



# 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*

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## SUNDAY 30 JUNE 2024

### SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER & ST PAUL – YEAR B

Acts 12:1-11

*Now I know the Lord really did save me from Herod.*

Psalm 33 Response

*From all my terrors the Lord set me free.*

2 Tim 4:6-8, 17-18

*All there is to come is the crown of righteousness reserved for me.*

Matt 16:13-19

*You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*

### THIS WEEK

**Saturday 29 June**

**St Luke's**

**5.30 pm**

*(Mass Intention: Abbot Finbar Kealy, RIP)*

**Sunday 30 June**

**St Bernadette's**

**9.45 am**

*(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)*

**Abbey Church**

**10.30 am**

**Mon 1 - Sat 6 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**

## **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, especially Tom Ryan, K.C.,  
and keep their loved ones in prayer.**

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

Fr Finbar's funeral is at 11.30am on Wednesday, 3rd July. If you intend to attend please let Fr Oliver know. You can email him at [guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk).

For those unable to attend, the funeral will be live-streamed and the link for this is <https://youtube.com/live/WB3liklvXfQ?feature=share>.

### **REFLECTION FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER & ST PAUL**

I love 2 Timothy, I think it's an extraordinary letter. For a time the dominant view was that it was written long after Paul's death, but I'm more and more persuaded by the view that it was indeed written by Paul. If you read through the letter you'll see so many tender personal details, even down to asking for his cloak to keep himself warm.

Paul was at the end of his life. If he did write the letter, he was in prison in Rome, probably awaiting his execution. He would have known what awaited him, and so he wrote a letter of farewell and encouragement to Timothy, one of his younger fellow workers in the mission of the gospel.

The section of 2 Timothy we have today comes almost at the end of the letter: perhaps Paul's very last words recorded by the Holy Spirit. He tells us that his life is even at that moment being poured out as a libation. A libation is a sacrificial pouring of liquid in worship: some ancient religions would pour milk on the ground, or wine onto an altar. Today, some people pour alcohol onto the grave of a loved one, often their favourite drink. In any case, it's an image of sacrificial worship, a theme that has emerged in a few ways this month.

Paul's life was offered in worship to the Father, sanctified and set apart as holy. Moreover, it's not a one-off deal; this pouring was continual, like slowly pouring water out of a kettle, almost drop by drop.

Do we view our lives in a similar way? Do we view each moment of our life as another drop poured out as an offering to God? Do we devote ourselves to God, as Paul did? It's quite a challenging perspective. It sounds radical. We do our bit, we go to Mass, we try to be good: do I really need to offer every drop of my life to God?

Paul would, of course, encourage us to say yes. He goes on to say he's run the race right to the end, he's kept the faith. He has faithfully lived for God as much as he could. And he says that his reward is therefore waiting for him, and he longed for it. There is an echo of Paul in St. Ignatius of Antioch's plea that his people do not try to stop his martyrdom, but to let him go to the glory that awaited him.

St. Peter, likewise, threw himself into his following of Jesus without half measures. If you remember the Maundy Thursday account, when he offered not only his feet but his hands and his head to be washed.

Both Saints Peter and Paul are examples of wholehearted devotion – poured out in the service and worship of God. In their own ways they laid the foundations for the Church, the Church built up daily by the Holy Spirit. Let's pray today that the same Holy Spirit would move us to serve God a little more today.

*Taken from [The God Who Speaks](#)*

## **SECOND COLLECTION - PETER'S PENCE**

There will be a Second Collection in our churches this Sunday, **30<sup>th</sup> June**. Peter's Pence, the name for the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church, and for the relief of those most in need.

The faithful's offerings to the Holy Father are destined to Church needs, humanitarian initiatives, and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See. To donate online: [giveasyoulive.com/campaign/peters-pence](https://giveasyoulive.com/campaign/peters-pence)

## **WELCOME IN BAPTISM**

We welcome in baptism Evelyn and Alessia Leith-Kilduff, who will receive the sacrament at St Bernadette's Church this Sunday **30<sup>th</sup> June**. Please pray for them and their parents, Thomas and Caroline, as they begin their journey of faith.

## **PANGBOURNE GARDENING**

We will be having a gardening session at St Bernadette's on the evening of Wednesday **3<sup>rd</sup> July** between 5.30 pm and 8.00pm. Please join for half an hour (or more!) if you can. Refreshments will be provided.

## **ALTAR SERVERS' TRAINING**

In the next few weeks there will be Altar Server training sessions for new servers, along with a refresher for existing servers, taking place at both St Luke's and St Bernadette's churches. If your child is interested, contact Marc on 0775 239 7671.

## **AFTERNOON TEA/SOCIAL FOR THE WHOLE PARISH**

On Sunday **21st July** the whole parish is invited to get together from 3pm in the Dorman Room and grounds of St Bernadette's. There will be afternoon tea with cakes and scones, along with hot dogs and bacon butties cooked on the barbeque. Why not join in with outdoor games in the grounds, a quiz sheet and tombola.

Tickets £10 per adult, free for under-18's. Payment can be made online using the [Donate](#) button on the parish website, card machine at St Bernadette's or via the Parish Office. All proceeds go to CAFOD.

Please help by donating prizes for the tombola and baking cakes and scones. For more information and offers of help, please contact Lucy Gallagher 07949 997 663.

## **GENERAL ELECTION 2024**

The General Election is this Thursday **4<sup>th</sup> July** – don't forget you'll need to take along an original version of photo ID, such as your driving licence or passport.

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. You can find this at [www.cbcew.org.uk](http://www.cbcew.org.uk).

## **LIFE CHARITY ASKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

The cost-of-living crisis has made life much tougher for everyone, not least for women facing unexpected pregnancies. Demand for LIFE's pregnancy-help services is greater than ever before, but the rising costs are affecting them too. Without emergency funding from supporters, they will be forced to cut their vital services.

Last year, thanks to generous donations, they supported an estimated 1,045 women to have their children when they may have felt this was not an option for them. Help LIFE stand with women in unexpected pregnancy. You can donate at: [www.lifecharity.org.uk](http://www.lifecharity.org.uk).

## **'UNSUNG HERO' AT VUE CINEMA**

'Unsung Hero' is a true story, a celebration of Helen Smallbone, mother and wife, the person who held her family together with her faith, prayers and encouragement. A film to inspire, it reminds us that God is with us through everything. At Vue, Oracle Centre, Reading 29<sup>th</sup> June and 1-4<sup>th</sup> July. For details: [Vue Cinema](#).