



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

Parish Priest: Fr Alban Hood OSB

Tel: 0118-971-5350 ahood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Kathryn Garden

Tel: 0118-971-5350 woolhampton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister: Kate Burke

Tel: 0118-984 2166 safeguarding.wool@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SUNDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2024

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20	<i>Let us condemn him to a shameful death.</i>
Psalm 53 Response	<i>The Lord upholds my life.</i>
James 3:16-4:3	<i>Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.</i>
Mark 9:30-37	<i>The Son of Man will be delivered. If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself servant of all.</i>

THIS WEEK

Saturday 14 September	St Luke's <i>(Mass Intention: Frank Ferris, RIP)</i>	5.30pm
Sunday 15 September	St Bernadette's <i>(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)</i>	9.45am
	Abbey Church	10.30am
Mon 16 - Sat 21 Sept	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 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 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

James' letter is a gem among the New Testament epistles. James writes with a plainness and a practicality that is so different from Paul's theological eloquence or the density of Hebrews. Over the last few weeks we've been reading through sections of this letter, coming today to the end of chapter 3 and the beginning of chapter 4.

James' purpose in this section is to emphasise the importance of unity. He tells us that jealousy and ambition lead to disharmony and wickedness. We see that for ourselves at every level of human life; from international relations all the way down to relationships between individuals.

This fracturing of human relationships is not in line with the "wisdom that comes down from above" which is itself peaceable and compassionate, demonstrated itself in doing good.

At this point we might start to blame "the system". Countries compete and enter into conflict, because it's the way the world is, right? Or being ambitious is how the job market works, right? We have to play the game in order to win.

James, though, won't buy into that. He says that the root of this disharmony and fracturing in the world comes from inside ourselves. It's our own desires or passions, corrupted by sin, which drives us inexorably. If we are to fix the problems in the world, we have to begin with ourselves.

James gives us two practical ways to combat that internal problem, common to all of us. The first and foundational tool in our arsenal is prayer. When a need arises within us, as children of God our first impulse should be to pray; to ask God to satisfy that need.

If we don't receive what we want, James answers bluntly, it's because we've asked for what is not good for us, we've prayed to indulge our own desires, which we may not even be aware of. The good news is, as Jesus teaches, God knows how to give good gifts to his children: we may not get what we think we want, but we get what we need, sometimes to endure the trials we have to face.

The second tool in our arsenal is to be peacemakers. Notice the biblical word is not "peacekeepers" as we might expect the UN to engage in. No, we are called to go further than that. We are to be makers of peace; that is, to be people who bring peace to situations that lack it, both in our own personal lives and in the lives of our communities and nations.

If we can do that, even when it may seem to be a fruitless exercise, we "sow the seeds", in James' words, that will grow into holiness. Some plants take many years to grow and bear fruit, sometimes that may be longer than our lifetime; but that's ok.

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 next 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.

JAM SALE AT ST LUKE'S

There will be a jam and preserves sale in aid of CAFOD at St Luke's this 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!

OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

The Vatican has granted permission for Our Lady of Walsingham to be celebrated as a new Feast in the dioceses of England, starting this year on **24th September**.

The Shrine, in north Norfolk, was once the focus of pilgrimage in a land called 'Our Lady's Dowry' and is now restored to the prominence it enjoyed for so long. It is the only Feast of Our Lady proper to England. To plan a visit or for more information, visit: www.walsingham.org.uk

ANNUAL MASS COUNT

Beginning this Sunday, 22nd September, the annual Mass count will take place over four weekends - 22nd and 29th September / 6th and 13th October. All parishes across all the dioceses of England and Wales will be undertaking the count, that is, the numbers of people in attendance in church at Sunday Mass.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

Harvest Fast Day this year is on Friday **4th October**, please think about what you will sacrifice on that day in order to help CAFOD keep their projects going! We ask you to give something up rather than try to find “spare” cash; so many families are feeling the pressure of rising prices we only expect what you can afford!

You will hear from the local representatives about our ongoing work and donations may be made online, in the envelopes or via the QR code or Zettle box. Thanks to you all, the Parish CAFOD Team.

‘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.

The recital will feature music by Brahms, Rheinberger, Lobo, Pearsall and Schofield. The choir visited Douai in May 2022 and received an enthusiastic welcome. For more information about the choir, visit renaissancechoir.org.uk.

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.

CARE OF CREATION RETREAT

Join with others for a week that is a mix of holiday, retreat and a course, exploring the teachings of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si'* on Care of Our Common Home, and discover how to live our role as stewards of creation fully in our personal lives and within the Church.

Throughout the week, immerse yourself in talks, gardening, creative activities, discussions and walks, all set to the rhythm of prayer in the Augustinian community at Boarbank Hall and beautiful surroundings of the Lake District.

Takes place from **5th – 12th October**. More information at www.journeyto2030.org