



WOOLHAMPTON PARISH ONLINE BULLETIN

Served by the Benedictine monks of Douai Abbey RG7 5TQ Diocese of Portsmouth
St Mary's, Woolhampton – St Bernadette's, Pangbourne – St Luke's, Theale – Douai Abbey
Frs Peter Bowe & Benjamin Standish - Parish Office: 0118 971 5350 / parish@douaiabbey.org.uk

FIRST ADVENT SUNDAY

29 NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Welcome to the beginning of Advent this weekend! We are now set on a new course towards the coming of Christ. A new start is refreshing, perhaps more so in a time of COVID disorientation. We have much to contend with, a new set of precautions against the spread of disease, some fighting the disease itself, others battling as medical & key workers to support & save lives, others struggling for their livelihoods, some anxious perhaps about how to keep in contact with family & friends and celebrate Christmas. But Hope is in the air! Next week our churches reopen, and our cycle of Masses resumes. We are offering Advent Carols, a Reconciliation service, Gospel sessions on the Birth of Jesus, and the Christmas Masses. Do come, and do book please! Abundant blessings! May we trust in God with truly joyful hearts in these days of waiting! *Fr Peter (0118 971 5371)*

CHURCHES REOPEN FROM NEXT SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER

This Sunday PARISH ONLINE MASS 9.30am – all welcome

Join live on Zoom (details in email) or [live on YouTube](#) (refresh your browser).
If joining on Zoom, there will be a chance to have a friendly chat in small groups after Mass.

St Bernadette's open for prayer (no booking required): Sunday 3 pm - 4 pm
(Abbey Church not open-this Sunday)

ROSARY Every Sunday 5pm: [Rosary click](#)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: on request at Douai

VIDEO this week: *Fr Gabriel: Heaven's Advent!* - click [parish videos](#)

BIBLE NOTES this week: *Mark's Gospel (NT12)* - attached to e-mail or on request

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

For **Deidre Mcnair-Wilson** (Abbey congr.)

Phil Woolacombe (St L & **Fr Pat Faughnan**
(Newbury)) in *W.Berks Hospital*

And all our housebound especially

Winifred Winter, Pat/John Campbell, & D.Farmer
& PLEASE PRAY TOO FOR OUR RECENT DEAD

ONLINE QUIZ FOR YPACF

FRIDAY 4 DEC 7.30pm - LESS THAN 1 WEEK TO GO!

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for our Virtual Quiz to raise funds for our Parish Charity, Young People and Children First. (Full details in notice in attached Email)

YPACF CHRISTMAS GOODIES

To help raise funds for the charity, their young people, staff & volunteers have all been very busy making beautiful decorations & Christmas gifts.

To see all on offer click [Please visit](#)
and have a browse

NB Booking required for all Masses (except online)
Please read details in Email accompanying bulletin

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Advent I: Sun 29th Nov **9.30am online Mass**
- Advent II: Sun 6th Dec **9am St Mary's, 9.30am St Bernadette's, 11am Abbey & 4pm Advent CAROL SERVICE** (online)
- Sat 12th Dec **10.30am Reconciliation Service at St Bernadette's** (and online)
- Advent III: Sat 12th Dec **5.30pm St Luke's, Sun 13th Dec 9am St Mary's & 11am Abbey**
- Advent IV: Sat 19th Dec **5.30pm St Luke's, Sun 20th Dec 9.30am St Bernadette's & 11am Abbey**
- CHRISTMAS EVE: **St Luke's** (time TBC)
- CHRISTMAS DAY: **9am St Mary's, 9.30am St Bernadette's**
- Sun 27th Dec **9.30am Online Mass.**

Come & join an

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

- with readings, reflections, music & confession -
Attend personally (*booking preferred*)
or on Zoom (*joining code in next week's Email*)
Saturday 12 December 10.30am
At St Bernadette's

ADVENT MASS

for Older Parishioners & those shielding unable to
attend Sundays

At St Bernadette's

Wednesday 16 December

Please book by calling 0118 984 2978

ADVENT DISCUSSION GROUP

SAVIOUR, HUMAN & DIVINE

*The Gospel stories of the Birth of Jesus
- convictions & challenges*

Sessions by Fr Peter on Zoom 4.30-5.30pm

Tuesdays: 1 December: *Matthew chs 1 & 2*

8 December: *Luke chs 1 & 2 (pt 1)*

15 December: *Luke chs 1 & 2 (pt 2)*

22 December: *John ch 1*

Please let me know by 27 Nov if you wish to join us
(so I can prepare!) Joining code will be supplied
0118 971 5371 or peter@douaiabbey.org.uk

ADVENT PROJECT

Bishop Philip invites every family & home to make
an Advent Wreath & follow the way to Christmas.
An Advent Booklet is available to download from
the Diocesan website which contains prayers,
scripture readings, you tube clips, etc. for each day.
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/advent-project>

SADLY, NO CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

because of the current lockdown – BUT...

AT ST.LUKES & ST BERNADETTES

In the past all your generous gifts were made up into
Christmas parcels and delivered to CIRDIC -
Churches In Reading Drop In Centre - for the benefit
of the homeless. An alternative for this year is to
make a donation to CIRDIC either

by bank transfer Sort 20-71-03 A/c 70269573

or by cheque made to CIRDIC (post to Theresa
Rodrigues 88Kenilworth Ave, Southcote RG30 3DW)
See enquiries@ciridic.org.uk or call [07817 373773](tel:07817373773)

Many thanks SB

AT ST MARY'S & ABBEY CONGREGATION

Instead of a Giving Tree this year. we invite you most
warmly to bring donations for the **West Berks
Foodbank**, which will be delivered to the growing
number of needy households in our neighbourhood.

You will find a collecting box just inside Douai
Reception glass door. If preferable, you can donate
at many local supermarkets. As well as the usual
gifts of everyday items (see desired items at
www.Westberks.foodbank.org.uk) treats such as
mince pies, Christmas puddings, small cakes and
festive biscuits and chocolates would be particularly
welcomed at this time of year. Donations to Lloyds
Bank, Newbury: sort 77-95-05 a/c 72784660 or
cheques to West Berks Foodbank, 23 Charter Road,
Newbury RG14 7EW Online click foodbank donate
More info from pmd.collins@btinternet.com.

Many thanks MG

*Please print off this bulletin & hand it on to
anyone who does not have internet access*

	THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH
Sunday 29	Advent 1 Zoom Mass 9.30/ Prayer at St B's 3-4pm /Zoom Rosary 5pm/Pang.Churches'Carols 6pm
Monday 30	Andrew
Tuesday 1	<i>Infancy Gospels (1) 4.30pm</i>
Wednesday 2	St Bernadette's Committee 7.30pm
Thursday 3	Francis Xavier
Friday 4	<i>YP&CF Quiz 7.30pm</i>
Saturday 5	<i>Advent Zoom Reflections (2) 9.30-12.30</i>
Sunday 6	Advent 2 Mass: St M 9am/St B's 9.30 / Abbey 11/ Prayer St B's 3-4/ Carols 4 / Rosary 5pm

Parish Administrator: **Doreen Morrissey: 0118 9715350**

PPC: Sue Edwards: susanedwards27@icloud.com

Safeguarding: **Kate Burke: 0118 8842166**

Diocesan e-Newsletter (free in your box) at: <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews/>

Parish Office: parish@douaiabbey.org.uk - www.douaiparish.org.uk - 0118 971 5350

ADVENT 1

29 NOVEMBER 2020

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL -- FOR REFLECTION & PRAYER -- Mark 13, 33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Sunday 29 November 6pm
Pangbourne & District Churches Together

FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent
Sunday 29 November 6pm (on YouTube)
[Click here to watch](#)

WORD OF HOPE

Like the deer that yearns
for running streams,
so my soul is yearning
for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God,
the God of my life;
when can I enter and see
the face of God?

My tears have become my bread,
by night, by day,
as I hear it said all the day long:
"Where is your God?"

These things will I remember
as I pour out my soul:
how I would lead the rejoicing crowd
into the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng wild with joy.

(Psalm 41 (42))

**Instead of its usual Christmas Gift catalogue
CAFOD provides just giving page for World Gifts**
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/worldgifts>

'PARISH CARE TOGETHER'

Parish Care Together (PCT) was launched in March 2018, when all Parish members were invited to be part of this new venture. Encouraged by both Fr Peter and Fr Benjamin, we extended our ministry to members of the community who would benefit from this initiative. Since then social events and masses for the sick and housebound have been held & supported successfully each year, as well as visits to those who appreciate some company, whilst still following current safeguarding guidelines.

However, the pandemic has posed many problems on the way PCT functions during 2020. Although we have been unable to operate socially in the usual manner, Parish Care Together has never been more important. Thanks to a willing band of volunteers, we have been able to reach out during lockdown on a regular basis, either by phone or mail to many isolated, vulnerable or housebound parishioners. We fully understand how valuable this regular contact is and how much it continues to be appreciated during these challenging times.

Unfortunately, for obvious reasons, we are unable to hold our popular Christmas party at Douai Abbey this year. However please be assured that as soon as it is safe to do so, PCT fully intends to resume all of its calendar events and looks forward to warmly welcoming back our guests & volunteers in 2021.

Meanwhile as we enter the holy season of Advent, feel confident that you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Should there still be anyone who requires a friendly chat over the phone by our Parish network, don't hesitate to contact the office on 0118 971 5350 or email jecahill@live.co.uk.

Compass in Advent

preparing for Christmas

Our lives are being turned upside down at the moment due to Covid-19.

Join us to reflect on some of the characters in the Christmas story whose lives were also radically changed.

- How is God speaking to us through these stories today?
- Each Friday we will focus on one set of characters. The meeting will also include a sharing of a contemporary story of vocation/call. There will be time for sharing, questions and discussion.
- Who? – Young adults 18-35
- When? Fridays - 27th Nov, 4th , 11th , 18th Dec
- Time? 7pm for one hour

Zoom link:

email CompassInAdvent@gmail.com for link & info

Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/CompassInAdvent>

Compass is a project of CVP (Catholic Vocations Project). CVP is supported by a group of religious women and men in the UK who are interested in promoting a culture of vocation in our Church.

**A BLESSED ADVENT TIME
TO YOU ALL**

**EVEN IN THESE DARKER DAYS OF
PANDEMIC**

**MAY THESE PRECIOUS
DAYS
BE A TIME OF RENEWED
HOPE &
GRACE FOR ALL**

**AS WE WATCH AND WAIT
EXPECTANTLY
FOR THE COMING OF
OUR LORD & SAVIOUR**

COME, LORD JESUS !