



PARISH OF WOOLHAMPTON

Diocese of Portsmouth - Served by the Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey

www.douaiparish.org.uk

Douai Abbey and St Mary's, RG7 5TQ

St Bernadette's, Pangbourne RG8 7JL St Luke's, Theale RG7 5AS

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SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Numbers 11:25-29	<i>Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!</i>
Psalms 18 Response	<i>The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.</i>
James 5:1-6	<i>Your wealth is all rotting.</i>
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48	<i>Anyone who is not against us is for us. If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off.</i>

THIS WEEK

Saturday 28 September	St Luke's	5.30pm
	<i>(Mass Intention: Michael D'Souza, RIP)</i>	
Sunday 29 September	St Bernadette's	9.45am
	<i>(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)</i>	
	Abbey Church	10.30am
Mon 30 Sept - Sat 5 Oct	Abbey Church	7.45am

All are welcome to daily services in Douai Abbey Church:

6.20am Morning Office (Matins & Lauds)

12.45pm Midday Prayer

6.00pm Vespers 8.00pm Compline

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions)

Abbey Church: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 6.30pm -7.00pm
St Luke's: Saturday 4.45pm – 5.15pm
St Bernadette's: Sunday 9.00am – 9.30am

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our parish:

Monica Adams · Patricia Brenninkmeyer · Pat Campbell · Luke Conlon · Mary Cox
Kevin McCormack · Marigold Norman · Donald and Babs O'Sullivan · Mary
Overington · Barbara Stocker.

Please pray for those who have died recently, especially Val Nye.

**Val's funeral will be at St Luke's Church
on Friday 4th October at 2.00pm**

REFLECTION FOR 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last week we reflected on James, and I'd like to continue that reflection today. The letter of James isn't long, I'd encourage you if you're moved by its teachings to have a look at the whole letter. Have a read through verses 1 to 6 of chapter 5, aren't they striking?

James presents us with a stark warning to who he terms the "rich". Are we to understand by this passage that it's immoral to have wealth? Or is there any particular virtue in being poor? Should we all sell everything we own to be deliberately poor? Well that's not the message here. This passage is concerned with justice and the impartiality that has been a constant theme of this letter.

Read verses 4 to 6 closely, do you see the issues that James is raising?
– Defrauding people – Self-indulgence – Condemnation

James' concern in the early parts of his letter is with the interior dispositions of the heart, which he continues to reflect on here. It's been a theme for Jesus as well, if you remember the gospels passages from recent weeks. It's not that external actions don't matter, otherwise what James says doesn't really make any sense, but that we can't separate external actions from our internal thoughts and desires.

James had identified in the community that he was writing to, that the rich among them were living out of an attitude of self-reliance that had made them numb to the needs of their brothers and sisters. Worse, it had led them to feel comfortable mistreating the less fortunate in order that they might benefit.

We don't need to be financially rich to fall into those traps. We can be self-indulgent, self-referential and judgemental of others. If we find ourselves in that position, we should hear James' words to the rich ringing in our ears.

But this passage ends with one of my favourite little verses: “they offered you no resistance”. Notice how that little characterisation of the righteous person slips in at the end; selfless, humble, the righteous person doesn’t strike back in anger.

That’s not to say that being passive in the face of injustice is a good thing, far from it. But resistance can take other forms, such as selflessness. We should avoid paying evil for evil. It should also bring to mind one very pertinent example: Jesus himself.

Jesus offered no resistance, like a sheep being taken to slaughter. He willingly submitted himself to his passion, because through that he would save us all.

A few weeks ago we looked at carrying our cross after Jesus; James here shows us another way to live that out, with God’s help.

Taken from [The God Who Speaks](#)

HARVEST FESTIVAL MASS

Please bring along fresh garden produce, cakes, jams, chutneys and tinned food for the Harvest Festival Mass at St Bernadette’s Church this Sunday, **29th September**. Cakes and produce will be on sale after Mass, with proceeds going to our new parish charity. Tinned food will be added to our contribution to the Food Bank.

CAFOD’S FAMILY FAST DAY APPEAL

This year's Harvest Family Fast Day will be on Friday **4th October**. Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD and you’ll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.

OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

October is a month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. Integral to the spiritual life of many Catholics, St John Paul II called the rosary his favourite prayer, "in which we meditate with Mary upon the mysteries which she as a mother meditated on in her heart".

Starting next week, Saturday **5th October**, please come to St Luke’s at 5.00pm every Saturday during the month to pray the Rosary together.

YOUNG DISCIPLES GROUP

Next Sunday, **6th October**, the Young Disciples Group, for children who have made their First Communion but have not yet been Confirmed, will meet up after Mass at St Bernadette’s Church. Bite-sized topics followed by doughnuts!

‘THAT PEACE WHICH THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE’

In its second Collect of Evening Prayer, the Anglican Book of Common Prayer asks for ‘that peace which the world cannot give’. On this Day of Reflection, which takes place at Douai on Saturday **5th October**, you shall rest in a mixture of poetry, prose and music to help you find that elusive presence of deep inner peace.

The day will be led by Barbara Priest, an Anglican lay minister, oblate of Douai Abbey and leader of Quiet Days. Arrive from 10.00am, day runs from 10.30am – 4.00pm. Cost is £25 including lunch (or £15 bring own lunch). Pay on the day (concessions available). To book: guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk

TAKE ACTION ON TWO-CHILD CAP POLICY

The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales continues to be seriously concerned about the implications of the current two-child policy on Universal Credit payments for vulnerable, larger families.

Introduced in 2017, the policy has been undermining the financial security of families with three or more children. Such families often have no choice but to make claims for Universal Credit because of common, but unpredictable, life events, such as job loss or the onset of disability. Most families affected by the two-child policy are working families.

The Bishops’ Conference has launched an e-Action campaign and encourage all Catholics to take part. You can make your voice heard and contact your MP by simply entering your postcode and following the subsequent steps [here](#).

JAM SALE - THANKS

Many thanks to all who supported CAFOD by buying jam at St Luke’s. A total of £133 was raised - a great return! There is more jam/jelly being made in October, if you want to place an order please let Monica Morris know via the [Parish Office](#).

‘AUTUMN LEAVES’ RECITAL

Join the Renaissance Choir for an hour of choral music at Douai Abbey on Saturday **5th October** from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. There will be no charge for admission but a retiring collection for church funds. Features music by Brahms, Rheinberger, Lobo, Pearsall and Schofield.

QUIZ NIGHT

Don’t miss the 2024 Quiz Night at St Stephen’s Church, Pangbourne Road, Upper Basildon on Saturday **12th October**. Doors open 7pm for 7:30pm prompt start. Tickets are £15 including fish and chips, sausage and chips, or vegetarian option. Any questions ring 01491 672494. Book your place and pay online [here](#) or contact rosemary@thebenefice.uk.