



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

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29 OCTOBER 2023

30th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

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| Exodus 22:20-26 | <i>If you are harsh with the widow, the orphan, my anger will flare against you.</i> |
| Response to Psalm 17 | <i>I love you, Lord, my strength.</i> |
| 1 Thess 1:5-10 | <i>You broke with idolatry and became servants of God; you are waiting for his Son.</i> |
| Matthew 22:34-40 | <i>You must love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.</i> |

THIS WEEK

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| Saturday 28 October | St Luke's | 5.30 pm |
| Sunday 29 October | St Bernadette's <i>(Mass Intention: Robert Dearden, RIP)</i> | 9.45 am |
| | Abbey Church <i>(Mass Intention: Francis Minogue, RIP)</i> | 10.30 am |
| Mon 30 - Tue 31 Oct | Abbey Church | 7.45 am |
| Wednesday 1 November | ALL SAINTS <i>(Holy Day of Obligation)</i> Abbey Church St Bernadette's | 7.45am 10.00am |
| Thursday 2 November | ALL SOULS Abbey Church St Luke's | 7.45am 10.00am |
| Fri 3 – Sat 4 Nov | Abbey Church | 7.45am |

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 Brenninkmeyer · 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 Fabian Samengo-Turner (Abbey)**

MESSAGE FROM FATHER ALBAN

Dear Parishioners,

This week we keep two important celebrations: the Solemnity of All Saints, on Wednesday, and the commemoration of All Souls on Thursday. All Saints is a Holy Day of Obligation – Masses in the Abbey Church at 7.45am and at St Bernadette's, Pangbourne at 10am. There are Masses in the evening at St Joseph's, Tilehurst, and English Martyrs, Reading at 7.00pm and at St. Joseph's, Newbury at 7.30pm. On All Souls Day, Thursday 2nd, there will be Mass in the Abbey Church at 7.45am, and at St. Luke's, Theale at 10am.

During the month of November we pray for the Holy Souls. In both of our churches you will find a box into which I invite you to put names of loved ones which you would like to be placed on the altar and prayed for at Mass during November.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours devotedly,

Fr Alban OSB

THE ROSARY AT ST LUKE'S

The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of The Rosary, so please join us at St Luke's at 5:00pm this Saturday to pray the Rosary together.

CAFOD - PRAY FOR PEACE

CAFOD has set up an Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal, so that we may provide urgent and practical help to families who need it as soon as it is safe to do so. If you wish to make a donation or find out more, please go to their website www.cafod.org.uk.

Pope Francis has asked us to say the following prayer:

*God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the people of the Middle East.
Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace.
Where there is hatred and division, sow seeds of calm and openness.
Where there is destruction help us to rebuild.
Where children are crying, bring an end to tears.
Shelter your peoples and protect them, guide them and keep them safe.
Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and breathe whispers of hope. Amen.*

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)

ABBEY MASS QUESTIONNAIRE

This is the final week for those who attend the Abbey Mass to return their questionnaire, as announced by Fr Abbot earlier this month. It can be submitted online [here](#) or printed copies are available at the back of the church. Thank you.

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) from **28th October** to **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](#).

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Our next Baptism preparation course will start next Saturday, **4th November**, at 2pm. Please speak to Father Alban after Mass or contact the Parish Office for more information.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Our Diocese is currently looking for a School Estates Manager and a Health and Safety Officer. If you are interested in either role, information can be found on their website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE ST BERNADETTE'S CHOIR

Our number has varied over the years, and we now need some new voices to keep the momentum going. 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.

LECTIO DIVINA - PRAYING WITH THE SACRED SCRIPTURES

The Liturgical Formation Team is hosting an online session for Readers and anyone interested on Wednesday 1st **November** from 7:00pm–8:00 pm. Readers are invited to “meditate assiduously on the Sacred Scriptures.” We need to pray on what we proclaim in the liturgy.

The Church, in her wisdom, gives us the practice of lectio divina which is the practice of reading, meditation and prayer using the living Word of God. Fr Tom Kleinschmidt, OMV, will introduce us to this practice to aid in a more effective manner of proclaiming the Word of God in the liturgical assembly. [Click here to Register](#).

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 led by Sara Benbow, and the readings will be given by volunteers and officers of the beneficiary charities.

Tickets cost £10 each and are available from Garlands Organic Farm shop in Pangbourne; from christinahillwilliams@gmx.com or on the door.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK 2023

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is hosting a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, Co Mayo from **November 9th - 14th** to pray for the Holy Souls, led by the Marian Fathers. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.