



# PARISH OF WOOLHAMPTON

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

[www.douaiparish.org.uk](http://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 8 SEPTEMBER 2024

### 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Isaiah 35:4-7	<i>The ears of the deaf shall be unsealed and the tongues of the dumb shall be loosed.</i>
Psalm 145 Response	<i>My soul, give praise to the Lord.</i>
James 2:1-5	<i>God chose the poor to be the heirs to the kingdom.</i>
Mark 7:31-37	<i>He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.</i>

### THIS WEEK

<b>Saturday 7 September</b>	<b>St Luke's</b> <i>(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)</i>	<b>5.30 pm</b>
<b>Sunday 8 September</b>	<b>St Bernadette's</b> <i>(Mass Intention: Patrick Sugrue, RIP)</i>	<b>9.45 am</b>
	<b>Abbey Church</b> <i>(Mass Intention: Ron Laker, RIP)</i>	<b>10.30 am</b>
<b>Mon 9 - Sat 14 Sept</b>	<b>Abbey Church</b>	<b>7.45 am</b>

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 Helen Keene, and keep their loved ones in prayer.**

Helen's Requiem Mass takes place at St Mary's Church at 11am on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## **REFLECTION FOR 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

In the gospel today, the crowd presses in. If you close your eyes, you can feel the crowd jostling, bodies colliding. You can hear lips murmuring. You can see the anticipation in people's eyes, the arms leading the way to weave through the crowd. Yes, the crowd is pressing in and the man who is deaf finally nears Christ.

Now, Christ could have healed the physical body without a word and let him melt back into the crowd. But Jesus the Christ sees the person, the whole person. Jesus the Christ sees more than *the* deaf, *the* blind, *the* rich, *the* poor. Christ encounters whole persons—body and soul, in all their complexity; persons who are more than one aspect of their lives. This is the wisdom embodied and alive in Christ.

This is the wisdom we are invited to embody too! We are invited to welcome the whole of people's identities, to open our hearts and encounter the whole individual. Today, we are invited to encounter the image of God alive in one another.

*Taken from [U.S. Catholic](#)*

## **EDUCATION SUNDAY – SECOND COLLECTION**

Education Sunday is on **8<sup>th</sup> September**, just as the new academic year starts. The Second Collection will support the Catholic Education Service who provide places of education, university chaplaincy, parish youth ministry and opportunities for social action. They have responsibility for the Diocese of Portsmouth's 71 Catholic Schools across several sectors which together provide education and faith formation for almost 32,000 pupils from age 5 to 18. You can donate online [here](#).

## CAN YOU OFFER A LIFT?

A parishioner who is no longer able to drive to the 10.30am Abbey Mass due to failing eyesight has asked if anyone could offer her a lift from and to Bucklebury. If you may be able to help, please get in touch with the [Parish Office](#).

## VACANCY AT DOUAI ABBEY

Douai Abbey seeks a Guest House Administrative Assistant to work three mornings a week at the Abbey. Details from the Bursar on 0118 971 5319 or [bursar@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:bursar@douaiabbey.org.uk). Applications close on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

## THANKS FROM WEST BERKS FOODBANK

The Foodbank writes: In early June we were asked by 48 schools to support 555 families and feed 1,276 children through the summer holidays, in addition to approx. 1,000 adults and children we support each month. Our SOS for help and your response was amazing, immediate and much needed! THANK YOU!

As we come to the end of summer, we look forward to the season of Harvest and are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from churches like yours, so vital in helping us in the fight against hunger and poverty locally.

## LIGHT OF TRUTH ONLINE COURSES

Light of Truth, an apostolate of the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph, invite you to attend one of their [online courses](#). Suggested donation: £5 per session per person.

**The Four Last Things** - four sessions to understand what we believe as Catholics about the four last things: death, judgment, heaven and hell. Starts 10<sup>th</sup> October.

**Discover the Rosary** - an evening to understand the prayer of the Rosary and learn how it is prayed, and why it is such a powerful prayer. On 11<sup>th</sup> October.

**Meet the Angels** - two sessions to discover what the Catholic Church teaches about the Angels. On 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November.

## FORMATION DAY FOR READERS

Takes place on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

## SEPTEMBER SOIREE

Bridge For Young People (formerly YPACF) invite you to their September Soiree Charity Ball, held at Donnington Grove Hotel, Newbury, on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September. Tickets £67.50 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](mailto:liztucker@ypacf.org.uk) or buy tickets online [here](#).



## DOUAI ABBEY PROGRAMME Autumn 2024



- **Workshops & Reflection Days:** 10.30am to 4pm. (arrivals & coffee from 10am). Contribution £25 made on the day please (lunch, coffee & tea incl.); £15 bring own lunch.
- **Retreats:** arrive 4-5.30pm, dep. after lunch. Cost £200/shared room £160pp
- **All Booking enquiries & Booking:** Email: [guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk)
- **How to arrive** see: <https://www.douaiabbey.org.uk/contact-us.php>

### **Weekend 20-22 September**

### **Christian Mindfulness Forum**

*Led by Martin Zetter & Christopher Greener OSB* Exploring meditation & mindfulness; practical instruction for the experienced & beginners. Using the Scriptures to build a mindful response to life's challenges. Sharing experiences encouraged, also individual reflection with the teacher.

*Martin Zetter is a Douai oblate & meditation teacher.*

**Saturday 5 October Quiet Day 10-4pm That Peace which the World cannot give**  
*led by Barbara Priest* We shall seek to rest in a variety of poetry, prose & music to help us find that elusive presence of deep inner peace.

**Barbara Priest** is an Anglican lay minister with a contemplative ministry & oblate of Douai Abbey.

### **Weekend Friday 8-Sunday 10 November**

### **Richard Rolle & Walter Hilton Retreat**

*led by Christopher Greener OSB* Contemplative practice & life following the medieval hermits & mystics Richard Rolle & Walter Hilton. This will offer an introduction to meditation & deepening & sharing of our practice.

**Br Christopher Greener** is a monk of Douai Abbey.

### **Tuesday 12–Thursday 14 November**

### **Meet the Ancestors Study Retreat**

**Spiritual legacy of Anglo-Saxon Christians** *Led by Rev'd Douglas Dales* An opportunity to appreciate the rich history of Christian spirituality from the coming of Augustine to Canterbury in 597 to the Norman Conquest, considering its legacy to the English Church in the Middle Ages; reflecting on such figures as Augustine, Columba & Aidan, Bede & Cuthbert; also the mission of Willibrord & Boniface, the later renewal of monasticism, & the growth of liturgy & art.

**Douglas Dales** is an Anglican parish priest and author of books on medieval spirituality.

### **Weekend Friday 13– Sunday 15 December**

### **Advent Retreat**

#### ***A Path through Christmas: (for those aged 18-30)***

In today's secular world, how might we focus on the Birth of Christ so that each of the Twelve Days of Christmas may be a particular celebration. How can we find and follow a Christian path of celebration through these Christmas Days.

*Led by Abbot Christopher Jamison OSB*

see video:



**Further details on request - ALL WELCOME !**

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