, tour guide plus £60 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](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage)

## ARCHDIOCESAN DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - 10 MAY

Full details will be posted soon on the diocesan website

## ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO LOURDES

### THE AMPLEFORTH PILGRIMAGE 11—18 JULY

The monastic and school communities with other friends associated with Ampleforth have a long history of going on pilgrimage with *malades* (pilgrims with medical needs) in the summer holidays. The Mayer family has been involved with this for many years. Damian writes ... "They are also looking for Assisted Pilgrims (also known as Hospital Pilgrims) who stay in the St Frai hospital. The flights are Friday to Friday from Stanstead. The pilgrimage charters a whole plane for helpers and Assisted Pilgrims. They will not be required to pay but if they can make a contribution this would be appreciated." I have the email contact details for the organisers. Damian would also be more than happy to talk to any potential Assisted Pilgrim who might have any questions. I can put you in touch.