



## PARISH OF WOOLHAMPTON

Diocese of Portsmouth - West Berks Pastoral Area

*Served by Benedictine monks of Douai Abbey*

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF YEAR C – 10 FEBRUARY 2019**

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

**First Reading:** **Isaiah 6: 1 - 8**

**Psalm Response:** Before the angels I will bless you, O Lord.

**Second Reading:** **1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 11.**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father

**Gospel:** **Luke 5: 1 - 11**

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

*To follow TODAY'S READINGS please take a missal as you enter the church p.806*

Please pray for our sick & housebound especially Joe, also Sandra Jones, wife of Malcolm, Colin Hayes, husband of June, Ian Brownlie (St Mary's); Angela Andrews (St Bernadette's), and Barbara Stocker (Abbey). Also please pray for those with anniversaries at this time. R.I.P.

### WORD OF HOPE

Christian discourse often sets out from notions of the transcendent, forgetting that terms such as 'grace', 'sin', 'redemption', even 'God', have largely become meaningless to our world, which sees them as hieroglyphs from a superseded stage of cultural evolution.

Whether we like it or not, the offer of faith will seem to the average person in the street about as relevant as the creed described by one writer and proclaimed with letters cast in concrete on the front of a chemical weapons plant: 'Long live Marxism-Leninism, an eternally living, creative, revolutionary doctrine!' The final letters were even lost in the smoke that hung over that industrial site.

Our time is wary of words. It shuns dogmas. Yet it knows the meaning of longing. It longs confusedly, without knowing what *for*. But the sense of harbouring a void that needs filling is there. It is urgent to show the 'logical' finality of such longing; to show intelligibly that this longing is not alien to the Christian condition but finds fulfilment in Christ. The gospel does not obliterate our longing. It validates it, assuring us that what we long for is real and substantial. The Western Christian liturgy sings of this at Christmas when it hails the incarnate Word as *Expectatio gentium* - 'the One the nations wait for'.

**St John Chrysostom gives us this prayer:**

*You have laid on me, O Christ, a spell of longing,*

*You have charmed me with love divine:*

*Consume, therefore, my sins with immaterial fire;*

*Be pleased to fill me with your sweet delights.*

*Then I shall magnify your coming in the past*

*And the one we still await with joy, O gracious God. (Erik Varden, OCSO)*

## 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](mailto:mike@east-west.org.uk) or [wccm.org/](http://wccm.org/). Children and Families Meditation sessions. Contact [www.eastwestkidsconnect.org.uk](http://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](mailto:ronkalaker@gmail.com) or tel. 01491 671186.
- **"What no eye has seen"** - praying with the **Christian Spiritual Masters** at Douai Abbey, 2.15pm - 1st Tuesday of the Month, October '18 to June '19, contact Fr Peter, 0118 9715371. **Next meeting 5 March 2019.** All welcome.
- **House Mass** - If you would like to host a Mass in your house, please invite the priests!

## NOTICES

- **Our Lady & St Bernadette's** are celebrating their Patronal Feast this Sunday, 10 February.
- **Eucharistic Ministers Training.** If you feel called to this very important ministry, please speak to Fr Peter. There is a course of training in Reading at St James, Reading on Saturday 3 March, 9am-1pm.
- **Baptism Preparation** If you would like to prepare for Baptism for your child please speak to one of the Priests. The next session is Saturday 9 February, 3-5pm at St Bernadette's, Pangbourne. Older children welcome & toys will be available.

### **RTU - "Taste of India" evening.**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 7.30pm

An Indian meal evening to raise funds for Reaching the Unreached (RTU), our parish charity. An auction will be held in which 2 valuable lots will be: Use of a large house in the Lake District and of a small flat on the South Devon coast. More info from the office. Please contact Peter Collins, Robin D'Souza or Graham Hodge.

### **Thank you to everyone who came to the parish party on 27 January.**

It was a great expression of our parish spirit. A special thanks to all those who brought food and helped with the organization.

- **West Berkshire Foodbank** is very short on the following items: chicken, beef & vegetable stock cubes, dried onions 40g, mixed herbs 13g, tubes of garlic puree & tubes of tomato puree. The Warehouse is also low on self-raising flour 500g and sunflower oil 500ml.
- **Bed for the Night** Many thanks to all who are praying for the success of the 'Bed for the Night' project to help the homeless in Reading. Please continue your prayers during February & March.

**Due to storm damage, Douai Abbey Church will be closed to the public until around Easter. Further information to follow.**

### 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.

**To prepare NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS Year C: 6th Sunday, 17 February, p.810**

**First Reading: Jeremiah 17: 5-8**

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20**

**Gospel: Luke 6: 17, 20 - 26**

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor; yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out,

abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

*For commentary and reflection on the Gospel see: [www.tarsus.ie](http://www.tarsus.ie)*

*"Brothers we must prepare our hearts & bodies for the struggle of hearing & acting on the Lord's teaching, & for what is not possible for us alone let us ask the Lord to supply us with his grace."*

**Rule of Benedict: Prol. 40, 41**

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## FIFTH SUNDAY OF YEAR C – 10 FEBRUARY 2019

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### **Mass Celebrants**

**NEXT WEEK (17 Feb)**

Saturday	5.30pm Theale	Fr Peter	(Fr Peter)
Sunday	9am Woolhampton	Fr Benjamin	(Fr Peter)
	9.30am Pangbourne	Fr Peter	(Fr Benjamin)
	11am Abbey	Fr Benjamin	(Fr Finbar)

### **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:

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

Daily at Douai Abbey 7.45am

ADORATION: 1<sup>st</sup> 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

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### **Confession or listening**

*A monk is normally available in **the Abbey Church** Weekdays 7am-7.30am & 6.30-7pm;  
at **St Luke's**: first Saturday of month 9.30am, and at **Douai** anytime by request.*

*Also **in your own church** anytime if you please ask the priest.*

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

**Tel: 0118 9715 350 email: [parish@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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/>