



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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11 MAY 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C

Acts 13:14,43b-52

'Behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.'

Psalms 100 Response

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Revelation 7:9,13a,

14b-17 *'The Lamb will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of living water.'*

John 10:27-30

'I give eternal life to my sheep.'

THIS WEEK

Saturday 3 May

St Luke's

5.30pm

(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)

Sunday 4 May

St Bernadette's

9.45 am

(Mass Intention: Confirmandi)

Abbey Church

10.30 am

(Mass Intention: Christina Hill-Williams, RIP)

Mon - Sat 10 May

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 Brennkmeyer · Pat Campbell · Luke Conlon · Eileen Harvey · Marigold Norman · Babs O'Sullivan · Barbara Stocker · Also Don Hood, Fr Alban's father.

Please pray for those who have died recently, especially Bill Bateman, Mike Sarson and Kevin McCormack, and keep their loved ones in prayer. Kevin's funeral takes place in St Bernadette's Church at 11.30am on Thursday 22 May.

REFLECTION FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



In today's Gospel, Jesus says, 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me'. Yet, this is precisely where we often struggle. We are easily distracted, caught up in the noise of daily life, and not always attentive to the voice of the Shepherd. True listening is an act of the heart and mind; it requires silence, patience, and perseverance.

We are invited to return again and again to the Gospels, to read, to reflect, and to allow God's Word to penetrate deeply into our lives, so we can hear God's voice more clearly.

Christ's voice becomes clearer when we give Him the time and space to speak. Little by little, through prayer and reflection, we begin to recognise His voice... leading us, guiding us, and reassuring us that we are never alone under the care of the Good Shepherd.

(taken from www.christian.art)

HABEMUS PAPAM!

We welcome our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As he takes up his role as St Peter's successor, let's remember to keep him in our prayers. If you weren't able to hear Pope Leo's first address from the balcony of St Peter's you can [read it here](#).



CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

This Sunday, we celebrate a very special occasion in the life of our parish community as eight candidates receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 9.45am Mass at St Bernadette's Church.

This celebration marks a significant milestone in their faith journey and you are warmly invited to attend and welcome them into the fullness of the Church. Please keep them in your prayers.

We extend our gratitude to Anne-Marie McBrien, Lucy Gallagher and Maggie Shinkwin, who have walked alongside our candidates with unwavering commitment throughout, preparing them to receive the Holy Spirit.

CLERGY TRAINING FUND SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection **this weekend** to support the Clergy Training Fund. Our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow: these are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations and care for us on our pilgrim way. You can give [online here](#) via our website.

SPRING TIDY-UP IN OUR GARDENS

Please give a hand with the garden spring-cleaning in our parish, even if just for half an hour. St Bernadette's on Saturday **10 May**, from 2.30pm, refreshments provided. St Luke's on Friday **16 May**, including line painting. Thanks for your support.

THE ROSARY IN MAY

As May is the month of our Blessed Mother Mary, we will be praying the Rosary at St. Luke's **every Saturday in May at 5pm** before Mass. If you are unsure how to pray the Rosary, leaflets will be available. Come and join us.



CAFOD VOLUNTEER APPEAL FOR ST LUKE'S CHURCH

Could you help to promote CAFOD's fast days at St Luke's? Your desire for a better world will help connect our community with those overseas and enable our sisters and brothers in the poorest places in the world to lift themselves out of poverty.

"When people are in need, giving money is not the only way to help. With volunteering, you give your time and skills to make a difference." Please contact Jo Lewry for more information, email jolewry@cafod.org.uk or call 07710 094447.

RAINBOW TRUST MUSIC EVENING

Only a few places left so move quickly if you want to come. For those that have booked, tickets will be available from this weekend and payment taken. Takes place on **7 June** at 7.15pm, St. Bernadette's Church.

WORKSHOP: LIVING IN A SAINTED LAND

Led by Br Simon Hill, OSB, this workshop will look at some local saints of the Thames Valley and old Wessex, reflecting on the achievements and significance today of great local saints of our present Berkshire and the adjacent area.

Takes place at Douai on Saturday **17 May**, 10.30am – 4pm. Cost including lunch £30 (£15 if bringing own lunch). To book, email pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk.

COFFEE MORNING

Join us on Wednesday **14 May**, 10:30am to 12 noon at St Bernadette's for a lovely opportunity to catch up with each other, enjoy a warm drink and share a chat. We'd be delighted to welcome you!



SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. Takes place at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on Saturday **21 June** at 11am, followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage.

If you would like to attend, please contact the parish office or send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



WESSEX HOUSE OPENING

Bridge for Young People (formerly YPACF) invite parishioners to the opening of Wessex House, which will home six young people and a further seven in one-bedroom flatlets. Join them for coffee, cake, and tour on Wednesday **14 May**, 11am - 4pm, Wessex House, Oxford Road, Newbury RG14 1PA.

A LIFELINE FOR TROUBLED MARRIAGES

Alone or bored in your marriage? Considering separation or are already divorced? If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. They have helped thousands of couples get back on track. To find out more call 0797 338 0443 or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk.