



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

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B)

21 FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings to you all as Lent begins! Many of you will already know, for we prayed for him at our online Ash Wednesday Mass, that Allan Konya, parishioner for 40-50 years and one of our most faithful welcomers at St Mary's, died suddenly on Tuesday evening. One parishioner writes: "I'm so sad to hear about the wonderful Allan - he was a treasure." And another adds: "Allan was such a lovely man, and his warm welcome was very much appreciated by us as complete newcomers 14 years ago; his kindness & sense of humour is something I will always remember." What a heavy blow for Sonia his wife, they are both very much in our prayers. Now we have begun Lent, and Pope Francis has sent a letter offering us all fresh strength & inspiration - you will find attached to the Email with this bulletin. Let us all take some time to reflect this week on it and pray over it. Much strength, perseverance & joy as we all take up our Lenten tasks & prepare for Easter! Blessings *Fr Peter*

OUR CHURCHES ARE REGRETFULLY STILL CLOSED

Sunday Mass is only online till restrictions are eased – we keep it under continual review

SUNDAYS 21 & 28 FEBRUARY 2021

PARISH ONLINE-LIVE MASS 9.30AM

Join live on Zoom (details in email) or [Watch on YouTube](#) (refresh your web browser)

ABBAY CHURCH NOW OPEN SUNDAYS :

for prayer/Adoration on Sundays 3-4pm, from 21st February

ST BERNADETTE'S OPEN FRIDAYS IN LENT :

12:30 pm Stations of the Cross / 1:00 pm Exposition (for half an hour) - from 26th February

ALSO ROSARY EVERY SUNDAY 5PM

Zoom joining code – see accompanying Email

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: on request at Douai (please phone the Office)

VIDEO this week : Fr Gabriel- From Desert to Garden - [click parish videos](#)

BIBLE NOTES this week: Lamentations (*OT35*) - attached to e-mail or on request

Please find Zoom joining details in the Email accompanying this bulletin

PRAY FOR OUR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

*Jill Rowlwy (St M), Ev Brewster & Pat Campbell,
Winifred Winter & Patricia Brennikmeyer (all St B)*

& PLEASE PRAY TOO FOR THOSE RECENTLY DIED

Allan Konya (16 Febr, St M); David Farmer (St B)

Parish Administrator: *Elsa Luxmore* 0118 9715350

PPC: *Sue Edwards*: susanedwards27@icloud.com

Safeguarding: *Kate Burke*: 0118 9842166

If you prefer not to receive this weekly Email & bulletin. please return with "unsubscribe"

	THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH	
Sunday 21	Lent 1 year B : Online Mass 9.30 am	Rosary 5pm
Monday 22	Chair of St Peter	
Tuesday 23		
Wednesday 24	Exile & Return (2nd Isaiah) 4.30pm	Confirmation prep (5) 7.30pm
Thursday 25		
Friday 26	St B's Stations & Adoration 12.30pm	Let us Dream group 3.30pm
Saturday 27		
Sunday 28	Lent 2 year B : Online Mass 9.30 am	Rosary 5pm

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL -- FOR REFLECTION & PRAYER – MARK 1, 12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News!'

A WORD OF HOPE - from the PPC**FAITH, HOPE & LOVE**

This is the triad of bliss so beloved by St Paul. He says they strengthen believers facing troubles & trials. (*Rom 5:1-5*)

Today, the whole world seems despairing and fearful. With so much anxiety and tragic loss it's no wonder there's so much depression and mental illness. People are desperately searching for meaning and hope in their life. Diverting attention to pleasure, socialising or work were once the palliatives for those feeling the pain of emptiness, meaninglessness or hopelessness. Lockdown has now cut off access to much of those pain killers.

But, when Christ's gospel message is resonant in our heart, we should never find ourselves utterly without hope. Hope can still remain strong in the midst of all the anxiety around us. Strength that comes from the Creator God within us enables us to endure no matter what.

Every crisis and difficulty presents an opportunity to serve our God. With God's grace it is up to each of us to find potential meaning in each adversity we are facing. By discovering that dormant meaning - and doing our best in the circumstances - we will find peace and happiness. This is Christ's promise.

Faith, hope and love are graces. No one can order or persuade anyone to have them. That's because they are precious gifts from God alone - bestowed on each believer by the Holy Spirit. The decision to cherish and act on those gifts rests with each believer. This is our daily challenge.

Paul Dean (PPC)

DONATIONS TO WEST BERKS FOODBANK

Basics please eg tinned fish, tinned puddings, shampoo & cleaning materials (less pasta)

- a collecting box is just inside **Douai Reception** or
- donate at local supermarkets; or CASH by
- Bank transfer: sort 77-95-05 a/c 72784660 ; or
- Online click [foodbank donate](#)
More info from pmd.collins@btinternet.com

CURRENTLY NEEDED: rice, stock cubes, tinned fruit, cereal, shampoo & deodorant etc, etc

YPACF – WINTER NEWSLETTER

Our parish charity, Young People and Children First, have forwarded to us their latest newsletter.



YPACF provides supported housing for care leavers & homeless people aged 16–25 in West Berks. We are delighted to be supporting a local charity & one which can turn around the direction of a young person's life. Here are details of recent activities of the charity, and their plans for the year ahead, including their intention to open a third house shortly, & possibly a fourth house later in the year
(Newsletter attached to Emails sent).

Try this site of Christopher Jamison OSB if you are finding

ISOLATION IN LOCKDOWN

Is becoming too burdensome

<http://www.alonetgether.org.uk/>

VERSO L'ALTO - REACH THE HEIGHTS!

An Hour of Prayer and Praise

Bishop Philip invites you to join him Thursdays
7.30-8.30 pm during lockdown & the pandemic:

To join click [Reach the Heights](#)

Supporting The Parish : DONATE

Now no church collections, but use Online Giving:

Click "Ctrl" + DONATE button above to make

Offertory donations, or

Friday Self-Denial donations, or

Parish Charity donations,

CAFOD donationsr

Or you can also set up a **Standing Order payment.**

Most grateful thanks to so many already making regular contribution by standing order.

For info contact Parish accountant, Tom Gallagher

e-mail : douaiparishacc@gmail.com

WHAT TO DO FOR LENT ?

in LOCKDOWN 2021

Calling all Parishioners! In this Season of Lent here are some things to do something as preparation for Easter in this Lockdown.

LETTERS FROM YOUNG DISCIPLES

To all "Young Disciples"-in our parish aged 8-18:
We invite all to take up a special challenge for Lent:

Write a letter of encouragement to the parish in this pandemic time as if you were any person in the Gospels or the New Testament (eg as from St Paul, John, Timothy etc) or perhaps your favourite saint.

Please send your letter on one side of paper, with your name and age at the bottom of the page, to **Kate Burke:** cburkefailte@hotmail.com With your permission & your parents', we will put your letters in the bulletin each week during Lent. We shall all greatly appreciate a Letter from a Young Disciple.

You are our future!

We want much to share your, hopes & dreams!

Thank you this week to Oskar England!

LETTERS from YOUNG DISCIPLES

A letter from St Paul to us today

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
I am writing to you in support through Covid-19. It has changed the world we live in today bringing death and starvation. However, don't be anxious about anything, there is light at the end of the tunnel - they have a vaccine! Be patient while it is being handed out, remember the enjoyment you had with your family in summer. People, come to care for others, especially helping older people who have to stay at home.*

Be grateful for what you have, don't forget about the children in Africa and pray for them. When you eat or drink, give thanks to God that you have food on the table and take a minute to think about the poor children in Africa who have to walk miles for water. Think, can you help by donating to charities who can give support. Thanks for praying with me.from St Paul

Oscar England. (age 10). 21.02.2021

"LET US DREAM"

Join a weekly group to reflect on themes from Pope Francis's recent book on the challenge to the Church and to the world of the pandemic & other crises. We will meet on Zoom at 3.30pm, for 5 Fridays in Lent, starting on Feb 26th. 'Let us Dream' was written by Francis in conversation with Austen Ivereigh, who has suggested the discussion themes. Please contact Geralyn Collins:0118 971 3189 geralyn.collins@virgin.net before Sunday 21st Feb. You will need to purchase the book (c.£10) in advance.

EXILE & RETURN

Bible OT Texts in light of Lockdown

6 hours on Lent Wednesdays 4.30-5.30pm (from 24th)
Second Isaiah (chs 40-55) - **Suffering Servant Songs**
To join please contact peter@douaiabbey.org.uk
by Sunday 21st February.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

VIEW VIDEO (2min30) [Abdella's walk for Water](#)

Walk 5 miles on your own, or with family/bubble, or 10,000 steps a day for 40 days, or 30 sec walk p.day

GIVE TODAY to help CAFOD's end water poverty & provide other vital support for communities around the world: see: [CAFOD Walk for Water](#)

DONATE :

- by parish website click: [DONATE](#) or
- Online [CAFOD Lent Appeal](#) or
- call 0303 303 3030 or
- by Text: LENT 5 to 70460 to donate £5 or Text LENT 10 to 70460 to donate £10* or LENT 20 to 70460 to donate £20 .Many thanks!

**Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate + hear more on CAFOD's work & fundraising via telephone and SMS. To give £10 but not receive marketing info, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.*

LENT-LINKING : GOSPEL SHARING

Form a group of friends and those you know from church – meet on Zoom to follow the 6 Sunday Gospels (call parish office for help to make contacts) For help please contact peter@douaiabbey.org.uk