



PARISH OF WOOLHAMPTON
Diocese of Portsmouth - West Berks Pastoral Area
Served by Benedictine monks of Douai Abbey

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A – 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

This Sunday: *Welcome to our Mass, especially if you are a visitor or newcomer!*

First Reading: **Ecclesiasticus 27: 30 - 28: 7**

Psalm Response: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Second Reading: **Romans 14: 7 - 9**

Gospel Acclamation: Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: **Matthew 18: 21 - 35**

Wednesday Mass this week at St Luke's, Theale - 10am

*To follow **TODAY'S READINGS** please take a **missal as you enter the church** p.450*

Please pray for all our many sick & housebound. Please also pray for those recently died and for all with anniversaries at this time. R.I.P.

OUR PARISH VISION

- ***Our Catholic parish of Woolhampton, including the churches of Theale & Pangbourne, aims to be a vibrant, welcoming community of the universal Church.***
- ***May we all, believers and doubters, be joyfully alive in the infinite love of God, awake to the call of Jesus Christ, eager to learn how better to follow his way and grow in faith.***
- ***As a local presence we seek to bear Christ's message to all, ready to offer those among us and beyond, support and a share in our own journey of discovery.***

The Parish Pastoral Council has written this *Vision of the Parish* and invites parishioners to reflect on it so that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we may all work towards realising it in concrete ways.

Current PPC: Fr Peter, Sue Edwards (Chair), Kate Burke, Jo Harrison, Minnie Greayer, Claire Hicks.

WORD OF HOPE

“Mortal, can these bones live?” ... “O Lord God, you know.” (Ezekiel 37:3). God does indeed know. Dry bones can live because it is the Lord’s desire to breathe new life into his people, into his Church! There is only one person who is able to put the fire back into our bones: the One who came as tongues of fire on the day of Pentecost.

Jesus promised that we would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. That power is there for the asking – from the same Spirit who reminds us that we are the very mission of Christ, the Spirit who brings a revolution of life even to a valley of dry bones...God knows! God knows that these bones can live.

(in James Mallon: Divine Renovation - Bringing your Parish from Maintenance to Mission p.285)

PRAYER & STUDY GROUPS IN THE PARISH

- **Christian Meditation Group – St Bernadette's, Pangbourne:** every Thursday 8-9pm in the Dorman Rooms. All welcome. Contact Mike Sarson 0118 9623332, mike@east-west.org.uk or wccm.org/. Children and Families Meditation sessions. Contact www.eastwestkidsconnect.org.uk.
- **Gospel Study Group – Douai Abbey:** every second Tues. of the month at 2.15pm in Conference Room 2 at the Abbey. To understand more about the scriptures, please come along. Contact Ron Laker on ronkalaker@gmail.com or tel. 01491 671186.
- **House Mass** - If you would like to host a Mass in your house, please invite the priests!

NOTICES

- **Second Collection Today - Home Mission Sunday.** Home Mission Sunday exists to help the Church and share the joy of the Gospel.
- **PARISH PILGRIMAGE to Stonor House,** nr Henley, **Saturday 30 September** a visit to this Catholic home, refuge for priests and others in Reformation times. Contact the Parish Office for info.
- **LOST PROPERTY** A black quilted jacket with faux fur trim has been left at The Abbey. If you know the owner, please contact - Kate Laker, 01491 671 186 or email: ronkalaker@gmail.com
- **Safeguarding Training** open to all parishioners, Vulnerable Adult Training : 1.30 - 4pm, Saturday 23 September at English Martyrs, Liebenrood Rd, Reading, RG30 2EB. Also Refresher Training & Combined Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults, 10am - 12.30pm, Saturday 18 November, The Holy Trinity, Bowenhurst Rd, Church Crookham, GU51 3ST. Contact Soraya: 023 92836511/023 92816396.
- **Monastic Experience Weekends, 27-29 October & 15-17 June 2018.** Invitation to men (18-40) to meet the Benedictine monks of Douai Abbey & explore the Monastic Experience Programme. For information and to book a place contact Fr Gabriel OSB, pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk.
- **West Berks New Evangelisation Strategy Team** has launched a website for events & news in the Newbury, Thatcham & Woolhampton parishes, also blogs on new evangelization, www.wbnest.wordpress.com.
- **The Diocese** are looking for 2/3 **Youth Ambassadors**, aged 18-35, to help promote events & support communications between parishes, young people & the Diocese. Volunteers should be active in their faith & parish & adept in correspondence and communication. Contact Fr Peter if you are interested.
- **Prayer Cards for Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor RIP** are available at the back of the church.

Joining Up the Bible

Texts & Characters of the OT

12 sessions at Douai Abbey: 2.15pm - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the Month

led by Fr Peter - starting 3rd October.

Monks must not complain about the colour or coarseness of their clothing but use what is available in the vicinity at a reasonable cost.

(Rule of Benedict written 500AD, Ch.35, 1-2)

parish@douaiabbey.org.uk - www.douaiparish.org.uk

Baptism Preparation

Our parish welcomes parents presenting a child for Baptism at the next preparation which will take place in 2 sessions: the first on Saturday 7 October, 4pm at St Luke's Church, Theale. You will be welcome to come to these sessions even if you are still expecting your child.

Please contact the priests or the parish office, giving address and telephone number where you may be contacted.

To prepare NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Year A - 25th Sunday 24 September, p.454

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 6 - 9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 20-24. 27

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1 - 16

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about

the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too". In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbles at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "my friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus, the last will be first, and the first, last.'

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY SUNDAY OF YEAR A – 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

Mass Celebrants

NEXT WEEK (24 Sept.2017)

Saturday	5.30pm	Fr Peter	(Fr Peter)
Sunday	9am Woolhampton	Fr Peter	(Fr Benjamin)
	9.30am Pangbourne	Fr Benjamin	(Fr Peter)
	11am Abbey	Fr Alban	(Fr Finbar)

MASSES & SERVICES IN THE PARISH

17.30 Saturday Mass at Theale
9.00 Sunday Mass at St Mary's Woolhampton, at Pangbourne 9.30,
11.00 Sunday Mass at Douai Abbey

Weekdays: Mass at 10.00 on Wednesdays of month:
1st at Theale, 2nd at Pangbourne, 3rd at Theale, 4th at St Mary's
Daily at Douai Abbey 7.45am

All are welcome to join the daily Monastic Offices at Douai Abbey:
6.20 Matins, 12.50 Midday, 18.00 Vespers

*A monk is normally available in the Abbey Church for Confession/Listening
Weekdays 7am-7.30am & 6.30-7.00pm; Saturdays 12noon-12.30pm
- and at any time by request.*

For Confession in your own church please ask the priests at any time.

The Parish Office, Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ

Tel: 0118 971 5350 email: parish@douaiabbey.org.uk

WOOLHAMPTON - St Mary's Church RG7 5TQ

PANGBOURNE – St Bernadette's Church RG8 7JL

THEALE - St Luke's Church RG7 5AS

Priests: Frs Peter Bowe & Benjamin Standish OSB

Parish Administrator: Doreen Morrissey

Office open Monday - Friday 9.00 - 1.00

If you would like Fr Peter or Fr Benjamin to call & see you at home,
please do tell us.

Further notices and information on the Parish website: www.douaiparish.org.uk.

Bishop Philip invites all the faithful of the diocese to subscribe to his free weekly e-Newsletter. You can sign up to receive this direct to your inbox each week here: <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews/>