



PARISH OF WOOLHAMPTON

Diocese of Portsmouth - West Berks Pastoral Area

Served by Benedictine monks of Douai Abbey

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C – 9 DECEMBER 2018

This Sunday: *Welcome to our Mass, especially if you are a visitor or newcomer!*

First Reading: **Baruch 5: 1 - 9**

Psalm Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading: **Philippians 1: 3 - 6, 8 - 11**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

Gospel: **Luke 3: 1 - 6**

Wednesday Mass this week - St Bernadette's, Pangbourne - 10am.

To follow TODAY'S READINGS please take a missal as you enter the church p.706

Please pray for our sick & housebound especially Vernon Morris (very sick), Joe, and Sandra Jones, wife of Malcolm (St Mary's). Also pray for those recently died and for those with anniversaries. R.I.P.

WORD OF HOPE

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God: He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy...

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it
but the redeemed shall walk there...
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

(Isaiah 35, 1-10)

PRAYER & STUDY GROUPS IN THE PARISH

- **Christian Meditation Group – St Bernadette's, Pangbourne:** every Thursday 8-9pm in the Dorman Rooms. All welcome. Contact Mike Sarson 0118 9623332, mike@east-west.org.uk or wccm.org/. Children and Families Meditation sessions. Contact www.eastwestkidsconnect.org.uk.
- **Gospel Study Group – Douai Abbey:** every second Tues. of the month at 2.15pm in Conference Room 2 at the Abbey. To understand more about the scriptures, please come along. Contact Ron Laker on ronkalaker@gmail.com or tel. 01491 671186.
- **"What no eye has seen"** - praying with the **Christian Spiritual Masters** at Douai Abbey, 2.15pm - 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the Month, October '18 to March '19, contact Fr Peter, 0118 9715371. **Next meeting 8 January.** All welcome.
- **House Mass** - If you would like to host a Mass in your house, please invite the priests!

NOTICES



GRAND CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: on behalf of our Parish Charity RTU. 1st prize £250 cash plus many more prizes. Tickets now available, draw on 15 Dec.

- **St Luke's & St Bernadette's - Giving Trees.** Gifts to CERDIC, i.e. the homeless charity in Reading.
- **St. Mary's and Abbey Church Congregations** You are all invited to take labels from the Christmas Giving Tree in St. Mary's Church. Please return your donations to St. Mary's on Sunday, 16th December and food parcels will be made up and delivered to people in the local area. Thank you very much for your generosity.
- **St Bernadette's Christmas card.** For the past few years we have signed one joint card & made a donation to charity. This year's card is now at the back of church for you to sign, together with a box if you would like to make a donation, all donations will go to our Parish charity.
- **St Bernadette's** on 9th December after Mass, we will be having a children's Advent craft session, making baubles for our Christmas trees. We have everything needed, so please stay after Mass to participate.
- **St Bernadette's church** will be holding its **Christmas Crib service** for children on Sat 22nd December. This is a short service of readings, carols and blessings starting at 12 noon, followed by refreshments. All welcome to help prepare the crib, & children are invited to dress as one of the characters in the Nativity story.
- **LECTIO DIVINA - 6th, 13th & 20th December, 6.30pm at Cold Ash.** What better way to prepare through Advent than the Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina, Location: The Franciscan Spirituality Centre, The Ridge, Cold Ash, Thatcham, Berkshire. RG18 9HU. For details: Tel: 01635 86535. www.coldashcentre.org; Email: coldashcentre@hotmail.co.uk. Please join us. **Also Adoration every Monday at Cold Ash from 6.30pm-7.30pm.**
- **PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND** 15th-22nd May 2019. Cost: £1360pp. Flights from Heathrow. Deposit £250pp. Led by Canons John O'Shea & Michael Dennehy. Contact St James, Reading, 0118 957 4171 or email stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. **ONLY 4 PLACES LEFT – DON'T DELAY**

Saturday 15 December
CELEBRATION OF RECONCILIATION - CONFESSION
10.30 - 11.15am at St Luke's, Theale, RG7 5AS

OUR PARISH VISION

- *Our Catholic parish of Woolhampton, including the churches of Theale & Pangbourne, aims to be a vibrant, welcoming community of the universal Church.*
- *May we all, believers and doubters, be joyfully alive in the infinite love of God, awake to the call of Jesus Christ, eager to learn how better to follow his way and grow in faith.*
- *As a local presence we seek to bear Christ's message to all, ready to offer those among us and beyond, support and a share in our own journey of discovery.*

The Parish Pastoral Council has written this *Vision of the Parish* and invites parishioners to reflect on it so that, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we may all work towards realising it in concrete ways.

Parish Council (PPC)

Sue Edwards (PPC chair). Claire Hicks (St Mary's chair), Jo Harrison (St Luke's chair), Kate Burke, (St Bernadette's chair), Minnie Greayer (St Mary's), Paul Dean (St Mary's Tom Gallagher (St Bernadette's), Pdraig O'Hannelly (St Mary's)

To prepare NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS Year C: 3rd Sunday of Advent Year C, 710

First Reading: Baruch 5: 1 - 9

Second Reading: Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3: 1-6

When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay! A feeling of expectancy had grown among

the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

For commentary and reflection on Gospel see : www.tarsus.ie

"Let the sick on their part bear in mind that they are served out of honor for God, and let them not by their excessive demands distress their brothers who serve them."

Rule of Benedict : Ch. 36, v.4

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C – 9 DECEMBER 2018

Mass Celebrants

NEXT WEEK (16 Dec.)

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Saturday | 5.30pm Theale | Fr Peter | (Fr Peter) |
| Sunday | 9am Woolhampton | Fr Peter | (Fr Benjamin) |
| | 9.30am Pangbourne | Fr Benjamin | (Fr Peter) |
| | 11am Abbey | Fr Gervase | (Fr Hugh) |

MASSES & SERVICES IN THE PARISH

17.30 Saturday Mass at Theale

9.00 Sunday Mass at St Mary's Woolhampton, at Pangbourne 9.30,

11.00 Sunday Mass at Douai Abbey

Weekdays: Mass at 10.00 on Wednesdays of month:

1st at Theale, 2nd at Pangbourne, 3rd at Theale, 4th at St Mary's

Daily at Douai Abbey 7.45am

ADORATION: 1st Saturday of the month, at St Luke's, Theale, 7.30 - 9am

All are welcome to join the daily Monastic Offices at Douai Abbey:

6.20 Matins, 12.50 Midday, 18.00 Vespers

*A monk is normally available in the Abbey Church for Confession/Listening
Weekdays 7am-7.30am & 6.30-7.00pm; - and on request.*

For Confession in your own church please ask the priests at any time.

The Parish Office, Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ

Tel: 0118 9715 350 email: parish@douaiabbey.org.uk

WOOLHAMPTON - St Mary's Church RG7 5TQ

PANGBOURNE – St Bernadette's Church RG8 7JL

THEALE - St Luke's Church RG7 5AS

Priests: Frs Peter Bowe & Benjamin Standish OSB

Parish Administrator: Doreen Morrissey

Safeguarding: Kate Burke, 0118 984 2166

Parish Council (PPC): Sue Edwards, susanedwards27@icloud.com

Parish Office open Monday - Friday 9.00am - 1.00pm

If you would like Fr Peter or Fr Benjamin to call & see you at home, please do tell us.

Further notices and information on the Parish website: www.douaiparish.org.uk.

Bishop Philip invites all the faithful of the diocese to subscribe to his free weekly e-Newsletter.

You can sign up to receive this direct to your inbox each week:

<http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews/>