



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

Parish Priest: Fr Alban Hood OSB

Tel: 0118-971-5350 mobile: 07592 549742 ahood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Kathryn Garden

Tel: 0118-971-5350 woolhampton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister: Kate Burke

Tel: 0118-984 2166 safeguarding.wool@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

5 NOVEMBER 2023

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Mal 1:14–2:2. 8-10	<i>You have strayed from the way, you have caused many to stumble by your teaching.</i>
Psalm 130 Response	<i>Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.</i>
1 Thess 2:7-9, 13	<i>We were eager to hand over to you not only the Good News but our lives as well.</i>
Matthew 23:1-12	<i>They do not practise what they preach.</i>

THIS WEEK

Saturday 4 November	St Luke's <i>(Mass Intention: Joe Talbot, RIP)</i>	5.30 pm
Sunday 5 November	St Bernadette's <i>(Mass Intention: Frances Shinkwin, RIP)</i>	9.45 am
	Abbey Church	10.30 am
Mon 6 – Sat 11 Nov	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 (Confession)

By arrangement – please email Fr Alban, or at the following places:

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 · Mary Cox
Frank Ferris · Frank Flynn · Marigold Norman · Donald and Babs
O'Sullivan · Mary Overington · Jill Rowley

Please pray for those who have died, especially Cecilia Primavesi (St Luke's) and Jack Buchanan (Abbey)

MESSAGE FROM FATHER ALBAN

Dear Parishioners,

Every November, we rightly commemorate the lives and sacrifices of those who have fought and fallen in service for their country. We also remember those who did not choose to be caught up in war: those killed in air raids, or in towns, villages, and cities which became battlefields, the men, women and children who were not combatants, but who also suffered.

Next Sunday we keep Remembrance Sunday, and we will light candles in our memorial gardens at St Luke's and St Bernadette's.

Remembrance Day isn't about war or winning; it's about building peace. Wearing poppies and standing in silence cost us virtually nothing and are empty gestures if we don't also take up the big challenge of working for peace in the places where we live. Surely that is the best way of honouring those who died in war. What will be our legacy to the next generation? As we ponder that question, we recall these famous lines:

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for their tomorrow we gave our today."

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours devotedly,

Fr Alban OSB

BAMENDA SUNDAY THIS WEEKEND

We celebrate Bamenda Sunday this weekend, when we give thanks for our link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda and for the ministry of their five priests serving in our Diocese; praying for our brothers and sisters in Bamenda and for the restoration of peace and justice in the region.

Please be as generous as you can in these very challenging times. Any contribution of any size is most welcome, as together we can make a big difference! Donations can via our second collection or online: www.bamendaandportsmouth.com where gift aid, standing order and bank details can be found. If you already have gift aided your donations to Bamenda, please complete and submit a new form to address the change of name to CDP Bamenda Commission. Thank you for your generosity!

ALL WELCOME!

St Bernadette's is hosting coffee mornings on the second Wednesday of each month, the next will be on **8th November**, 10.30am to 12 midday. Come along and have a chat and a cuppa. We would be delighted to see you!

ABBEY MASS QUESTIONNAIRE

Those who wish to return their completed questionnaire please post it in the box on the table at the entrance of the Abbey Church. If you prefer to complete it online, you can do so [here](#). Many thanks.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE ST BERNADETTE'S CHOIR

We invite you to come and join us, particularly with the joyous season of Advent and Christmas approaching. No special musical skills are needed; the only talent we require is a joy of singing and the pleasure of joining a happy group. Please come and talk to me, Trefor, or a choir member for more information.

PARISH OF WOOLHAMPTON: THE GOSPEL IN 30 MINUTES

Everyone is welcome to join us via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 6.00pm-6.30pm to learn about and discuss the forthcoming Sunday Gospel. We encourage young people from the parish to join us - we look forward to seeing you. Zoom link is [here](#). (or use Zoom Meeting ID 750 7926 0060 Passcode q4uG1k)

PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

In aid of our charity, Young People and Children First, First Prize is £200 cash, plus many more prizes, including Hamper and National Trust tickets. Draw to be made on 10th December 2023. Raffle tickets available from both parish churches and the parish office. Your support by purchasing tickets is appreciated.

CAFOD - PRAY FOR PEACE

Our parish's CAFOD team write "The Pope has written a message for world leaders to tackle the global climate crisis. With COP less than a month away, please keep this to the forefront of your prayers and, if possible, write to your MP reminding him of this country's commitment to climate change! Also we ask for prayers for the victims on both sides of the horrendous situation in the Middle East, that peace and common sense will prevail! We will send in aid when we are sure it will only reach bona fide victims. God bless you all".

CARITAS: ARE YOU A CO-OP MEMBER?

You can help Caritas Portsmouth to support people struggling with social isolation by choosing them as your local Co-op cause through their Local Community Fund. Each time you shop and use your membership card on Caritas receives a donation at no cost to you, to be used for items needed to run social groups that create safe and welcoming spaces for our neighbours and help us become the Church Beyond Walls. Just visit Caritas' [co-op profile page](#) and click on the 'choose this cause' button. Please spread the word to family and friends.

Not a Co-op member yet – not a problem! You can join for £1, just click on [this link](#) to find out more. Thank you so much for your support.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN SCRIPTURE

As part of the Year of the Holy Spirit, there is a series of formation sessions via Zoom on 'The Holy Spirit in Scripture' on **Friday evenings** (7:45pm-9:30pm) until 24th November. Do join, even if you can't make all seven sessions, as recordings of the presentations will be available afterwards. Please sign up [here](#).

HAVE YOUR SAY IN THE COVID INQUIRY

The Catholic Union has launched a survey on people's experiences and attitudes towards the closure of places of worship during the pandemic. The survey results will shape their submission to the UK Covid-19 public inquiry, which is currently considering the political decisions taken during the pandemic.

The Catholic Union hopes that the survey and work of the Inquiry will result in better decision making in the event of another pandemic, including agreement on a presumption against closing places of worship by law. [Take part in the survey here](#).

TOWARDS ADVENT CONCERT

A Concert of Christmas Carols and Readings will take place at 7:00pm on Saturday **25th November** in the Falklands Chapel, Pangbourne College, to raise funds for Berkshire charities. The music will be provided by the Pangbourne Choral Society. Tickets £10 each, available from Garlands Organic Farm shop in Pangbourne, from christinahillwilliams@gmx.com or on the door.

A JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT

Join the Carmelite Friars of Chilswell Priory to explore the precious liturgical season of Advent with a [free](#) online retreat "Welcoming the Word". Starting on **26th November** for four Sundays at 7:00pm via Zoom, each session offers an opportunity for prayer, reflection and community. [Register here](#) (these talks will be made available for later viewing to all those who register).