



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 15 SEPTEMBER 2024

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Isaiah 50:5-9

I offered my back to those who struck me.

Psalm 114 Response

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

James 2:14-18

If good works do not go with faith, it is quite dead.

Mark 8:27-35

You are the Christ. The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously.

THIS WEEK

Saturday 14 September

St Luke's

5.30 pm

(Mass Intention: Marian Greenall, RIP)

Sunday 15 September

St Bernadette's

9.45 am

(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)

Abbey Church

10.30 am

(Mass Intention: Lucy Grimwood)

Mon 16 - Sat 21 Sept

Abbey Church

7.45 am

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 Brennismeyer · Pat Campbell · 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,
and keep their loved ones in prayer.**

REFLECTION FOR 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

We come, in Mark's gospel, to the pivotal moment: the moment on which the gospel turns, from the Galilean ministry to the lead up to the Passion.

Peter, often the spokesman for the disciples, answered Jesus' question, 'who do you say I am?' He answered simply: 'You are the Christ'. We might say, 'You are the Messiah.'

We mustn't miss the magnitude of that declaration from Peter. The Messiah was long expected. The Messiah was more than a prophet, more than a King. The Messiah was the hope of Israel, the culmination of God's promises to his longsuffering people. Imagine Peter's horror, then, when Jesus immediately proceeded to detail exactly what his Messiahship would entail: his own suffering, rejection, death, and yes resurrection.

I'd like to imagine that Peter didn't register that last prophecy, he was perhaps so bewildered by the first few that he just had to act. A Messiah who would suffer and die? What hope was there in that? Had Israel waited hundreds of years, gone through so much, through exile and occupation and oppression, only for their promised salvation to be put to death?

Peter, ever the practical man, took Jesus aside, we're told, and had words with him. Whatever was said, Jesus' response should shock us. Let's look at it stage by stage: first, Jesus looked around to see his disciples. Was he making sure they were watching and in earshot? Did Jesus want them to witness this? Then, Jesus uttered that famous rebuke: "Get behind me, Satan!" Poor Peter! How crushed he must have felt.

I wonder, though, if we would be any different? How often have I, have you, tried to form Jesus in an image that I find comfortable; so that he thinks and acts like I would, or would like him to?

Listen again to Jesus' explanation for rebuking Peter: "the way you think is not God's way but man's." Do we think the way God thinks? Or are we under the thumb of the prince of this world?

A suffering, dying, rising Messiah is comfortable to us today; we've had 2000 years to get used to it. But the problem with that is we've been immunised against the shock. We need to be able to feel it again. Because it's not just Jesus who has to go to the cross. Each of us who profess to follow him, need to carry our own as well.

We would do well to remember this, as well, to Jesus' first hearers the cross was not the religious symbol it is for us: it was simply an instrument of terrible torture and death reserved for the worst traitors and criminals. To willingly take one up meant to be deeply courageous, willing to endure anything.

We see that endurance in the lives of the saints: yes, those who lived lives so different from ours, but also more relatable people like St John Paul II who endured his declining health, or Carlo Acutis.

Endurance and courage isn't the prerogative of a select few, it's the calling on all of us. After all, as James taught us in the second reading today, our faith means nothing, indeed is dead, if it doesn't have a tangible impact on the way we live our lives.

Taken from [The God Who Speaks](#)

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY– SECOND COLLECTION

The Third Sunday in September, formerly called Home Mission Sunday, is now Evangelii Gaudium Sunday. There is a Second Collection **this Sunday** so that the national work of evangelisation can be supported through the Home Mission Office.

MASS OF ENROLMENT

At this Sunday's Mass at St Bernadette's Church, we welcome six young people from our parish as they continue their preparation for Confirmation. Please keep them and their families in prayer.

JAM SALE AT ST LUKE'S

There will be a jam and preserves sale in aid of CAFOD at St Luke's on Saturday **21st September**. Thanks to the generous donation of much of the fruit, prices are lower and well below those in the supermarket. So please come and stock up for the winter!

HOLY HOURS

A holy hour is a time of worship where we spend one hour completely devoted to Christ in prayer. The Bishops' Conference have produced eight themed PDF downloads to provide guided prayer and reflection to encourage people to be open to how Jesus is speaking to each of us, either as a communal act of worship, or in a more personal and contemplative way.

The themes are [Creation](#), [Eucharist](#), [Forgiveness](#), [Jubilee](#), [Justice](#), [Marriage and Family](#), [Risen Jesus](#), [Vocation](#).

SEPTEMBER SOIREE

Bridge For Young People (formerly YPACF) invite you to their September Soiree Charity Ball, held at Donnington Grove Hotel, Newbury, on Friday **20th September**. Tickets are £67.50 and include a welcome drink and three-course meal. With live auction, silent art auction, raffle and dancing into the evening. Please contact liztucker@ypacf.org.uk or buy tickets online [here](#).

ADoRE MINI-RETREAT

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat takes place on Saturday **21st September**. This month's theme is "*You Shall Prophesy*" – developing the gift of prophecy. Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Geoff Poulter.

The live meeting is 10am-3pm at St. Dunstan's Church, Woking, GU22 7DT (please bring picnic lunch), or online from 10am-1pm at: bit.ly/ADORESEP2024 (registration not necessary). More information available at: www.altonrenewal.com

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 or sausage and chips or vegetarian alternative. Any questions ring 01491 672494. Book your place and pay online: [here](#) or contact rosemary@thebenefice.uk.

FORMATION DAY FOR READERS

Takes place on Saturday, **19th October**, led by Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation. Starts with Mass at 9.30am, finishes at 2.00pm. With talks, reflections and refreshments (please bring own lunch). At St Bede's Church, Basingstoke RG24 9DX, please RSVP to liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.