

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

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SUNDAY XI OF THE YEAR (*Pentecost IV*)

Monday 17	Feria	Goring	7.30am	<i>Survive Miroa</i> charity
Tuesday 18	Dedication of St Chad's Cathedral	Goring	6.00pm	Goodman family intentions
Wednesday 19	St Romuald	Goring	9.30am	Jo Boase RIP
Thursday 20	St Alban	Woodcote	12.00pm	In thanksgiving (PA)
Friday 21	St Aloysius Gonzaga	Goring	9.00am	<i>Holy Hour</i>
Saturday 22	Ss JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE	Goring	10.00am	Robbie Dallas (baptism on Sunday)
		Goring	5.00pm	<i>Confessions</i>
Sunday 23	SUNDAY XII OF THE YEAR (<i>Pentecost V</i>)	Goring	6.00pm	Mary Kate & Patrick Molloy (annivs)
		Goring (Latin)	8.00am	Parish & people
		Goring	10.00am	Crispin Rapinet RIP (1st anniversary)
		Woodcote	11.30am	Alba Haddock (baptism)
		Goring	1.30pm	<i>Holy Baptism</i>
		Goring	3.00pm	<i>Holy Baptism</i>

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 the daily Mass. Mass is streamed on the parish page on Facebook. 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.

DAY FOR LIFE

GENERAL ELECTION

PARISH GARDEN PARTY

PLEASE PRAY

This Sunday is kept by Catholics in England and Wales as the day of prayer for the recognition of the sanctity of God-given life from conception to its natural end. I have printed some extracts from the Catholic Bishops' Conference material overleaf. There is, as you know, a second collection on this day to help the inevitable costs of the Church proclaiming her message.

During the last week we have had details of various resources, mostly on the internet, to help us pray and think in advance of exercising our democratic duty in July. Please see overleaf.

On Sunday 30 June, 3-5pm, the Sadlers will again host us in their beautiful garden at 3 Summerhill Rise. Please see Phil or Graham if you can help in any way. We need volunteers. Why not bring a friend? We also need cakes so all baking gratefully received! If wet we will move to the Galilee.

... for Alba & Robbie, to be baptized next Sunday;
... 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, Lucy, Linda, David and Lindsey, Gail, Sr Maria Goretti, Pat, Emma, Paul, Deborah, Christine, Mark, Leon, Charlie, Catherine, Colin, Gary, Keith, John, for 9 others and for SG's friends who are ill;
... for the souls of Jo Boase who died at Cleeve Lodge yesterday and John Church, Crispin Rapinet and Cecilia Magda Rutherford (anniversaries.)

PIANO RECITAL
Our friend Patrick Lillie is giving a recital at St Thomas's next Saturday, 3-4pm. Do go along.

GORING GAP FESTIVAL
Thank you for supporting the various events in what was a damp but exciting week. Thanks in particular to those who came in such numbers to our little talk here on Thursday evening. It was nice to see some folk here for the first time. There are two events lined up for later in the year: Jeremy Nicholas will return to perform an evening of light verse and prose and Opus Anglicanum will present an evening of mediaeval carols and readings.

STREAMING BREAK
The diocesan safeguarding team has sent new directives for streaming parish Masses. Until we have the paperwork in place, there will be a pause.

VOTIVE LIGHTS
... burn for the Brown family at Woodcote and for Peter Mortimer, Crispin Rapinet, Susan McFarlane and for a parish family member at Goring.

READERS AT MASS
6pm: Simon Jones; 10am: the Roberts family; 11.30am: the Hart family

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

I have asked before whether we can have some volunteers to hand out things before Mass and show a smiling face. Could that volunteer be you?

SYCAMORE COURSE

Film 8 this Wednesday (19 June) from 7pm to 8pm.

HYMN SINGING

It has been ages since we had a Wednesday sing-through. Any ideas for a good date?

The parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocesan policies & procedures at all times. Our Safeguarding Representative is Lucy Bonnett who may be contacted at sg.ol.stjohngothames@rcaob.org.uk. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team may be contacted on 0121 230 6240 / safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

FROM THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE

The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death. In England and Wales, *Day for Life* is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. This year it falls on 16 June. The theme is *The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life*.

A debate on end-of-life issues has been in the headlines in recent months with calls for assisted suicide being expressed, especially by celebrities, a view that opposes the Catholic view that life is a gift and that we are called to care for others at the end of their lives.

Day for Life is marked on the same day by the three Bishops' Conferences of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. We hope that parishes will be able to prepare to promote the Catholic view of life as a gift and the importance of care at the end of life using the resources that will be issued by the Conferences in due course.

The following extracts come from resources available at www.cbcew.org.uk/day-for-life/

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

St John Henry Newman

There has been much discussion in the media recently about 'assisted suicide', whereby people who feel they are overburdened by suffering will be facilitated in bringing their lives to a premature end by a change in legislation. The Catholic Church opposes this. As Catholics, along with many people of other faiths and none, we share a different vision about what it is to be fully human, especially when we are suffering and approaching death in the hope of eternal life. People who are coming towards the end of their lives can feel vulnerable, and recent research shows that many consider themselves a burden on their loved ones and wider society. Jesus shows us that life always has dignity and that there is no such thing as a useless life. We are called to defend this gift of life to its natural end and to protect vulnerable citizens from a culture that could pressure them into assisted suicide. We support people with the companionship of a listening ear, appropriate treatment, and the best of care, so that their last days can be times of grace, intimacy and love. Jesus did not send the sick away. Our Lady remained at the foot of the Cross to the very end as Her Son, Jesus, died. Mary is the model of compassionate presence and prayer whom we are called to imitate. People close to death and their loved ones, often go through similar darkness and pain but can come to a more complete acceptance and find peace in those treasured last moments accompanied by spiritual care.

Bishop John Sherrington, Bishop Kevin Doran, and Bishop John Keenan

Even if I have only been a bystander on someone's Calvary as chaplain, I have seen how the dying can so often grow as they struggle upwards, leading the way, and allowing family and friends to learn important lessons in compassionate love as they share in climbing the Calvary of someone for whom they care. ...

As a hospital chaplain, my role is especially to remind people that the Lord is always calling us from beyond Calvary: "Come you blessed of my Father...inherit the kingdom prepared for you". In our modern culture, we often view life as disposable and assume that everything should be under our control and open to our choice – hence the promotion of assisted suicide. In fact, assisted suicide ultimately involves the denial of an opportunity to live our last days surrounded by compassion and love just as Francis did. It denies us the real dignity that comes from spiritual growth as our bodies diminish. Caring for people at the end of their lives is a beautiful vocation. It is a vocation lived out by hospital chaplains, doctors, nurses, social carers, family, friends, extraordinary ministers of the eucharist and members of parish groups, such as the SVP. Indeed, we all respond to our calling to care each week at Mass when we pray for the sick. Perhaps if we can renew our vocation to care for others at the end of life, it will help change our culture so that more people come to view the end of life differently and see it as a time for spiritual growth which can be filled with grace and love.

*Father George,
Hospital Chaplain*

THE BISHOPS ON THE GENERAL ELECTION

Gospel values inform how we look at the world as Christians. These values can also offer a different way of looking at politics, a way that puts the common good before self-interest.

Throughout this election season we will be seeking answers which will help the poor, the marginalised, and the vulnerable. We seek a society in which all families can flourish and where we care for our common home, where we offer a welcoming hand to strangers in need, where we look out for those struggling to get on. Families are the heart of our communities and society.

We seek, therefore, political leaders who can reflect and share these values. But this is not just about leaders, it is about *us*. We are not merely the passive recipients of politics but active citizens. An election is the best time for us as Christians to speak out, to get involved, and to lead. We hope that these resources will help in that endeavour.

There are many issues of interest to Catholic voters. Here we focus on seven: Criminal Justice, Domestic poverty, family life and taxation, Education, Environment, International relations, human rights and peacebuilding, Life Issues, Migration.

The full texts of these presentations may be found at
www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/

From Anne, one of our CAFOD representatives:

"With the election taking place in less than four weeks, CAFOD is urging the next government to prioritise addressing the root causes of global poverty, injustice and climate change. CAFOD lays out seven essential areas for securing a safer, fairer and more sustainable world for all. The CAFOD website (<https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/uk-general-election-2024-a-guide-for-catholic-voters>) provides a wealth of information including options for getting more involved in influencing future policies"