



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 27th OCTOBER 2024

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Jeremiah 31:7-9	<i>I will comfort the blind and the lame as I lead them back.</i>
Psalms 125 Response	<i>What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.</i>
Hebrews 5:1-6	<i>You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever.</i>
Mark 10:46-52	<i>Master, let me see again.</i>

THIS WEEK

Saturday 26 October	St Luke's	5.30pm
Sunday 27 October	St Bernadette's <i>(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)</i>	9.45am
	Abbey Church <i>(Mass Intention: Michael Delaney, RIP)</i>	10.30am
Friday 1 November	ALL SAINTS <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i>	
	Abbey Church	7.45am
	St Bernadette's	10.00am
Mon 28 Oct – Sat 2 Nov	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 · Also Don Hood, Fr Alban's father.

Please pray for those who have died recently and keep their loved ones in prayer.

MESSAGE FROM FR ALBAN

Dear Parishioners,

One of the things I always dread is going for an eye test at the opticians. I always feel stupid at the point where I'm given different lenses and asked "do the letters look clearer with this one, or that one?" I simply can't decide. Yet when I receive new glasses, I am totally amazed at the difference. Suddenly I can see things that I couldn't before. Without realising it I had settled for blurry vision and poor focus. I was comfortable with the status quo. It is often the same in our lives. We allow sin and circumstances to blur our vision of the truth. We easily become complacent and accept our blurry vision as "just the way it is."

Today's Gospel story is about more than just the blindness of Bartimaeus; it's also about the blindness of the people around him who are trying to intimidate and silence him, and keep him from asking for help.

The question Jesus asked Bartimaeus is also asked of us today. "What do you want me to do for you?" What might be our response here and now? We can only hear these words though if we tune in to Jesus' words frequently. It takes time and we have to make time for it because there are many things that always try to distract us from reading the Scriptures, or praying, but this time is very well spent because to pray helps us to distinguish our needs from our wants.

Bartimaeus tells Jesus directly: 'Master, let me see again.' This is a direct, simple and humble example of prayer. And we know, when Jesus heard this simple expression of his faith, he answered that prayer.

It is significant where the healing of Bartimaeus takes place – at Jericho, which was one of the most strongly fortified cities in the land of Canaan, and yet, the Israelites conquered it and its walls came tumbling down.

There is a Jericho in each of our lives that place of fear, of dread, of challenge. But we must remember that Jericho is the place where God makes the impossible, possible. Each of us has the potential to be like Bartimaeus. Like him, are we ready to throw off all that keeps us from the Lord, to run to Him and follow Him?

Bartimaeus was the one who was blind and could only 'sit at the side of the road, but who then becomes the one who walks and follows the Lord because his eyes have been opened. In order to see with eyes of faith we don't need to go to an optician. We need to hear the voice which says to us:

"Courage, get up, the Lord is calling you." Jesus, son of David have mercy on us, and open our eyes to Your Ways. Amen.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours devotedly,

Father Alban OSB

PASTORAL LETTER

This weekend, we have a Pastoral Letter from the Bishop which will be read at all Masses.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Please join us at St Luke's at 5pm this Saturday, **26th October**, to pray the Rosary together.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Friday **1st November** is All Saints Day, a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be Masses in the Abbey Church at 7.45am and St Bernadette's at 10am.

ALL SAINTS CHILDREN'S PARTY

After the 9.45 am Mass at St Bernadette's on Sunday **3rd November** there will be a little Party for the children as a late celebration of All Saints Day. You are welcome to come dressed as your favourite saint and ready to play a few saint-themed party games! Nibbles and cakes provided.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During November we pray especially for the Holy Souls. Envelopes are available in church for you to place names of deceased parents, relatives, friends and all for whom you wish to pray. Their names will be placed on the altar and Holy Mass will be offered for them during the month. Please return envelopes to the church together with your Mass offering.

OPPOSING ASSISTED SUICIDE

In preparation for the challenging debates on assisted suicide, the Bishops' Conference offers resources to help us stay informed about the issue and inform others about the dangers of assisted suicide: [Reasons](#), [Questions](#), [End of Life Care](#) and [Law](#). Click [here](#) to contact your MP via the 'Right to Life' website.

Dr Dominic Whitehouse, a palliative care consultant, will be speaking on Tuesday **29th October** 7.30pm-9pm, at the Novotel Reading Centre, RG1 1DP, to explain why changing the law would be harmful to doctors, patients and society. Register at www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures or contact spucreading@gmail.com.

CAFOD-DEC MIDDLE EAST APPEAL

The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: cafod.org.uk/give.

'ECHO' CONCERT AT DOUAI

There will be a concert in the Abbey Church this Sunday, **27th October**, at 3.30pm. The performers are Echo and they recently held their debut recital in the Wigmore Hall. Tickets at £20 (£10 under 30s) from www.eventbrite.co.uk or £25 on the door.

Every now and again a choir comes here for the first time and, perhaps naturally, people are not quite sure what it is going to be like. Fr Oliver is 100% confident that this choir will be excellent ... but in case you still have doubts, please listen to any of these videos from their website: www.echo-choir.com/videos.

ONLINE SESSION ON THE NEW LECTIONARY

The Diocese has two sessions about the new lectionary that comes into use in Advent. Each session, led by Fr. Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy, will be identical - so you need only attend one.

Covering what the lectionary is, its revisions and what they mean for us, the sessions are on Tuesday **5th November** and Tuesday **19th November** and last one hour, from 7 to 8 pm. Please register for 5th Nov [here](#) or 19th Nov [here](#).

The new edition of the Sunday Missal is now available to purchase from the Abbey Shop.

PARISH CHARITY SELECTION

This weekend is the final opportunity to vote for the new parish charity using the boxes at the back of our parish churches. Only one voting slip each please.