



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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2 MARCH 2025

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME– YEAR C

Eccl 27:4-7	<i>Do not praise a man before you hear him reason</i>
Psalms 92 Response	<i>It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord</i>
1 Corinthians 15:54-58	<i>He gives us the victory through Jesus Christ</i>
Luke 6:39-45	<i>A man's words flow out of what fills his heart</i>

THIS WEEK

Saturday 1 March	St Luke's <i>(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)</i>	5.30pm
Sunday 2 March	St Bernadette's <i>(Mass Intention: Delores Servais, RIP)</i>	9.45 am
	Abbey Church <i>(Mass Intention: Dennis Lyle, RIP)</i>	10.30 am
Mon 3 – Tue 4 March	Abbey Church	7.45 am
Wed 5 March	Ash Wednesday	
	Abbey Church	7.45 am
	St Luke's	10.00 am
	St Bernadette's	7.00 pm
Thu 6 – Sat 8 March	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 · Bill Bateman · Patricia Brenninkmeyer · Pat Campbell · Luke Conlon · Mary Cox · Kevin McCormack · Marigold Norman · Babs O'Sullivan · Barbara Stocker · Also Don Hood, Fr Alban's father.

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

MESSAGE FROM FR ALBAN

Dear Parishioners,

On this last Sunday before Lent, Jesus uses a short parable about a speck in the eye to help people recover their sight. Our smallest faults, the ones too close for us to notice, are the ones that blind us in dealing with others, whose faults are always so obvious, glaring and irritating. It takes someone close to us to help us overcome the little blind spots that distort our vision and keep us from being more patient and empathetic to the common self-centeredness that affects us all.

Jesus used this wonderful parable to remind those who were always judging others that it takes one to know one. Deal first with your own faults and then you can help others. And in the meantime, accept the human condition you share with everyone. It makes each day an exercise in forgiveness and asking to be forgiven. Love grows in that household where the willingness to help is stronger than the need to criticise others for being just like us.

This parable has a lot to say about people today talking across each other at meetings, whether they are in person or online, where ideological differences have made us deaf and blind over so many issues. We all suffer from too much subjectivity, self-righteousness and impatience to listen and try to find common ground. Social media has accelerated our need to find intellectual safe havens and comfort zones where we won't have to deal with anyone who disagrees with us.

To have self-knowledge is not to be perfect. Rather, it is to recognise all too truthfully one's own shortcomings and failures. But it is also to recognise one's potential and successes, and see these too as part who you are. Self-knowledge is, in short, to be comfortable with oneself, to be content to be who one is – not through lack of ambition but, precisely, because an awareness of possibilities allows a holy, righteous ambition to flourish, founded not on the carcasses of others but on the desire, shared by God, that one should be fulfilled, happy, flourishing. Our Lord says today; there is little point moderating your actions, if you are still not sorted out inside. If the source of your actions is fear and insecurity, rather than wholeness and inner peace, your judgements are unlikely to be fair or generous. Look to your own inner peace first, show a little belief in yourself, and everything will flow from that.

With my prayers and best wishes for a prayerful and fruitful Lent,

Yours devotedly,

Father Alban OSB

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence. Ashes will be distributed at the Masses this Wednesday, **5 March**, 7.45am at the Abbey, 10am at St Luke's and 7pm at St Bernadette's.

PASTORAL LETTER

There will be a Pastoral Letter read at Masses across our diocese this weekend. If you would like to watch Bishop Philip deliver his message, you can do so [here](#).

LENT & HOLY WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Please pick up a copy of 'Walk With Me' booklet, a journey of prayer for the season of Lent. These are available at the back of our churches.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Sunday evenings following 6pm Vespers in the Abbey Church. You are most welcome to come and spend half an hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross help us to make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Christ's Passion. They will be prayed at **6.30pm on Fridays** during Lent (*12pm on Good Friday*) at St Luke's Church and at 12 noon on **14, 28 March and 11 April** at St Bernadette's Church, followed by a Lent lunch.

PANCAKES!

With Lent starting on Wednesday, you are invited to come and join us for pancakes after Mass **this Sunday** at St Bernadette's. Young Disciples will now meet next Sunday, **9 March**.

CATECHISTS' DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION & NETWORKING

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7.30pm and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

Thursday 13th March (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)

Thursday 20th March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)

Thursday 3rd April (Confirmation and RCIA)

To sign up for these events, please [click here](#). After signing up, a member of the Formation for Mission Team will reach out shortly with the link to the appropriate meeting. We hope to see all Catechists from across our diocese at these events.

LENTEN RETREAT DAY

Our neighbouring parish of St Joseph's, Tilehurst, invite you to join them for a day of reflection on the theme of building a Eucharistic community, understanding the purpose and mission of a parish, and exploring the ministry of compassion, led by Sr Veronica, Dominican Sister of St Joseph. Starts at 10am on Saturday **5 April**. Please bring your own lunch.

DOUAI'S NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Oliver Walker has been appointed as Douai's new Director of Music. He recently completed eight years as Director of Music at Repton School and is now pursuing a Master's in Choral Conducting at the University of Birmingham. He works as Choirmaster at Bruern Abbey Schools and Music Director of the Solihull Choral Society, while also managing a project for the Royal School of Church Music. Oliver studied Music at Keble College, Oxford, and has held roles at Wells, Gloucester, and Chelmsford Cathedrals.

At Repton, he led a top independent school music department, working with a talented team to offer a dynamic music programme. He previously directed Chapel Choirs at Solihull School, leading them on prestigious tours and BBC broadcasts. He has worked with notable composers and been involved in several international music projects, including performances in Seoul, Bergen, and with Gary Barlow. Oliver founded the choral outreach programme "Solihull Sings!", impacting over 1500 children and earning a Civic Honours Award. Outside of work, he enjoys walking in Suffolk and Oxfordshire with his family.