



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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24 NOVEMBER 2024

34th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Daniel 7:13-14

His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty.

Psalms 92 Response

The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

Revelation 1:5-8

Rulers of the kings of the earth... he made us a line of kings, priests to serve his God.

John 18:33-37

It is you who say that I am a king.

THIS WEEK

Saturday 23 November	St Luke's <i>(Mass Intention: Saluzinho Fernandes, RIP)</i>	5.30pm
Sunday 24 November	St Bernadette's <i>(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)</i>	9.45am
	Abbey Church	10.30am
Mon 25 – Sat 30 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 · Babs O'Sullivan · Mary Overington
Barbara Stocker · Also Don Hood, Fr Alban's father.

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

MESSAGE FROM FR ALBAN

Dear Parishioners,

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus, King of the Universe.

When we stand before the loving God, it will not be an examination about religious observance. No – Christ our King reminds us today that the test will be about our relationship with others, how we have treated one another whether we have been kind and merciful. The test is a very simple one: did we share our food and drink, give welcome and shelter to those who are in the cold, did we care for the sick and the oppressed?

There is only one real failure in the life of a Christian, and that is the failure to love. We need not wait for big opportunities, for Oscar winning performances of abundant generosity. We must avail ourselves of the many little opportunities that come our way each day – opportunities to be helpful, to be considerate, to be obliging, above all, to be compassionate. Ordinary human compassion is our passport to life in heaven, where one day we hope to hear Christ Our King saying to us: 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours devotedly,

Fr Alban OSB

WELCOME IN BAPTISM

We welcome in baptism Cora Williams, who will receive the sacrament on Sunday at St Bernadette's Church. Please pray for her and her parents, Jeffrey and Sarah, as she begins her journey of faith.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS SUNDAY

This year Aid to the Church in Need is highlighting the plight of displaced and suffering young Christians around the world. For children growing up in a war, conflict or with the threat of violence, the world is a fearful and dangerous place. In countries where Christians are persecuted, children are collateral damage in the overall brutality – and the numbers run to millions. Your donations will help ACN to help these children, so please be as generous as you can.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

During November we pray especially for the Holy Souls. You are invited to put the names of loved ones and friends you would like to be prayed for at Mass in the basket at the back of Church. If you would like to have an individual Mass said there are also envelopes provided for names and Mass offerings.

OPPOSING ASSISTED SUICIDE

The all-crucial vote in Parliament will take place on 29th November. We need a huge push between now and then to lobby MPs. Please urgently contact your MP and ask them to vote against the bill. Visit www.livesworthliving.org.uk or write to them at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. Links to resources: [issue of assisted suicide](#), [how to lobby MPs](#) and [booklet of stories](#).

NEW LECTIONARY

The new lectionary will be introduced in our churches **next Sunday** and the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have produced excellent [resources](#) to provide more information and insight into how the new lectionary will become part of our life and faith. Included is a practical video session for [readers](#).

As the new Lectionary will use a different translation of the scriptures, you may wish to get a new Missal. The revised CTS and Redemptorist Missals are now available to purchase in the Abbey Shop.

PASTORAL AREA ADVENT RETREAT

Taking place at 10am on Saturday **30th November** at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Hungerford. Led by Fr. Francis Preston SDB, concludes with Mass at 4pm. Bring your own lunch. All are very welcome.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

The Parish Advent Carol Service will be celebrated on Sunday **1st December** at St Bernadette's Church, beginning at 4pm. The choir and congregation will sing well-known Advent carols, with help from a group of young musicians, all tied together by seasonal scripture readings. After the service, mulled wine and mince pies will be served in the Dorman Room.

If you would like to join the choir for this joyful event, you are invited to come to a practice at St Bernadette's on Saturday morning, **30th November** at 10.30. All welcome.

VIRTUAL ADVENT CALENDAR

Would you like to join our Virtual Advent Calendar on WhatsApp? It's a simple but special way of sharing the Advent journey, with parishioners taking it in turns to do a short reading each day during the season. To join, please send a WhatsApp message to Marc on 077-5239-7671.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

We continue this year with a Giving Tree during Advent at our churches of St Luke and St Bernadette. Please take a label from the tree, purchase your gift and return it, unwrapped, to the Church by the third Sunday in Advent.

Our gifts go to the Drop-in Centre for the homeless in Reading (CIRDIC). The manager asks us to make up parcels each containing socks, pants and chocolate. St Luke's parcels are for ladies and St Bernadette's are for men. Our sacks of parcels are always gratefully received; last year we filled a gap that appeared just before Christmas. Please continue your generous support of this local charity.

***'HYMN TO THE VIRGIN'* CONCERT AT DOUAI ABBEY**

This Advent, join Reading Bach Choir in preparation and anticipation for the joy of the coming Christmas season. Nestled among the Renaissance treasures of William Byrd's Propers for Advent and Palestrina's Missa Alma Redemptoris Mater are beloved works by Benjamin Britten and Herbert Howells, plus music by Gabriel Jackson, Kerensa Briggs and Judith Weir.

Takes place at Douai Abbey on Saturday **7th December** at 7.30 pm. Tickets £18/Under 18's £5. Buy tickets [here](#) or on the door.

ALDERMASTON YORK NATIVITY PLAY

The village of Aldermaston has put on a Nativity Play in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin every year since 1957. The play is an adaptation of six plays that tell the story of the first Christmas, from the 400-year-old York Mystery Cycle. Performances on **5th – 8th December**. Tickets are free, register [here](#).