



# 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 13<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024

### 28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Wisdom 7:7-11	<i>Compared with wisdom, I held riches as nothing.</i>
Psalms 89 Response	<i>May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.</i>
Hebrews 4:12-13	<i>The word of God can judge secret emotions and thoughts.</i>
Mark 10:17-30	<i>Go and sell everything you own and follow me.</i>

#### THIS WEEK

<b>Saturday 12 October</b>	<b>St Luke's</b> <i>(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)</i>	<b>5.30pm</b>
<b>Sunday 13 October</b>	<b>St Bernadette's</b> <i>(Mass Intention: Private)</i>	<b>9.45am</b>
	<b>Abbey Church</b>	<b>10.30am</b>
<b>Mon 14 - Sat 19 Oct</b>	<b>Abbey Church</b>	<b>7.45am</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 Brenninkmeyer · Pat Campbell · Luke Conlon · Mary Cox  
Kevin McCormack · Marigold Norman · Donald and Babs O'Sullivan · Mary  
Overington · Barbara Stocker.

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

## **MESSAGE FROM FR ALBAN**

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's Gospel about the rich man provides us with much food for thought, and the following line especially: 'Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him'

Churches and art galleries across the world are filled with images of the face of Jesus. Some are well known, others less so. Perhaps you have a personal favourite? These many pictures remind us that Jesus is for people in all situations and in all cultures. The skilled, inspired artist not only paints the face of Jesus, but through his or her work, also reveals something of Jesus himself.

But we don't need to carry around portraits of Jesus. Each one of us carries a picture of Him in our imagination. At times, this picture is erroneous, or distorted. But hopefully as we reflect on the gospels, we get a sharper picture of who Jesus is for each of us.

But that is only the beginning. We sometimes forget that we are called Christians because we are Christ's look-alikes.

The face is the mirror of the heart. Jesus knew the obstacles that prevented the rich man from following Him. But he still looked upon him with love. He looks upon us with love because despite our weakness and sin he sees the potential within each of us to be his face, his eyes, his voice, his hands, and his feet in the world of today. He wants us to be happy,

"Are you happy?" a comedian once asked a woman in his audience. She nodded. "In that case," he replied, "would you like to tell your face?"

When we listen to the challenge Jesus gives to the rich man today in that series of imperatives: ‘go, sell, give, come, follow,’ do we feel happy? Do we feel challenged? Or like the man in today’s gospel, does our face look sad because we lack the courage to respond? Jesus’ response to our fear and our lack of faith is a stark but simple one: “everything is possible for God.”

Some people find it easy to smile...I have to confess I’m not one of those people. And yet a smile disarms and liberates far more powerfully than the most eloquent speech.

During the coming week many people will see our face. What will they see? Will they see the face of Jesus? When we look at one another do we show love, or scorn?

*Jesus, looked steadily at him and loved him.*

One day a stern-faced street evangelist was intimidating passers-by by stopping and asking them: ‘Are you saved?’ A young mother passing by with her son was heard to explain to him: “that man has been saved by Jesus and now he wants to share the good news with everyone.” The child replied: “But if he’s been saved why isn’t he happy?”

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours devotedly,  
*Fr Alban OSB.*

## **OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE ROSARY**

Please join us at St Luke’s at 5.00pm every Saturday during October to pray the Rosary together.

## **MISSIO SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEK**

Next Sunday, **20<sup>th</sup> October**, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio, his charity for world mission, through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God’s love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. Visit [missio.org.uk](http://missio.org.uk).

## **GARDEN TIDY-UP AT ST BERNADETTE’S**

There is an autumn gardening session at St Bernadette's next Saturday, **19<sup>th</sup> October**, at 2:30pm. Please join for half an hour (or more!) if you can. Refreshments will be provided.

## **UPDATE - BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE**

The date of session 1 (of 2) has moved to Sunday **20<sup>th</sup> October** at 11am at St Bernadette's. Please speak to the priest after Mass this weekend or contact the [Parish Office](#) as soon as possible for more information and to book onto the course.

## **PARISH CHARITY SELECTION**

This weekend is the first of three when you will be able to vote for the new parish charity. Eleven charities have been nominated and there is a brief outline of the work of each on the voting form. You are asked to choose up to three charities from the list, ranking them 1, 2, 3. If there is no clear favourite after the first votes are counted, second and third choices will be taken into consideration. Please only one vote per parishioner.

## **OPPOSING ASSISTED SUICIDE**

Kim Leadbeater MP confirmed that she would introduce a bill giving the terminally ill the right to 'assisted dying' with the first reading taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> October, with a vote expected in December. Click [here](#) to contact your MP via the 'Right to Life' website.

Dr Dominic Whitehouse, a palliative care consultant, will be speaking on Tuesday **29<sup>th</sup> October** 7.30pm-9pm, at the Novotel Reading Centre, RG1 1DP, to explain why changing the law would be harmful to doctors, patients and society. Register at [www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures](http://www.spuc.org.uk/assisted-suicide-lectures) or contact [spucreading@gmail.com](mailto:spucreading@gmail.com).

## **THANK YOU FROM CAFOD**

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Harvest season. Your donation in our parish collection or online and your prayers are helping us stand in solidarity with those facing incredible hardships, as part of one global family. Learn more at [cafod.org.uk/harvest](http://cafod.org.uk/harvest).

## **ONLINE SESSION ON THE NEW LECTIONARY**

The Diocese is pleased to offer two sessions about the new lectionary that comes into use in Advent. Each session will be led by Fr. Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgy, and will be identical - so you need only attend one. The session will cover what the lectionary is, its revisions and what they mean for us. The sessions are on Tuesday **5<sup>th</sup> November** and Tuesday **19<sup>th</sup> November** and last one hour, from 7 to 8 pm. Please register for the 5<sup>th</sup> November session [here](#) and for the 19<sup>th</sup> November session [here](#).

New editions of Sunday Missals will be available to purchase shortly from the Abbey Shop or order online from [Catholic Truth Society](#) or [Redemptorist Publications](#). Remember to check the publication date is 2024 if ordering from an online marketplace, such as Amazon, to ensure you receive the new edition.