



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 19 OCTOBER 2025

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Exodus 17:8-13

'Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed.'

Psalm 121 Response

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

2 Timothy 3:14–4:2

'That the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.'

Luke 18:1-8

'God will give justice to his elect, who cry to him.'

MASS TIMES

Saturday 18 October

St Luke's

5.30 pm

Sunday 19 October

St Bernadette's

9.45 am

(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)

Abbey Church

10.30 am

(Mass Intention: Jim Foley, RIP)

Mon 20 – Sat 25 Oct

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confessions)

Abbey Church: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 6.30pm -7.00pm

St Luke's: Saturday from 5.00pm

St Bernadette's: Sunday from 9.15am

Please pray for the sick and housebound of our parish:

Monica Adams · Patricia Brenninkmeyer · Pat Campbell · Luke Conlon ·
Marigold Norman · Babs O'Sullivan · Barbara Stocker

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

REFLECTION ON SUNDAY'S GOSPEL



The widow in today's parable comes across as a woman of remarkable strength and determination. Faced with injustice, she refuses to remain silent or passive. Instead, she keeps pressing for what is right, even when the odds are against her. A widow at that time was among the most vulnerable in society, yet she dares to challenge a man of power... a judge who ought to embody justice but does not. In this unequal contest, it is not the judge's authority that prevails but the widow's persistence. She keeps coming back, time and again, until the judge finally gives her what she is due.

Jesus sees in this tenacious woman an example of the faith his disciples will need. It is a faith that does not grow weary, even when confronted with rejection or delay. Such perseverance, Jesus says, is born of prayer. When he asks, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?" it is this kind of enduring trust that he longs to find: the faith that keeps knocking, keeps asking, keeps turning to God. It is not our own strength that sustains such faith but God's gift, poured out on those who continually open their hearts to him in prayer.

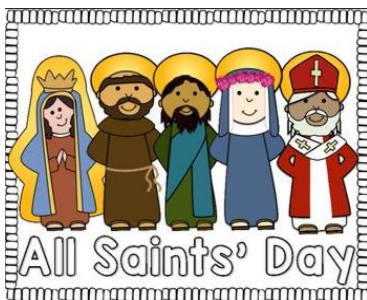
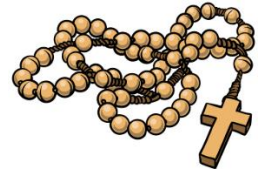
(taken from [Christian Art](#))

missio SECOND COLLECTION

This Sunday, **19 October**, our global Church is asked to unite in a spirit of prayer, hope and generosity to celebrate World Mission Sunday. Every Catholic parish in the world will have a collection and unite in prayer on this special day. Pope Leo asks all Catholics to play their part so that those in greatest need receive support through Missio, his charity for world mission. You can donate to this year's World Mission Sunday Appeal [here](#) and watch Pope Leo's invitation [here](#).

OCTOBER – MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Please join us at St Luke's Church at **5pm every Saturday during October** to pray the Rosary together. It's a wonderful opportunity to come together, reflect, and pray as a community.



ALL SAINTS CHILDREN'S MASS

There will be an All Saints celebration for the whole congregation after the Children's Mass on **Sunday 2 November**. Nibbles, bubbly and quiz sheets for the adults in the Dorman Room, and games for the children in the Church, followed by party food in the Dorman Room.

Everyone is welcome to come dressed as their favourite saint, with a prize for the best dressed in both child and adult categories!

We will also create a 'bring and share' saint information table for November, so please bring in anything about your most loved saints - books, candles, medals, pictures, statues etc. and give to Rebecca Durham or display on the Saint table.



RACE NIGHT THANKS

A big thank you to everyone who supported last Saturday's race night, with practical help, funds and prayers. The evening was a great success with over 60 people from across the parish enjoying the fun and meal. We raised £1,319 for the Rainbow Trust and their work to help families with a seriously ill child.

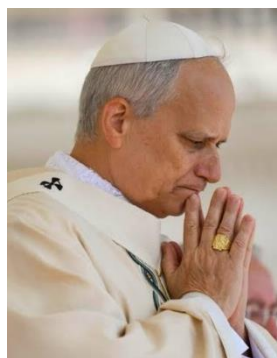


STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE - ACTION NEEDED

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has passed through the House of Commons and now the House of Lords has a responsibility to scrutinise the Bill in depth and reject it if necessary.

Unlike MPs, Members of the House of Lords do not have constituents, meaning there is not a Peer whose job it is to represent you based on the area of the country in which you live. For this reason, you should take some time to think about which Peer you will write to. Visit this [link](#) for full guidance to help you write to a Peer.

DILEXI TE – POPE LEO'S FIRST PAPAL DOCUMENT



The first Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi Te* 'I have loved you' (Rev 3:9), focused on love for the poor, was published this month. Pope Leo writes, "I am happy to make this document my own – adding some reflections – and to issue it at the beginning of my own pontificate, since I share the desire of my beloved predecessor that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ's love and his summons to care for the poor". You can read a synthesis of the document [here](#).

CAFOD JAM SALE

Thanks to those who bought jams and jellies, a total of £120 was made from our churches in support of the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day appeal. Those they are helping will benefit from your generosity! If you would like to order preserves, let Anne-Marie know and they can be supplied.



JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE: FINAL REFLECTION SERIES



Join Deacon Martin McElroy for a series of online talks on 'Hope in Scripture'. The four sessions will take place on Friday evenings from 7:45pm to 9:30pm on **October 24 & 31**, and **November 7 & 14**. You can register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

Each session will include a presentation and group discussions on Scripture passages related to hope. Topics will cover the Old Testament, Gospels, Acts, Paul's letters, and the General Letters. You can attend any session as each is independent.

A DAY RETREAT FOR CARERS – DOUAI ABBEY

Caring for others is most effective when caregivers also take care of themselves. This retreat will provide an opportunity for reflection, thoughtful conversation and prayer, either privately or collectively. Takes place on **Saturday 8 November**, 10.30am to 4pm at Douai. Contribution is £20, includes tea and coffee (please bring your own lunch). For more information or to register please email pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk.



NEURODIVERSITY AND THE CATHOLIC FAITH



The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales is conducting research into neurodiversity and our faith. If you're an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, they want to hear from you. Your experiences will help us to become more aware of and responsive to your needs. Please complete a [short survey](#) online for CBCEW.