



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: Fr Alban Hood OSB

Tel: 0118-971-5350 ahood@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Kathryn Garden

Tel: 0118-971-5350 woolhampton@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister: Kate Burke

Tel: 0118-984 2166 safeguarding.wool@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER 2024

27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

Genesis 2:18-24	<i>Are you jealous on my account? If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets!</i>
Psalms 127 Response	<i>May the Lord bless us all the days of our life.</i>
Hebrews 2:9-11	<i>The one who sacrifices, and the ones who are sanctified, are they of the same stock.</i>
Mark 10:2-16	<i>What God has united, man must not divide.</i>

THIS WEEK

Saturday 5 October	St Luke's	5.30pm
Sunday 6 October	St Bernadette's <i>(Mass Intention: People of the Parish)</i>	9.45am
	Abbey Church	10.30am
Mon 7 - Sat 12 Oct	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 (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 · Mary Cox
Kevin McCormack · Marigold Norman · Donald and Babs O'Sullivan · Mary
Overington · Barbara Stocker.

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

MESSAGE FROM FR ALBAN

Dear Parishioners,

Today we hear in the Book of Genesis that it is not good for us to be alone.

Some people choose to live alone and do so very happily and successfully. Some lead a life as hermits, living a dedicated life of prayer and fasting. But for others to be alone is not something they choose. Some people are forced to live by themselves when families or relationships break down. Many elderly people live alone and see very few people from one day to the next. For many single people it is a challenge to convert their loneliness into solitude – where they can use their time creatively.

During the recent COVID lockdowns we experienced isolation which affected and challenged us all. There is another sort of forced isolation that many people experience through prejudice and discrimination – because of the colour of their skin, or because of their cultural or religious background. They experience isolation when their voices are not heard, when their faces are not recognised or welcomed, when their beliefs or culture are spurned or ridiculed.

Today's readings also encourage us to reflect on the vocation of married people. "What God has united; man must not divide." - this verse is often quoted in the context of the rights and wrongs of divorce and the Church's attitude towards adultery. We need to see these words in the wider context of our responsibility towards married people. If we are to take seriously Christ's command to love our neighbour - God's family - as ourselves, it includes caring for and supporting families - especially those experiencing strain and difficulty. We need both to uphold the church's teaching on the sanctity of the marriage bond and yet be compassionate and supportive especially towards those whose marriages fail. We must learn not to judge.

This month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. Each Saturday this month the rosary will be recited at 5.00pm at St Luke's, with thanks to those who have volunteered to lead this wonderful prayer.

When we remember we allow the dismembered fragments of the joyful and sorrowful and glorious mysteries of our lives to be brought together: The joy of love, of friendship, of happy times, the sorrow of fear, despair, sinfulness, loss. When we pray the Rosary, we remember the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of the lives of Our Lord and Our Lady. Praying the Rosary helps to remind us not only that God is present in the joyful and sorrowful mysteries of our lives, but that through the often-bewildering mixture of joy and sorrow he will lead us to light and glory.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Yours devotedly,
Fr Alban OSB

CAFOD'S HARVEST FAST APPEAL

There will be an optional Second Collection for the CAFOD Harvest Appeal taken this weekend. CAFOD is the official overseas aid and development agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE ROSARY

Starts this Saturday, **5th October**, please join us at St Luke's at 5.00pm every Saturday during October to pray the Rosary together.

YOUNG DISCIPLES GROUP

This Sunday, **6th October**, the Young Disciples Group, for children who have made their First Communion but have not yet been Confirmed, will meet up after Mass at St Bernadette's Church. Bite-sized topics followed by doughnuts!

TIME FOR A COFFEE?

Do come along to St Bernadette's on Wednesday **9th October** from 10.30am-12.00pm for a chat and a cuppa. We would be delighted to see you!

BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE

Our next Parish Baptism Preparation course will start on Saturday afternoon **12th October**. This is the first of two sessions (second date tbc). Please contact the [Parish Office](#) for more information and to book onto the course.

GARDEN TIDY-UP AT ST BERNADETTE'S

There is an autumn gardening session at St Bernadette's on Saturday **19th October** at 2:30pm. Please join for half an hour (or more!) if you can. Refreshments will be provided.

OPPOSING ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Bishops' Conference is encouraging Catholics to unite in prayer and compassionate action as Parliament prepares to renew the debate around assisted suicide and support an assisted suicide bill to be progressed swiftly through the House of Commons – possibly before Christmas.

Legal, state-sanctioned assisted suicide would be the most profound ethical change in our legislation for decades. Many MPs will not have considered deeply the profound implications of such a change in law which is why it is vital MPs hear from constituents who can graciously articulate the key arguments against it.

If assisted suicide is legalised, it will fundamentally alter the ethical fabric of our society and change the doctor/patient relationship, as well as pressurising the vulnerable to end their lives for fear of being a burden. You can email your MP [here](#)

PARISH CHARITY SELECTION

Thank you to all who nominated organisations for the new parish charity. We have a list of 11 new charities to put to a vote, taking place a little later than planned, on three weekends in October, from Saturday 12th October to Sunday 27th October. Please complete one voting form per person and place them in the boxes available at St Luke's and St Bernadette's.

We have supported Young People & Children First since 2020, so will be seeking a new charity to support now. Similarly, CAFOD continues to raise funds within the parish, alongside the Parish Charity, so is not included. The new charity will be announced in early November.

IN BENEDICT'S FOOTSTEPS

A Pilgrimage Retreat: Palazzola • Rome • Subiaco • Monte Cassino. More than just a holiday with a few Benedict-related coach tours, the week will be a prayerful, relaxed and joyful exploration of the sources of Benedictine spirituality, with a balance of study, relaxation and prayer (sharing the liturgy of the hours). In this way we will gain a deeper sense of St Benedict's unique contribution to the life of faith. Fr Peter Bowe will accompany the group.

From 6th-13th October 2025, led by Michael Woodward (shotwithspirit@gmail.com 07790 943853) Cost: accommodation, meals and trips £940 (+ ensuite, £1060). Flights excluded. Contact Fr Peter Bowe peter@douaiabbey.org.uk for information.