



*St David pray for us*

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

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23 FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY VII OF THE YEAR (*Sexagesima*)

Monday 24	Feria
Tuesday 25	Feria
Wednesday 26	Feria
Thursday 27	St Gregory of Narek
Friday 28	St Oswald
Saturday 1 March	ST DAVID
Sunday 2	SUNDAY VIII OF THE YEAR ( <i>Quinquagesima</i> )

Goring	Sat 6.00pm	CM's intentions
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Fr John Osman (ordination anniv.)
Goring	10.00am	Parish & people
Woodcote	11.30am	Kevin Watters (anniv.)
Mapledurham	6.00pm	Eyston family intentions
Goring	8.00am	For B, M and F's intentions
Goring	6.00pm	Miall family intentions
Goring	9.30am	Private intentions (LL)
Woodcote	12.00pm	Faithful departed (WOC)
Goring	10.00am	Vocations <i>Holy Hour from 9am</i>
Goring	2.00pm	REQUIEM—Kieran Watt-Smith
Goring	5.00pm	<i>Confessions</i>
Goring	6.00pm	Conty Brown (1st anniversary)
Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
Goring	10.00am	Ellen Danby (anniv.)
Woodcote	11.30am	Ann Callison (1st anniversary)

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.

**ECUMENICAL HOUSE GROUPS**

These will run in Lent in Goring as they have done for many years. There are sign-up lists at the back of both churches. Please have a word with David Brown if you would like more information.

**LENT IN CHURCH**

In addition to the usual Masses we will pray the Stations of the Cross each week and resume the series of *Sycamore* films about the Catholic Faith on Wednesdays at 7pm.

**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. Date to be confirmed with OLSA soon!  
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 Caversham. See overleaf.

**READERS AT MASS**

6pm: John O'Donohue; 10am: David Browne; 11.30: Rose Metcalf.

**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?

**THIS NEWSLETTER**

There is an email distribution list for these weekly newsletters. Please let me know if you would like to join it (or come off it.)

**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!)

**FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN**

In March the diocese will be asking every parish to look at the question of money. We will have to play our part - and it cannot be ignored - but I hope it will not impinge on anything else including our keeping of Lent.

**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 11 others & for SG's friends;  
**THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED** Please pray for M, for Kieran Watt-Smith and Fr Paul Trenchard who have died recently and also for Kevin Watters, John Stokes, Irene Caldon, Elsie Price, Marco Troiani, Ann Callison, Conty Brown, Moya Ewbank, David Howard-Allen (annivs.)

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 4

In this my last note of this month of prayer for vocations I want to thank everyone for your prayers for priests, seminarians and future vocations. Please continue throughout this year to pray, hopefully with a small daily prayer with your family and then at monthly adoration. This week I want to speak to all young people, who are perhaps unsure of their future. I want to encourage you firstly to not be afraid. Jeremiah 29:11 says “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. God’s desire for you is that you may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10) and it is by living as his disciple, in whatever vocation you are being called to, that you will find your greatest freedom and fulfilment in this world. I worked as trader in the financial markets for several years, with a great job and salary, a waterfront apartment in Sydney and in one sense I had it all. I have left all that behind to discern a priestly vocation, and my only regret is I didn’t join seminary earlier! I want to encourage all young people to be curious with your faith, ask your priests and family questions. Watch Bishop Robert Barron and Fr Mike Schmizt on YouTube and know that being a Catholic is smart, beautiful and truly good. Do take a moment every now and then to ask the Lord, either at Mass or in Adoration, what his call is for you. Do think about priesthood or the religious life, and should the idea of being a priest, monk or nun intrigue you or bring some sense of joy or peace to you then you may have a vocation. If you sense this, do not be afraid, God has great plans for you but do speak to someone, either your parish priest or the vocations director. A conversation with a priest is not a commitment to anything and you may find the Lord is calling you somewhere else. But I can guarantee you that a sincere search for where God is calling you will help you live life and have it to the full. As St Catherine of Siena said, and my prayer for you is, “be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

*Luke grew up in our neighbouring parish of St Michael, Sonning Common, where his family is still very much involved. In God’s good time we pray that he will be one of the next generation of priests for God’s Church and his people.*

## 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

## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SICK 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 did not make clear last week the fact that they have lots of helpers already but there are spaces for pilgrims who would appreciate such help.* I have the email details and Damian would also be more than happy to talk to any potential Assisted Pilgrims.