



# 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*

*Parish Priest: Fr Alban Hood OSB*

*Tel: 0118-971-5350 [ahood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ahood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)*

*Parish Administrator: Kathryn Garden*

*Tel: 0118-971-5350 [woolhampton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:woolhampton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)*

*Safeguarding Minister: Kate Burke*

*Tel: 0118-984 2166 [safeguarding.wool@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.wool@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)*

## SUNDAY 16 JUNE 2024

### 11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Ezekiel 17:22-24

*I make low trees grow.*

Psalm 91 Response

*It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.*

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

*Whether we are living in the body or exiled from it,  
we are intent on pleasing the Lord.*

Mark 4:26-34

*It is the smallest of seeds; yet it grows into the biggest  
shrub of them all.*

### THIS WEEK

**Saturday 15 June**

**St Luke's**

**5.30 pm**

**Sunday 16 June**

**St Bernadette's**

**9.45 am**

*(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)*

**Abbey Church**

**10.30 am**

**Mon 17 - Sat 22 June**

**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 Brenninkmeyer · Pat Campbell · Mary Cox  
Frank Ferris · Kevin McCormack · Fr Boniface Moran · Marigold Norman  
Donald and Babs O'Sullivan · Mary Overington

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

### **ABBOT FINBAR KEALY, OSB**

By now you will have heard of the death on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June of the Right Reverend Finbar Kealy, OSB, Ninth Abbot of Douai (1990–1998). Please keep him in your prayers. Funeral details will follow. *Requiescat in pace.*



### **DAY FOR LIFE MESSAGE**

There has been much discussion in the media recently about 'assisted suicide', whereby people who feel they are overburdened by suffering will be facilitated in bringing their lives to a premature end by a change in legislation. The Catholic Church opposes this.

As Catholics, along with many people of other faiths and none, we share a different vision about what it is to be fully human, especially when we are suffering and approaching death in the hope of eternal life. People who are coming towards the end of their lives can feel vulnerable, and recent research shows that many consider themselves a burden on their loved ones and wider society.

Jesus shows us that life always has dignity and that there is no such thing as a useless life. We are called to defend this gift of life to its natural end and to protect vulnerable citizens from a culture that could pressure them into assisted suicide. We support people with the companionship of a listening ear, appropriate treatment, and the best of care, so that their last days can be times of grace, intimacy and love.

Jesus did not send the sick away. Our Lady remained at the foot of the Cross to the very end as Her Son, Jesus, died. Mary is the model of compassionate presence and prayer whom we are called to imitate. People close to death and their loved ones,

often go through similar darkness and pain but can come to a more complete acceptance and find peace in those treasured last moments accompanied by spiritual care.

*Bishop John Sherrington (England and Wales), Bishop Kevin Doran (Ireland),  
and Bishop John Keenan (Scotland)*

## **SECOND COLLECTION: DAY FOR LIFE**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June is the day in the Church's year devoted to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life, from conception to natural death. There will be a second Collection **this Sunday**. This year's theme is 'The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life', which allows us to reflect on end-of-life care amid national debates on assisted suicide. More information can be found on the Day For Life [website](#) and you can donate online via [giveasyoulive.com](http://giveasyoulive.com).

## ***SPEM IN ALIUM***

One of Bath's most celebrated Chamber Choirs, Paragon Singers, will be performing *Spem in Allium*, by Thomas Tallis in the Abbey **this Sunday**, 16<sup>th</sup> June, at 3:30pm. Do come along for a memorable concert of beautiful music. Tickets are £15 and can be purchased on the door or online [here](#).

## **SAVE THE DATE - PARISH TEA & BARBECUE**

We are planning a Parish Afternoon Tea with barbecue in the afternoon in aid of CAFOD. There will be plenty to eat, games and a tombola. So, keep the date - **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July** - free and more details will be published. Please also think about anything you could donate to the cakes/scones or tombola prizes.

## **CARITAS PORTSMOUTH – REFUGEE WEEK**

Refugee Week is 17-23 June and the theme for this year is 'Our Home'. Caritas is offering to show us how we can make our parish communities more welcoming to those arriving in our country, fleeing war, persecution and violence.

On Tuesday **18<sup>th</sup> June** from 12:30-1:00pm they are holding an online lunchtime event where you can hear from one of our parishes who works with refugees and asylum seekers, with time to discuss and ask questions. Everyone is welcome. Register via their website [caritasportsmouth.org.uk](http://caritasportsmouth.org.uk).

## **MISSIO NEEDS YOU!**

We are seeking a volunteer to look after the Missio Red Box members in our parish, ensuring boxes are emptied and organising the distribution of the free quarterly magazine, *Mission Today*. If you are interested, please let the Parish Office know. More information about the work of Missio can be found [here](#).

## PLEA FROM LOCAL FOODBANKS

Our local Foodbanks are sending out an urgent plea for your support. Schools have been asked to identify families that will really struggle over the summer holiday period and a one-off delivery will be made at the end of term to distribute to these families. You can imagine the impact this will have on stock to enable them to meet this need as well as the regular demand for help.

The only way this can be done is by the generous support of the community. Please consider, if you are able, to buy an extra item or two when you do your weekly shop and put it in the Foodbank basket at the supermarket. A list of urgently needed items can be found [here](#).

## LIFTING THE FAITH IN SCHOOLS CAP

The Church has been pressing for many years for the lifting of the 50% cap which limits the number of children from faith backgrounds that could be admitted into any new faith school, resulting in many Catholic families throughout the country being deprived of the opportunity to send their child to a Catholic school.

A consultation has been opened by the government to lift the cap in new schools which is great news, but the success of this consultation will be dependent upon the number of responses that are made. Although a general election has been called, the consultation will continue, and the Church is encouraging us to respond positively to this consultation before the closing date of **20<sup>th</sup> June**. For more information and to take part visit [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk).

## CAN WE BE THE IMAGE OF CHRIST?

How often do we think or act as if the Holy Spirit is transforming us into Christ's image? On **June 22<sup>nd</sup>** there is an opportunity to participate in a free mini-retreat morning to explore this in more depth.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat takes place from 10:00am-1:00pm including Mass, Adoration, praise and prayer. To attend online please register for the Zoom meeting in advance [here](#). More information can be found at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com).

## GENERAL ELECTION 2024

The Bishops Conference of England and Wales have put together information and guidance on key issues of importance to us, as Catholics, to help inform how we vote in the upcoming General Election. You can find this at [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk).

Cardinal Vincent Nichols is asking voters to be active rather than passive to engage with politicians on the key issues, and you can watch his message [here](#).