



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: Awaiting appointment

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SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025

16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Genesis 18:1-10

'O Lord, do not pass by your servant.'

Psalms 14 Response

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Colossians 1:24-28

'The mystery hidden for ages but now revealed to his saints.'

Luke 10:38-42

'Martha welcomed him. Mary has chosen the good portion.'

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Saturday 19 July

St Luke's

5.30 pm

(Mass Intention: Anne Natrass, RIP)

Sunday 20 July

St Bernadette's

9.45 am

(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)

Abbey Church

10.30 am

Mon 21 – Sat 26 July

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

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

Eileen Harvey · Marigold Norman · Babs O'Sullivan · Barbara Stocker

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

REFLECTION FOR 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C



We all encounter moments in life when the weight of our responsibilities can feel overwhelming. Balancing work, family, and personal growth can lead to stress and anxiety. In this week's gospel reading from Luke chapter 10, we find the story of Mary and Martha, which teaches us how to find peace amidst life's busyness.

In the story of Mary and Martha, Martha is depicted as anxious and troubled by many things. These feelings are not entirely unfamiliar to us; they're emotions we often face in our complicated lives, whether it's stress at work, family responsibilities, or personal struggles. Mary, on the other hand, is sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to His word.

While it's common to consider the story of Mary and Martha as representing two different states of life - contemplative and active - it's essential to see the deeper message. Jesus' response to Martha, highlighting her overburdened nature, points to an important truth: it's not what we do but how we do it that matters. Authentic hospitality and service are not merely about action but about the love and presence with which we carry out these actions.

The devil, whose title Diabolo translates to “scatterer,” seeks to distract and divide us. Instead of unity and focus, we frequently find ourselves pulled in numerous directions, like Martha, troubled by many things. Jesus teaches that only one thing is necessary - to remain centred in Him. This means anchoring our day in prayer and remaining connected to God throughout our daily undertakings.

(taken from [Ascension Press](#))



PARISH JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE

All are warmly invited to join our parish pilgrimage to the historic Shrine of Our Lady of Caversham on **Saturday 6 September**. Dating back to the 12th century, the shrine has been a place of Marian devotion for centuries and continues to be a source of spiritual renewal.

We plan to set off on foot from Pangbourne at 10.30am for a two-hour walk to the shrine. Once there we will pause for lunch (please bring your own) and enjoy a short talk on its history and significance, followed by a private Mass for our parish.

Afterwards, pilgrims can either walk back to Pangbourne or take the train from Reading Station. Join with fellow parishioners as we walk, pray, and reflect together. *More details to follow.*



***We*BELIEVE – A FESTIVAL OF CATHOLIC LIFE**

WeBelieve is a feast of Catholic faith, ‘ever ancient, ever new’, with a programme drawn from the rich traditions of the Church. Takes place **25 – 28 July** at St. Mary’s College, Oscott, a stunning venue with a rich Catholic heritage. Packed with talks, workshops and a vibrant mix of traditional and contemporary music, *WeBelieve* offers a transformative weekend experience. More information on the festival can be found on the [WeBelieve](#) website.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

We will be starting First Holy Communion preparation in September for any children who will be in Year 3 and above in September 2025. If you would like to enrol your child on the course, please get in touch with the [Parish Office](#) by 1 September.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CAFOD’S EMERGENCY APPEAL

Thanks to the generous contributions of three dedicated families, their friends and neighbours, and the kind donations from our early Mass-goers at the Abbey, we were able to send £455 to CAFOD’s emergency fund raised from the Afternoon Cream Tea held in June. While the overall parish response was smaller than hoped, we are grateful to all who took part and supported this important cause.

ADORE SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Please join us for a mini-retreat morning via Zoom on **26 July** 10am-1pm. Through our worship at Mass, Adoration and inspiring Talk, we will travel together as Pilgrims, moving forward with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. This month's theme is *Pilgrims of Hope - Provision for the Journey*. To register or find out more follow [this link](#).

DON'T FORGET OUR LOCAL FOODBANKS

For many families, the school holidays bring the worry of putting food on the table. When schools close, free school meals stop. Sadly, stock from donations and purchased goods is not matching the stock distributed and your help is needed. Please drop off what you can in the foodbank boxes in our churches or local supermarket. Your support is really appreciated.



CAFOD ARE HIRING

Could you inspire Catholics to participate in the Church's mission, working to overcome poverty and injustice? Do you want to work for CAFOD and encourage support and partnership within the Church? CAFOD are looking for a Community Participation Coordinator to work in the Diocese of Portsmouth. Follow the link for more details and please pass on to any friends or relatives who might be interested. Closing date 27 July. See cafod.org.uk/work-with-us.



LOCAL ECUMENICAL PILGRIMAGE

Our Pastoral Area is taking part in a four mile walk starting at Holy Brook Linear Park, Theale RG31 7ZU at 10am on Saturday **26 July**, walking to St. James & St William of York Church, Forbury Rd, Reading, for Mass at 1pm, preceded by Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 12.30pm.

The walk will be led by Tony Vickers, the Chair of West Berkshire Council. Afterwards, pilgrims will picnic in the park and visit nearby Reading Abbey where the last Abbot, Blessed Hugh Faringdon, was martyred. Speak to, or email, Tony Vickers at 07413 480080, tonyvickers@phonecoop.coop for more details or to confirm your attendance.

NEW PUBLICATION RELEASED '*RENDER UNTO CAESAR*'

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has released a new publication on taxation called *Render unto Caesar*.

The document offers 12 insightful chapters from economists, academics and experts in the field, covering a wide range of topics, such as the principles that should underlie taxation from a Catholic-Christian perspective, taxation and the family, and the moral implications of tax avoidance and tax evasion. You can read it on the CBCEW website [here](#).