

A message from Luke Theobald
at the Venerable English College, Rome
Sunday 4th Feb

My name is Luke Theobald, I am from South Oxfordshire and am a seminarian for the Diocese of Birmingham currently studying theology in Rome. I have been invited to share a few short reflections as this month our deanery of Oxford (South) has been asked to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

In Luke chapter 11, we hear the disciples ask Jesus how to pray. Jesus teaches them the Our Father, but also encourages persistence and the hope of prayer

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Luke 11:9-10.

As we begin this month of prayer for vocations may I encourage you to find a moment during the day to pray that young people will discover their true vocation in life and especially that those called to the priesthood and religious life will have the courage and trust in God to say yes. In addition to joining any other activities in your parish perhaps you can use this prayer written by Pope Saint John Paul II and pray it as a family before or after your evening meal together:

Lord Jesus, as You once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let Your sweet invitation continue to resound: Come, follow Me!

Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to Your voice. Support our bishops, priests, and consecrated people in their apostolic labour. Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the ideal of a life totally consecrated to Your service.

Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say ‘Yes’ to the Lord Who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen

Next week I will share a little of my journey.