



PARISH OF WOOLHAMPTON
Diocese of Portsmouth - West Berks Pastoral Area
Served by Benedictine monks of Douai Abbey

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A – 21 MAY 2017

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

First Reading: Acts 8: 5 - 8

Psalm Response: Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15 - 18

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.' Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14: 15 - 21

Wednesday this week at St Mary's, Woolhampton - 10am

To follow TODAY'S READINGS please take a missal as you enter the church see page 337

Please pray for our sick & housebound, especially Celia Primavesi (St. Luke's). Please also pray for those recently died especially Bernard Sarson, father of Mike (St Bernadette's) and for all with anniversaries at this time. R.I.P.

WORD OF HOPE

The Alleluia is a song of triumph and joy; that is the first lesson it gives us. "Of all the Christian mysteries," Saint Leo says, "we know that the paschal mystery is the most important." The fact is that the resurrection situates us at the very centre and source of the life of grace. Christ in his triumph and glory has become the contemporary of every generation: Lord of the kingdom of the living, the author of life. In all truth the risen

Christ is the cornerstone, the centre, the alpha and omega of God's new plan for humanity. When they contemplate the life of Christ many people prefer to dwell on its sorrowful aspects; we see the cross surrounded by instruments of torture more often than by trophies of victory. Of course there can be no question of ignoring the cross and our Saviour's sufferings; but the cross without the glory of the resurrection would make us the unhappiest of creatures and Christ the guiltiest of imposters. Let us learn this lesson from the Alleluia. The Alleluia can also teach us something else. Its rallying cry means: "Praise God!" We ourselves must be an Alleluia from head to foot; we must be fervent worshipers of our great God. Alleluia! Praise God! Adoration, thanksgiving, praise, blessing, all the basic impulses of the religious soul described by John in the Book of Revelation were dissolved, he tells us, into a single shout expressing the quintessence of religious devotion: Alleluia! Praise God!

(Lambert Beauduin)

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.
- **House Mass** - If you would like to host a Mass in your house, please invite the priests!

NOTICES

- **APF - MILL HILL MISSION** will be at Masses this weekend, to ask parishioners to become members and take a Red Mission Box.
- **SECOND COLLECTION** next week for World Communications.
- **INFORMAL CONVERSATION** on 30 May 7.30pm at Douai with a Vatican II Father, Emeritus Bishop Remi J. De Roo, diocese of Victoria, Canada accompanied by Pearl Gervais . All welcome.
- **Cook Required - St Gabriel's Convent, Cold Ash.** The sisters at St Gabriel's Convent are seeking a part-time cook to work from Friday (supper) to Sunday (lunch) For further details please contact Sr. Romana on 01635 864161. St Gabriel's Convent, Cold Ash, The Ridge, Cold Ash, Thatcham, Berks. RG18 9HU
- **Divine Mercy Apostolate** run by Marian Fathers is organising 8th National Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 3 June 2017. Further information : 020 8998 0925 or email info@divinemeracy.org.uk.
- **Brightlights Festival** an annual event for Catholic young adults (16-30) taking place June 23rd – 26th at Alton Castle in Staffordshire. Join for a weekend of live music from artists. Further information or to book tickets call 0300 0750115 or brightlights.org.uk,
- **Significant Wedding Anniversary Mass** Please contact the Parish Office if you are celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or over 60 years anniversary, and you wish to attend the mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on **Saturday 24th June 2017 at 11am**. You can email: anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Or contact Liz Murphy at St Bede's Parish office on 01256 465214
- **West Berks. Foodbank** Please will you help by donating tinned rice pudding & cartons of long-life fruit juice? Stocks of other food are good at the moment but there is a need for dried onions and long-life fruit juice.

The monks should always be ready to arise from their sleep without delay when the signal is given. Let each hasten to arrive at the Divine office before the others, quietly encouraging one another, for the sleepy like to make excuses.
(**Rule of Benedict** c.500AD, Ch. 22, 6-8)

To prepare NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS - Year A - The Ascension of the Lord (28th May) p.341

First Reading: Acts 1: 1-11

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit. Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dated that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he

said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Second Reading: Ephesians 1: 17-23

Gospel: Matthew 28: 16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always, yes, to the end of time.

Word Among Us Booklet In Lent some 100 parishioners used the *Walk With Me* booklet. The Parish is now offering a further series of daily reflections: *The Word Among Us*, for the month of June. Published monthly, it provides practical help in reading, meditating on & understanding Scripture from the daily Mass readings. It helps see how Scripture is relevant in our daily lives. Please take this month's copy of *The Word Among Us*, provided free by the parish at the church porch. If you then order for further months through the parish office before the discounted cost will be £1.80 per month.

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A – 21 MAY 2017

Mass Celebrants

NEXT WEEK (28 May)

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

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

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; Saturdays 12noon-12.30pm
- and at any time by 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 971 5350 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

Office open Monday - Friday 9.00 - 1.00

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.

If you would like to receive, free of charge, the **Diocesan E-news**, go to the Diocesan website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews